

A NEW COMBINATION AND A NEW SPECIES IN *SARACA* L. (CAESALPINIACEAE)

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During a precursory study in the genus *Saraca* it became evident that the number of fertile stamens and the size and degree of persistency of the bracteoles are major characters in the delimitation of the species.

The genus extends from India and Ceylon to S.W. China and Tonkin, and as far east as to Celebes. The Celebes material (4 collections) was found to represent a species new to science. In the group with 6—8(—10) stamens, and with small (2—8 mm long) bracteoles, of which the Indian material was hitherto mostly referred to *Saraca indica* L., it appeared that two species are concerned, viz.:

1. Bracteoles erect, clasping the pedicel, persistent. India, Ceylon, E. Pakistan, Burma west of the Irrawaddy River; otherwise cultivated. Fig. 1A *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) De Wilde, *comb. nov.*
1. Bracteoles spreading, persistent or fugaceous. Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java; not west of the Irrawaddy River. Fig. 1B *Saraca indica* L.

D. Prain, in J. As. Soc. Beng. 66, 2 (1897) 489, observed already that the Indian species (by him erroneously referred to as *Saraca indica*) does not occur in the wild state east of the Irrawaddy River.

The basionym *Jonesia asoca* Roxburgh, *Asiat. Res.* 4 (1799) 355, fig. 252—253, is typified by a plant from the botanical garden in Calcutta. In a note Roxburgh observed that this plant had been introduced from the interior. Type specimens from Brussels have been examined, and the description and the accompanying figure leave no doubt about its identity. The type specimen of *Saraca indica* Linnaeus, *Mant. Pl.* 1 (1767) 98, is from Java, collected by Kleynhoff, and is preserved in the Linnean herbarium. In only saw a photograph of it. The type of Burman's *Saraca arborescens*, *Fl. Ind.* (1768) 85, tab. 25, fig. 2, a synonym of *Saraca indica* L., *Kleynhoff s.n.*, from Java, seen by me from the Geneva herbarium, is certainly a duplicate of Linnaeus' plant.

A complete synonymy and literature references of the species concerned will be given before long in a revision of the genus by Mr. G. F. P. Zuyderhoudt.

Saraca celebica spec. nov. — Fig. 1C.

Arbor usque ad 25 m alta. Folia 3—4-jugata, subcoriacea, glabra, 15—35 cm longa, in sicco nigrescenti-fusca. Petiolus 1—2.5 cm longus. *Foliola* c. 12—25 cm longa, 5—8.5 cm lata, petiolulis 4—8 mm longis; foliola apicalia vulgo haud maiora quam inferiora. Foliorum basis vulgo glandulis parvis marginalibus comitata. *Corymbi* satis compacti, c. 5—20 cm Ø, glabri vel pilosi, ramulis usque ad 2 mm crassis. *Bractae* atque *bracteolae* quoad dimensionem et formam subaequales, fugaces, ovatae vel obovatae, apice obtusiusculae vel acutae, c. 1—2 mm longae, 1—1.5 mm latae. *Calyces* *tubus*

