

NOTES ON THE EBENACEAE <sup>1)</sup>  
VI. FOUR SPECIES TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FAMILY <sup>2)</sup>

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In the course of a study on Indo-Malesian *Ebenaceae* currently being carried out in the Oxford Forest Herbarium, it has been discovered that four species previously accepted as *Diospyros* do not belong to that genus and must be excluded from the family. They are as follows:

1. *Diospyros addita* Fletcher, Kew Bull. (1937) 386. — Type: *Put 3109* (K, ABD). Is reduced to *Vatica philastreana* Pierre (*Dipterocarpaceae*).

The fruit is shallowly three-lobed and has a persistent five-lobed calyx. It contains a single large seed the bulk of which consists of four massive cotyledonary lobes. Fletcher mistook the cotyledonary lobes for four separate seeds.

2. *Diospyros hierniana* (King & Gamble) Bakh., Gard. Bull. S.S. 7 (1933) 173. — *Maba hierniana* King & Gamble, J. As. Soc. Beng. 74 (1905) 203. — Type: *King's Collector 7920* (K, SING). Is reduced to *Salacia grandiflora* Kurz (*Celastraceae*).

King & Gamble described the flowers of this species but both the Kew and Singapore isotypes have lost their flowers. Hence I am unable to re-examine the floral morphology. However, the peculiar position of the 'floriferous knobs' which are opposite and extra-axillary, together with the opposite insertion of the leaves, made this species highly suspect.

At my request, Mr. K. M. Kochummen at Kepong examined the Singapore specimen while Mr. P. S. Green and Dr. D. Cutler of the Herbarium and Jodrell Laboratory at Kew respectively, examined the Kew specimen. They independently arrived at the same conclusion. Mr. Kochummen recognized it immediately to be a *Salacia*. In the meantime Dr. Cutler examined the twig anatomy and suggested *Celastraceae*. Mr. Green took up this suggestion and matched the specimen to *Salacia*.

King & Gamble mistook the stamens for staminodes, and misinterpreted the pistil. Nevertheless, their description of the flower is compatible with *Salacia*.

3. *Diospyros micromera* Bakh., Gard. Bull. S.S. 7 (1933) 176. — Type: *Curtis 3463* (SING). Is reduced to *Cleistanthus nitidus* Hook. f. var. *curtisii* (Jabl.) Ridl. (*Euphorbiaceae*).

Bakhuizen based his description on a sterile specimen. There are small appressed stipules at the twig apices which leave inconspicuous scars. *Ebenaceae* is always without stipules!

For the correct identification of the species, I am indebted to Mr. H. K. Airy Shaw.

4. *Diospyros sororia* Bakh., Revisio Ebenacearum Malayensium in Bull. Jard. Bot. Btzg III, 15 (1937) 125—126; (1955) t. 16. — Type: *Sitam 46* (K, KEP). Is reduced to *Ilex borneensis* Loes. (*Aquifoliaceae*).

The fruits, with persistent flat stigmas and bony endocarp, are wrong for *Ebenaceae* and also, contrary to the published illustration, the leaf margins are not entire, but rather very faintly serrulate. The thick 'testa' described and illustrated is actually endocarp.

For the correct identification of the species, I am indebted to Mr. L. L. Forman.

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<sup>2)</sup> Continued from Bull. Jard. Bot. Etat, Bruxelles, 33 (1963) 345.