

**DRYOBALANOPS SUMATRENSIS, COMB. NOV.,
THE CORRECT NAME FOR DRYOBALANOPS AROMATICA**

A.J.G.H. KOSTERMANS

Biotrop and Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, Indonesia

In my *Bibliographia Lauracearum* (1964) I noted that *Arbor camphorifera barosiensis* sylv. Valentijn (p. 99), *Arbor camphorifera sumatrana*, etc., Breyn. (p. 100), *Camphora malaiensis* Wittstein (p. 194), *Camphora sumatrensis* W. ten Rhijne ex Breyn. (p. 198), *Laurus foliis ovalibus acuminatis*, etc., Houttuyn (p. 624) and *Laurus sumatrensis* J.F. Gmelin (p. 708), represented the well known timber tree *Dryobalanops aromatica* Gaertn. f.

Of these names, *Laurus sumatrensis* J.F. Gmelin, *Syst. Veg.* 650 (1791 & 1796), is validly published and takes priority over Gaertner's name (1805).

It was based on the description and plate of Houttuyn's *Laurus foliis ovalibus acuminatis, floribus magnis tulipaceis*, in *Verhandeligen der Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen, Haarlem* (sometimes quoted as *Acta Haarlem*) 21: 266–274, tab. B. 1784 (Dutch).

Houttuyn presented his view, why Linnaeus missed this well known timber tree, which had been already well described and depicted in 1683 (Grimm, *Acad. Caes.-Leopold. Ephemerid. Natur. Curios., Decuria 2, Anno 1: 371*).

Houttuyn informs us that the camphor obtained from this tree from Sumatra and Borneo, known as Baros camphor (after the geographical area Baros in NW. Sumatra) and exported to Europe, was much more valuable than the more common Japanese camphor (from *Cinnamomum camphora* Nees & Eberm.), the former priced from 2000–3000 Rijksdaalders a picol (125 pounds) as compared to 50 Rijksdaalders for Japanese camphor.

Baros camphor was already traded by Arabian seafarers in the 6th century; it was mentioned by Marco Polo about 1299.

Houttuyn's description and drawing were based on material which he had received from a certain Mr. Radermacher from N. Sumatra. He mistook the fruit for a flower, the fruit wings representing the petals, and compared it with a tulip flower. Houttuyn's description and plate represent the holotype, unless the Radermacher material turns up.

Houttuyn discussed (p. 271) whether the Sumatra Baros camphor tree could be included in *Cinnamomum camphora* (*Laurus camphora* L.), but concluded that it was different and he provided it with a phrase name (description) in Dutch, translated in Latin in a footnote.