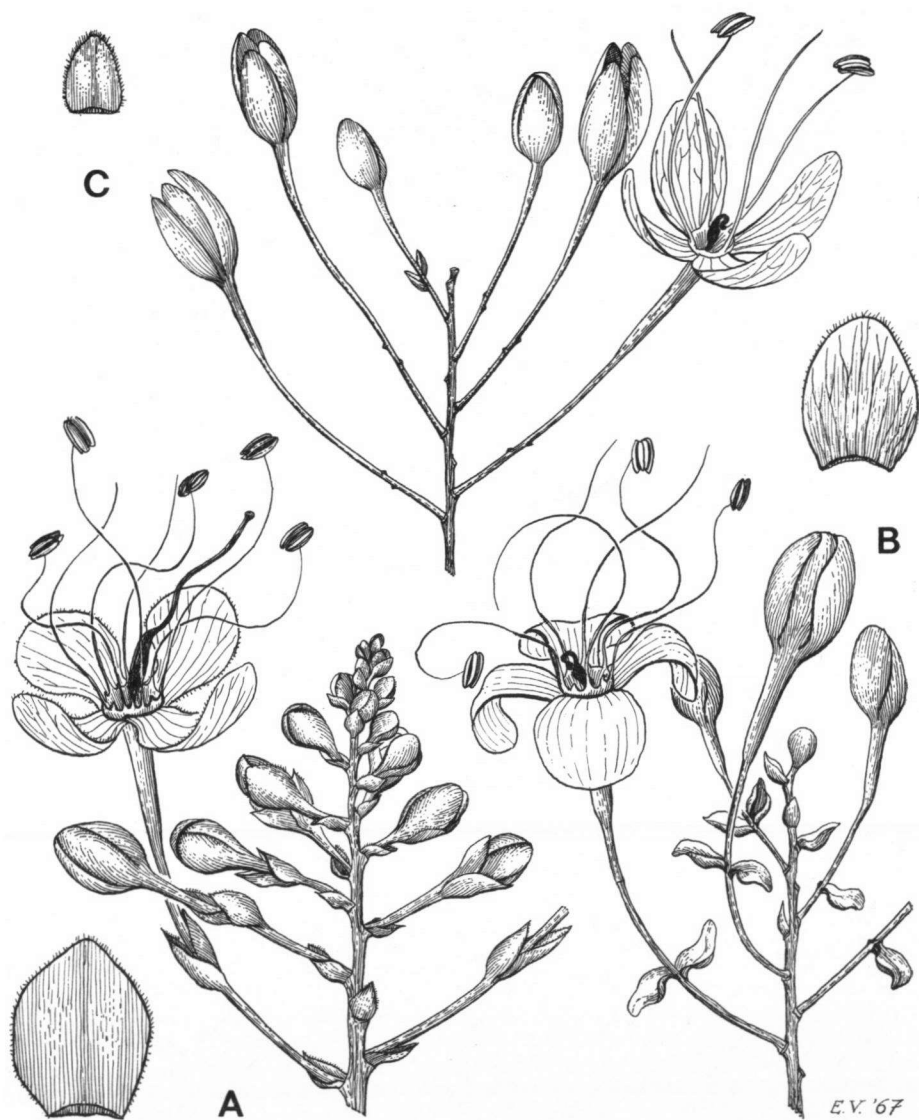


Fig. 1. Tips of inflorescence branchlets of three species of *Saraca* ($\times 2$), with corresponding bracteoles ($\times 5$). — A. *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) de Wilde: bisexual flower with 7 fertile stamens; bracts and bracteoles persistent, the latter clasping the pedicel in anthesis (from herb. Lemann s.n., in CGE, collected in the botanical garden, Calcutta). — B. *Saraca indica* L: male flower, with rudimentary ovary and 6 fertile stamens; bracts and bracteoles persistent (to fugaceous), the latter spreading during anthesis (from S.F. 35487, in Sing.). — C. *Saraca celebica* de Wilde: male flower with rudimentary ovary and 4 fertile stamens; bracts and bracteoles minute, fugaceous (from Eyma 3943, in L., holotype).

10—15(—20) mm longus, 0.5—1.5 mm crassus, pedicelli quoad partem inter calycis tubum et bracteolas sitam 8—18 mm longi. *Calyces lobi* ovaes vel oblongi, 5—10 mm longa, 2—8 mm lata, apice obtusiusculi. *Stamina* fertilia 4, raro 6. Filamenta c. 10—27 mm longa. *Antherae* c. 2 mm longae. *Ovarii* stipes 4—5 mm longa. *Ovarium* 3—5 mm longum. *Stylus* 10—16 mm longus. *Fructus* maturi ignoti.

CENTRAL CEBES: *Eyma* 3943, in L. (type), duplicates in AA, BR, K, M, P, S, U; *Kaudern* 381; *Kjellberg* 2130; *b.b.* 19532 (*J. van Zijll de Jong* 53E34).