



The identity of *Casearia membranacea* f. *nigrescens* (Salicaceae)

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Abstract

The valid publication, type and identity of *Casearia membranacea* f. *nigrescens* are reviewed. After detailed study of the types, related specimens and publications, *Casearia membranacea* f. *nigrescens* is proposed as a synonym of *Bridelia balansae* (Phyllanthaceae).

Key Words: Flacourtiaceae, new synonym, nomenclature, Phyllanthaceae

Valid publication of *Casearia membranacea* f. *nigrescens*

Casearia membranacea f. *nigrescens* S.S.Lai in Jin (1999: 87) was effectively but not validly published by Lai (1994: 229), with two gatherings being indicated as types, contrary to Art. 40.2 of the Melbourne Code, ICN (McNeill *et al.* 2012). These gatherings were cited in the protologue as follows: “CHINA. Guangxi: Longjin County, Daqingshan, Kekong, 580 m, 7 June 1957, *Shao-Qing Chen* 11697 (Typus); Longjin County, Wulianxiang, Bankaicun, 400–800 m, 3 August 1957, *Shao-Qing Chen* 13372 (Typus). Typus: in IBSC.”

Casearia membranacea f. *nigrescens* was subsequently validly published by Jin (1999), a single gathering being indicated as type and a full and direct reference to Lai (1994) provided. Jin chose the type to be “CHINA. Guangxi: Longjin County, Daqingshan, Kekong, 7 June 1959, *Shao-Qing Chen* 11697. T: IBSC”.

According to the field labels on sheets of *Shao-Qing Chen* 11697 and the original collection notebooks of Shao-Qing Chen deposited at IBSC, this specimen was collected on 7 June 1957 at elevations from 580 to 680 m. Obviously, the type citation in the original publications was not completely correct. Furthermore, Daqingshan now belongs to Longzhou County. The type designation of *Casearia membranacea* f. *nigrescens* S.S.Lai should therefore be corrected as indicated below.

It is worth mentioning that Yu *et al.* (2011) listed some of the names that were validated in *A Catalogue of Type Specimens (Cormophyta) in the Herbaria of China* and its two supplements edited by Jin (1994, 1999, 2007), including *C. membranacea* f. *nigrescens*. However, the valid publication of *C. membranacea* f. *nigrescens* by Jin (1999) was apparently overlooked by Yang & Zmarzty (2007). Consequently, in their *Casearia* Jacquin (1760: 4) treatment in the *Flora of China*, this name was mentioned under the discussion of *C. glomerata* Roxb. ex Candolle (1825: 49) (the species to which it was assumed to apply), as having not been validly published.

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Material of *Shao-Qing Chen* 11697 (IBK, IBSC, KUN, PE) and *Shao-Qing Chen* 13372 (IBSC, KUN) was examined. All the duplicates of *Shao-Qing Chen* 11697 (excluding IBSC No. 284936) had only been annotated as *Bridelia* sp. (Phyllanthaceae). Accordingly, we checked the descriptions of *Bridelia* Willdenow (1806: 978) and *Casearia* in the *Flora of Guangxi* (Liang 2005, Wei 1991), *Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae* (Li 1994, Lai 1999), and *Flora of China* (Li & Dressler 2008, Yang & Zmarzty 2007), as well as specimens of *Bridelia* spp. and *Casearia* spp. collected