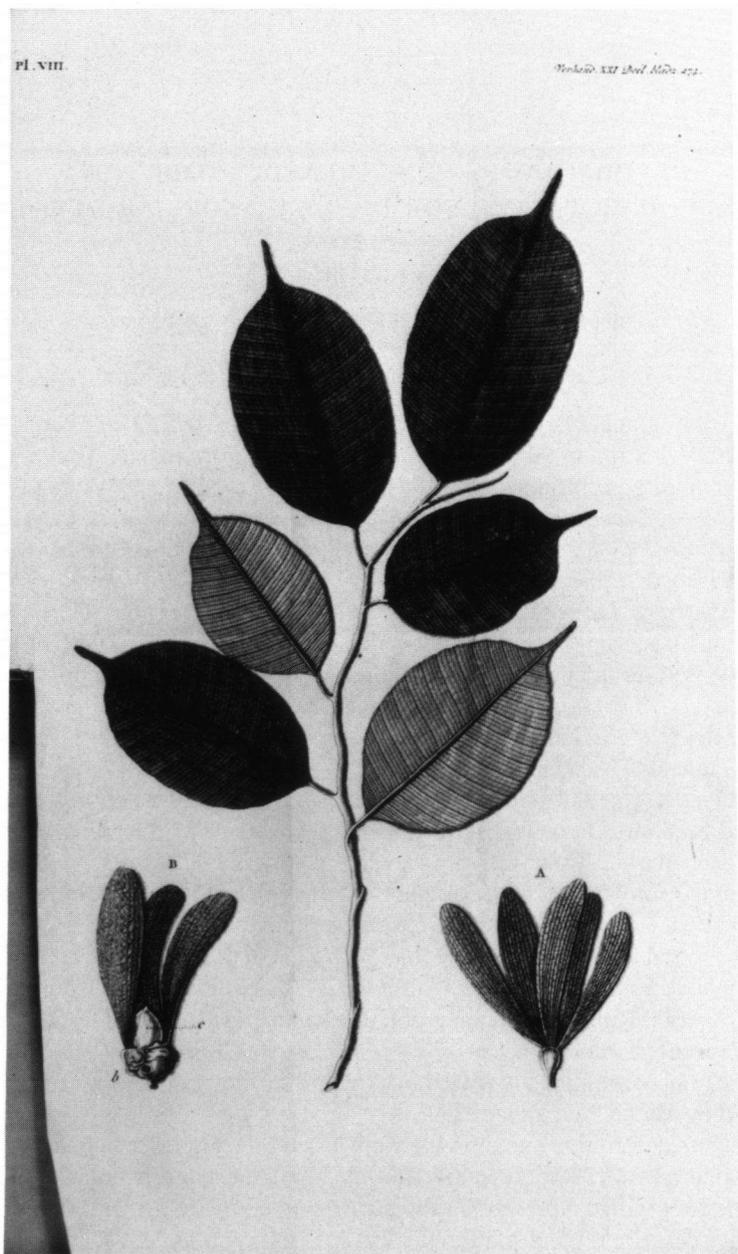


Fig. 1. *Laurus foeli ovalibus acuminatis lineatis, floribus magnis tulipaceis*, Houttuyn, Verhand. Holl. Maatsch. Wetensch. Haarlem 21 (1784) plate 8. (Photograph by courtesy of Leiden University Library.)



Fig. 2. *Arbor camphorae* Grimm, Acad. Caes.-Leopold. Ephem. Natur. Curios., Decuria 2, Anno 1 (1683) fig. 33. (Photograph by courtesy of Leiden University Library.)

Stokes (Botan. Mater. medic. 2: 421. 1812) commented, that Houttuyn's figure was an excellent representation of the specimen in Bank's herbarium, London, collected by Charles Miller in Sumatra (commented upon in Philos. Trans. Abridged 14: 318. 1778). Through the courtesy of Mr. Roy Vickery, Director of the Herbarium, Natural History Museum, London, I received a photostat of this specimen.

Dryobalanops sumatrensis is an important common timber tree, exhaustively treated by Van Slooten (Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg, sér. 3, 12: 7–22. 1932). Except for Rumphius, pre-Linnaean and pharmaceutical references are not quoted and although some of these have been quoted by Miquel, Hooker, De Vriese, and Stokes, these publications are rare and hence I enumerate them here again.

Dryobalanops sumatrensis (J.F. Gmelin) Kosterm., *comb. nov.*

Laurus sumatrensis J.F. Gmelin, Syst. Veg. 650. 1791 & 1796; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 708. 1964.
— *Laurus foliis ovalibus acuminatis lineatis, floribus magnis tulipaceis*, Houttuyn in Verhand. Holl. Maatsch. Wetensch. Haarlem 21: 272 (in nota), tab. B. 1784 (holo); Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 624. 1964.

Dryobalanops aromatica Gaertn. f., Fruct. 3: 42, t. 186, f. 2. 1805.

Laurus calycina J. Stokes, Botan. Mater. medic. 2: 421. 1812 (syn. nov.); Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 579. 1964.

Camphora malaiensis Wittstein, Handwörterb. Pharmakogn. Pflanzenr. 375. 1882; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 194. 1964 (syn. nov.).

Arbor camphorifera sumatrana Grimmii, Dale, Pharmac. coloq. 300. 1673.

Arbor camphorifera sumatrana foliis caryophylli aromatici longius mucronatis, fructus majore oblongo calyx amplissimo tulipae figuram quoadmodo representante, Breyn., Prod. 2: 17. 1689; ed. 2: 44. 1739; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 100. 1964.

Camphora sumatrensis W. ten Rhijne apud Breyn., Prod. 16, 17. 1680; ed. 2: 34. 1739; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 198. 1964.

Arbor camphorae Grimm, Acad. Caes.-Leopold. Ephemerid. Natur. Curios., Decuria 2, Anno 1: 371, tab. 1683; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 99. 1964.

Arbor camphorifera Grimm in Ray, Hist. Pl. 2: 1679. 1688.

Arbor camphorifera altera, Cartheuser 3: 276 (n.v.).

Arbor camphorifera barosiensis sylv., Valentijn, Mus. 488, t. 7, f. 3, 4. 1714; Kosterm., Bibl. Laur. 99. 1964.

Arbor camphorifera, Rumphius, Herb. Amboin. 7 (Auctuar.) Cap. 82: 67, 68. 1755.

Baros camphor

Camphora Grimmii, Chomel, Catal. Pl. offic. 192. 1730.

Camphora barosiensis, Spielmann, Pharmac. gener. 300. 1783.

Camphora de Borneo, Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 250. 1790.

Camphora borneensis sive sumatrana, Geoffroy 2: 524 (n.v.).

Camphora nativa, Paisley, Ann. med. lustr. 2 (1): 430 (n.v.).

Camphor, Macdonald, Asiat. Res. 4: 1 (n.v.).

Oil of camphor, Monro 4: 278 (n.v.).