

NOTE ON THE GENUS BARTERIA HOOK. F.
(Flacourtiaceae or Passifloraceae)

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The discrimination of species in the genus *Barteria* has become more and more difficult with the increasing number of collections in recent years. To explain his treatment of the genus in the forthcoming 2nd part of the *Flacourtiaceae* in the 'Flore d'Afrique Central (Zaire-Rwanda-Burundi)', the author wants to discuss the diversity of characters found in the *Barterias* within the said flora, the area of which coincides more or less with the centre of distribution of the genus.

The first species was described by Hooker *f.* under the name of *B. nigritana* from the coast of S. Nigeria. This species is bound to sandy soils of the beaches, to inner parts of the mangrove vegetation, and to littoral and sublittoral bush or forest, and is known along the coast from S. Nigeria to Fernando Poo, Cameroons, Rio Muni, Gabon, Cabinda, and the most western parts of Congo-Brazzaville and of Zaire. The petioles of *B. nigritana* are slender, its axillary inflorescences few-flowered.

Behind the coast and furthermore inland the genus is represented by *B. fistulosa* Masters, the type of which has larger leaves, a thick, more or less flattened petiole, and more flowers arranged in the form of a horseshoe on the stem around the base of a leaf. These characters are still used by Keay in the 2nd ed. of Hutch. & Dalz., *Fl. W. Tr. Afr.* (1954) to separate *B. nigritana* and *B. fistulosa* besides others of obviously still less constancy such as bracts ('acute' versus 'obtuse'), or branchlets ('solid except for spindle-shaped swellings here and there' versus 'branchlets hollow throughout'), and leaves ('spirally arranged' versus 'distichous').

This '*fistulosa*' variant, much more frequent than '*nigritana*', is distributed from S. Nigeria to Fernando Poo (type locality), Cameroons, Rio Muni, Gabon, Cabinda, Zaire, Uganda and W. Tanzania, mainly in rain forest, but also in dry forest (*forêt semi-caducifoliée*), gallery forest, and even in secondary forest, often along rivers and lake shores.

The large collections of this 'continental' *B. fistulosa* from Central Africa, deposited in the Bruxelles herbarium, show an enormous variation as to the form and the size of the leaves, in the petioles a more slender to a thicker and more or less flattened type, in the form of the bracts, the number of flowers per inflorescence, and the size of the flowers; these different forms are apparently not locally constant and should be regarded as mere variants of *B. nigritana*. For practical reasons, the author wishes to refer the plants usually called *B. fistulosa* to a subspecies of *B. nigritana*; those named *B. acuminata* Bak. *f.* and *B. stuhlmannii* Engl. & Gilg from the shores of Lake Victoria belong to this same subspecies.

In the flowers of *B. nigritana* and its synonyms no differences have been found either in the herbarium specimens (difficult to judge as generally the flowers are badly preserved), or in the flowers preserved in alcohol from the Cameroons collections at Leiden and Wageningen. The ovary in *B. nigritana* seems always to be entire, and that of *B. fistulosa*

sometimes a little 4- or 5-lobed; the large stigma was found to be slightly lobed distally in both.

The more the author was surprised to find the stigma 4-lobed to the base in a specimen (dry materials and flowers in alcohol) collected in 1972 in the Manengouba Mts. (Cameroons) at 1200 m altitude by Dr. A. J. M. Leeuwenberg (9544) and kindly given by him for investigation. Apart from the lobed stigma, the specimen is similar to typical *B. nigritana* with its few flowers per inflorescence and the form of its leaves. For the taxonomic evaluation of the degree of lobing of the stigma further investigation of living or alcohol-preserved material is necessary within the whole area of the genus. *Maitland 1578* and *FHI 30378*, both from the Bamenda area of Cameroons and mentioned as a possible new species by Key in Hutch. & Dalz. (p. 201) match the specimen mentioned from the Manengouba Mts.

The systematical arrangement now reads as follows:

***Barteria nigritana* Hook. f.**

B. nigritana Hook. f., J. Linn. Soc. 5 (1861) 15, t. 2. — T y p e: *Barter 2119*, Nigeria, ad ripas fl. Nun (Niger) (K; iso in P).

subsp. ***nigritana***

B. braunii Engl., Bot. Jahrb. 14 (1892) 392. — T y p e: *J. Braun s.n.*, Cameroons, Gr. Batanga (B, lost; iso in HBG).

B. nigritana Hook. f. var. *uniflora* De Wild. & Th. Dur., Contr. Fl. Congo 1 (1900) 24. — T y p e: *Cabra s.n.*, Zaire, forêt de Talavanje, 1899 (BR).

Distribution. S. Nigeria, Fernando Poo, Cameroons, Rio Muni, Gabon, Cabinda, extreme W. of Zaire.

Ecology: On sandy beach, edge of mangrove, coastal bush and forest. Inhabited by small ants.

subsp. ***fistulosa*** (Mast.) Sleumer, *comb. nov.*

B. fistulosa Mast. in Oliv., Fl. Tr. Afr. 2 (1871) 511. — T y p e: *Mann 268*, Fernando Poo (K; iso in P).
B. dewevrei De Wildem. & Th. Dur., Ann. Mus. Congo 2 (1899) 8. — T y p e: *Dewevre 869*, Zaire, Bangala (BR).

B. fistulosa Mast. var. *macrophylla* De Wildem. & Th. Dur., Rel. Dewevr. (1901) 98. — T y p e: *Dewevre 597*, Zaire, Coquilhatville (BR).

B. acuminata Baker f., J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 37 (1905) 155. — T y p e: *Bagshawe 93*, Uganda, Masaka, Musozi lake shore (BM).

B. stuhlmannii Engl. & Gilg, Bot. Jahrb. 40 (1908) 479. — S y n t y p e s: *Stuhlmann 986, 987, 1024, 1025, 3661* (B, lost).

[*B. urophylla* Mildbraed in Wiss. Ergebn. Deutsch. Zentr.-Afr. Exp. 1910—11, 2 (1922) 97, *nom. nud.* (based on sterile shoots with elongate-subspathulate leaves: *Mildbraed 6089*, Cameroons, Adjap, 35 km E. of Gr. Batanga, alt. 100 m; B, lost).]

Distribution: S. Nigeria, Fernando Poo, Cameroons, Rio Muni, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Rép. Centrafr., Cabinda, Zaire, Uganda, W. Tanzania.

Ecology: In primary rain forest, also gallery forest, dry forest, and in secondary forest, often along rivers or lakes. In Cameroons inhabited by large ants.

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