



## Taxonomic notes on *Glochidion acuminatum* and *G. triandrum* (Phyllanthaceae)

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### Abstract

Based on detailed morphological comparisons and literature examinations, it was found that the two species, *Glochidion acuminatum* Müll. Arg. and *G. triandrum* (Blanco) C. B. Rob. (Phyllanthaceae), can be readily distinguished from one other and warrant acceptance as separate species. Here, their morphological circumscription and geographical distribution are reevaluated. In addition, the three names, viz. *G. acuminatum*, *G. eleutherostylum* Müll. Arg. and *G. quinquestylum* Elmer, are lectotyped and the name *G. triandrum* is neotyped.

**Key words:** nomenclature, Phyllanthaceae, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Glochidion* J. R. Forster & G. Forster (1775: 113) consists of over 300 species, and is distributed in the Indo-Pacific, east to southeast Polynesia, and south into Australia (Govaerts *et al.* 2000). *Glochidion* resides in the tribe Phyllanthae Dumortier (1829: 45) of the family Phyllanthaceae Martynov (1820: 369) (Webster 1994; Kathriarachchi *et al.* 2006). Historically, *Glochidion* has been a taxonomically troublesome genus (Yao and Zhang 2015). The taxonomy of the genus is mainly a reflection of regional floras or taxonomic revisions that were composed by different authors in different eras (e.g., Hooker 1887, Robinson 1909, Beill 1927, Backer & Bakhuizen van der Brink 1963, Airy Shaw 1972 & 1981, Li 1994, Hsu *et al.* 2006, Nguyen 2007, van Welzen 2007), and thus a comprehensive taxonomic treatment of *Glochidion* is lacking. The above contributes to making the delimitation of some widely distributed species controversial.

*Glochidion acuminatum* Müller Argoviensis (1863: 68) was published based on the nude name *Bradleia acuminata* Wallich (1847: 7855). Müller (1865) combined the two genera *Glochidion* and *Phyllanthus* Linnaeus (1753: 981) and transferred the species described in the former genus into the latter. In this circumstance, a new name for *G. acuminatum* was proposed: *Phyllanthus bicolor* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 389), because there was a previously validated name, *P. acuminatus* Vahl (1791: 95), in *Phyllanthus*. A year later, he provided a Latin description for *P. bicolor* and also cited the same type (Wallich 7885) of *G. acuminatum*. In his study of the Japanese Euphorbiaceae, Hayata (1904) transferred the name *P. bicolor* into the genus *Glochidion* and gave it a new combination: *G. bicolor* (Müll. Arg.) Hayata (1904: 18). Based on this taxonomic history, it is very clear that *G. bicolor* is a different name of *G. acuminatum*, described based on the same type.

In the taxonomic study of Taiwanese *Glochidion*, Hsieh (1977) reduced three names *G. bicolor*, *G. hypoleucum* Hayata (1920: 95), and *G. hayatae* Croizat & H. Hara (1940: 316) to synonyms of *G. acuminatum*, a species widely distributed from Nepal, Sikkim, northeast Indian, to Thailand, Cambodia, southwestern and South China, Taiwan, and Japan (Hooker 1887, Beille 1927, Ohwi 1978, Li 1994, Hsu *et al.* 2006). In a study of Japanese *Glochidion* species, Ohwi (1978) reduced the same three names to synonyms of *G. triandrum* (Blanco) C. B. Robinson (1909: 92), a species considered to be endemic to the Philippines (Robinson 1909). Based on their treatments, Li (1988) checked related