# MISCELLANEOUS BOTANICAL NOTES VIII [1])

by

C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS

(Flora Malesiana Foundation, Leyden)

(Issued 15. VI. 1957).

## 58. Thesium in Malaysia (Santalaceae)

The only record of *Thesium* in Malaysia was hitherto the Southern Chinese *Thesium psilotoides* Hance from medium altitudes of the Benguet and Bontoc Mountain Provinces in North Luzon, according to Merrill (Enum. Philip. Fl. Pl. 2, 1923, 115), occurring between 1200 and 1500 m. The same species has also been found in the Lesser Sunda Islands, Sumba Island, by C. N. A. de Voogd (E. Sumba, 300 m, limestone quarry, *De Voogd 1873* (BO, L), Dec. 1, 1934, plant pale green, fruit yellow, flower white).

The Sumba specimens exactly match the Philippine specimens. Species like this one, with a very short calyx tube, look astonishingly like *Halorrhagis*, in habit, but possess 5-merous flowers, lack bulbous-based hairs, and show a peculiarly cartilaginous leaf apex.

## 59. The identity of Amorphophallus selebicus Nakai (Araceae)

The late Prof. Nakai described a new giant species of *Amorphophallus* from Celebes, cultivated in the Botanic Gardens, Bogor (Bull. Tokyo Sc. Mus. no 22, 1948, p. 1, photo 1). I have carefully examined the specimen, which is preserved in Herbarium Bogoriense and found it exactly matching the Sumatran *Amorphophallus titanum* Becc. of which it represents a smallish inflorescence. There seems to be no doubt, in my mind, that the origin is Sumatra, and not Celebes, an error which can easily occur in Botanic Gardens where many specimens of *Amorphophallus* have been imported and grow side by side. The leaf photographed can of course not belong to the flowering plant.

[1]) The first paper in this series appeared in Bull. Bot. Gard. Btzg III, 17, 1948, 383—411; the 2nd in Blumea 6, 1948, 243—246; the 3rd in Bull. Bot. Gard. Btzg III, 18, 1950, 457—461; the 4th in Reinwardtia 1, 1952, 467—481; the 5th in Acta Bot. Neerl. 2, 1953, 298—307; the 6th in Blumea 7, 1954, 595—598; the 7th in Blumea 8, 1955, 170—174.

## 60. The identity of Pycnosandra Bl. (Euphorbiaceae) [1])

The genus *Pycnosandra* Bl. (Febr. 1856) was referred to *Dodekastemon* Hassk. (Nov. 1856) by Miquel (Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 2, 1859, 360) who considered its two species as varieties of one. These two species are *P. serrata* (Bl.) Bl. and *P. timorensis* Bl.

The first, *P. serrata* (Bl.) Bl., has appeared to be a true *Cyclostemon* = *Drypetes*, according to Mueller-Arg. (in DC., Prod. 15[2], 1866, 485), to J. J. Smith (in K. & V., Bijdr. Booms. 12, 1910, 218), and to Pax & Hoffmann (Pfl.Reich Heft 81, 1922, 273), who exclude it from *Pycnosandra*.

*Drypetes serrata* (Bl.) P. & H. (l. c. 1922, 273) has been given priority over the American *D. serrata* (Maycock) Krug & Urban 1892 and the latter was renamed by Pax & Hoffmann *D. serrulata* P. & H., l. c. 267, 273. This appears not admissable nomenclatorally. The epithet of the Malaysian species is older but its use under *Drypetes* is prevented.

The Malaysian species should be called **Drypetes teysmanni** (Hassk.) Bakh. f. & Steen. comb. nov. (*Dodekastemon teysmanni* Hassk., Versl. Med. Kon. Ak. Wet. 4, 1856, 141; Bot. Zeit. 1856, 803; Hort. Bog. ed. nov. 1858, 63; Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 2, 1859, 360, excl. var. *β timorensis*).

The second species, *P. timorensis* Bl. is consequently typifying the genus *Pycnosandra* (*Drypetes* sect. *Pycnosandra* P. & H. l. c. 278 = *Cyclostemon* sect. *Dodekastemon* (Hassk.) M. A.). It was described on ♀ specimens only. The original sheets of it at the Rijksherbarium appear conspecific with *Putranjiva roxburghii* Wall. The synonymy runs as follows:

**Putranjiva roxburghii** Wall., Tent. Fl. Napal. 2, 1826, 61. — *Pycnosandra timorensis* Bl., Mus. Bot. 2, 1856, 192. — *Dodekastemon teysmanni* Hassk. var. *β timorensis* Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 2, 1859, 360. — *? Cyclostemon racemosum* Zipp. ex Span., Linnaea 15, 1841, 348, nomen.

Whether the genus *Putranjiva* is distinct from *Drypetes* is liable to doubt. Pax & Hoffmann place them in different subtribes and key them out by the presence (*Drypetes*) or absence (*Putranjiva*) of a disk. There is, however, such an extraordinarily striking similarity in further characters of habit and structure that a close study is strongly advised to a future monographer.

## 61. Note on two Malaysian Verbenaceae

**Premna cowanii** Hatusima ex Moldenke [2]), Phytologia 5, May 1954, 12, fig. p. 11. — *Wendlandia papuana* Laut. & Schum. Fl. Deut. Schutzgeb. Südsee, Nachtr. 1905, 390. — *Premna* sp. Cowan, Not. R. Bot. Gard. Edinb. 16, 1932, 306. — *P. brongersmai* H. J. Lam, Blumea 7, Dec. 1954, 553, fig. 1—2, syn. nov. — *Premna vagans* Bakh. ex Moldenke, nomen tantum.

This New Guinea species was originally described as a Rubiaceous plant. In the same year it has independently received two epithets under *Premna*.

[1]) In collaboration with Dr R. C. Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr.
[2]) In collaboration with H. J. Lam.

As the epithet *papuana* was preoccupied in *Premna*, Dr Hatusima, who during the last world war worked at Bogor towards a critical enumeration of Papuan plants, gave a new name to the species, naming it after Mr Cowan in honour of his removing it from the *Rubiaceae* and putting it in the right genus. Its type remains that of *Wendlandia papuana* viz. *Schlechter 14395*.

**Vitex trifolia L.** ssp. **litoralis** nov. subsp.

One of the typical plants confined to accrescent sandy beaches in Malaysia is a prostrate shrub of which the radiating, rooting branches (often covered by sand) produce small, erect lateral flowering shoots. An excellent photograph of this remarkable habit, otherwise only found in herbaceous beach plants (*Ipomoea pescaprae, Vigna, Canavalia*) has been produced by Dunselman (Trop. Natuur 28, 1939, 78, f. 9), a drawing by Backer (op. cit. 8, 1919, 7, f. 13).

It has been described as *V. ovata* Thunb. (1784) and by Blanco (Fl. Filip. 1837, 513) as *V. repens* Blco. Later it has been considered a var. *β simplicifolia* of *V. trifolia* by von Chamisso (Linnaea 7, 1832, 107). Schauer in his revision (in DC., Prod. 11, 1847, 683) regarded it also as a var. *β unifoliolata* of *V. trifolia*. Makino (Bot. Mag. Tokyo 17, 1903, 92) named it *V. trifolia* var. *ovata* (Thunb.) Makino, Ridley (Disp. 1930, 309) called it *V. trifolia* var. *repens* Ridl., Bentham (Fl. Austr. 5, 1876, 67) *V. trifolia* var. *obovata* Bth.

This evaluation as a variety has been maintained by later monographers (Lam & Bakhuizen van den Brink, Merrill, and Moldenke).

Backer (Trop. Natuur 8, 1919, 7), Corner (Gard. Bull. Str. Settl. 10, 1939, 256—260), and following him Backer & Meeuse (Bekn. Fl. Java, em. ed., 9, 1949, fam. 200, p. 24) have again treated it as a good, distinct species. And Corner has taken great pains to give arguments for this view. Contrary to Ridley (Disp. Pl. 1930, 309) who suggested to have seen it change into normal *V. trifolia* after transplantation to Singapore, Corner maintains that it retains its habit and characters in cultivation and is no mere phenotype. He transplanted ten specimens to the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, where he also had living shrubs of *V. trifolia* and *V. negundo*, and has found that they retain their habit. As to the constancy of that character there remains hence little doubt, though additional experiments in raising inland plants from seed of the prostrate form and crossing it with *V. trifolia* are still a desideratum.

In addition Corner assumes to have found differences with *V. trifolia* in the corolla, fruiting calyx, and the fruit. I have tried to verify these differences with many sheets preserved at Leyden but I cannot corroborate these statements. The fruits of *V. trifolia* and *V. ovata* offer no differences in size, shape, and internal tissue structure. That the inflorescences of *V. ovata* are smaller than the average size in *V. trifolia* I deem not significant, as they are borne on small side-branches. The only characteristics holding are vegetative in nature, viz the typical prostrate, rooting, runner-like branches, and the obovate, small, simple leaves, and geographic: its exclusive growth on the sandy beach.

The conclusion in my opinion is therefore that it is a clear-cut ecolo-

gical (littoral) race, exclusive of the *V. trifolia* population. It should therefore be assigned subspecific rank which is accordingly proposed here. I have chosen a new name in the subspecific rank as the epithet *ovata* is misleading and the varietal epithets do not refer to its peculiar habitat. The technical description runs: rami prostrati, radicantes. Folia simplicia, obovata, rotundata. Type: *Bloembergen 3894* (L).

The distribution of this subspecies is very wide in the Malaysian and Pacific area; at Leyden specimens are presented from: Japan: Nagasaki, Yokohama. China: Hongkong. Malaysia: Malay Peninsula: Kuala Kemamam, K. Pahang, K. Trengganu, Pahang Tua, Corner l. c.; Banka; W. Borneo: Dunselman l. c.; S. Java: Patjitan; Madura Isl.: Sergang; Salayer Isl.; Sula Isl.: Mangoli; Lesser Sunda Isl.: Savu, Kisar, Timor; S. New Guinea: Merauke; Philippines: Luzon (Camarines Norte pr. Daet, Zambales pr. Subig, Batangas pr. Bauang), Mindoro, Panay (Antique), Sibuyan (Capiz pr. Magellanes); Pacific: Bonin Isl., Austral Isl. (Rurutu, pr. Murai), Hawaii (Oahu).