

THE IDENTITY OF DUBARDELLA (BOERLAGELLACEAE)
AND PYRENARIA (THEACEAE)

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Upon receiving a reprint of my paper on *Pyrenaria* (Theaceae) (Keng 1972), Dr. W. Vink of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden, kindly informed me (personal communication, dated 14th November, 1973) that the description and figure of *Dubardella kinabaluensis* H. J. Lam (1925) are strikingly similar to my description and drawings of *Pyrenaria*.

In reviewing literature, the genus *Dubardella* Lam is monotypic and was dedicated to M. Dubard, a French taxonomist specialised in Sapotaceae. Together with *Boerlagella Pierre ex Boerl.*, another monotypic genus from Sumatra, these two genera constitute the family *Boerlagellaceae* H. J. Lam. As Airy-Shaw (1966) commented: '(the family *Boerlagellaceae* are) an obscure and imperfectly known group, of very doubtful status'. In a separate entry, Airy-Shaw suggested (without certainty) that *Dubardella* might be synonymous with *Adinandra* of the Theaceae.

The species *Dubardella kinabaluensis* was based on fallen fruits collected by Mrs. Mary S. Clemens (no. 10276), from Mt. Kinabalu, Kiam. According to the field notes, the fruits are green, and the seeds are dark brown. It is very interesting to note that, from Lam's descriptions and drawings (his fig. 65), the seeds are mutually compressed, prominently scarred, with large and thin cotyledons twisted and contorted within the confinement of the seedcoat. These characters agree very well with those of *Pyrenaria* (Keng 1962, 1972).

The type specimen of *D. kinabaluensis*, Clemens 10276, was not present at Leiden Herbarium. Dr. Vink suggested that it might be still in existence. Replies subsequently received from Dr. R. A. Howard of the Arnold Arboretum and Dr. M. A. Rifai of the Bogor herbarium, however, were rather disappointing. Both of them failed to trace it either in their general collections or in their fruit collections.

On the advice of Professor C. G. G. J. van Steenis (personal communication, dated 24 February 1974), we purposely refrain from proposing a new combined binomial, as we are not quite sure that the species (namely, *Pyrenaria tawauensis* H. Keng) which I described from Tawau, N. Borneo, is the same plant of which the fruit and seed were named as *Dubardella kinabaluensis* H. J. Lam. However, we are reasonably certain about the generic identity of *Dubardella* (*Boerlagellaceae*) and *Pyrenaria* (*Theaceae*). The following brief taxonomic treatment is therefore presented.

Pyrenaria Blume, Bijdr. (1827) 1119; H. Keng, Gard. Bull. Singapore 26 (1972) 134.

Synonyms: *Tutcheria* Dunn, J. Bot. 46 (1908) 324, and 47 (1909) 197. — *Dubardella* H. J. Lam, Bull. Jard. Bot. Botz. III, 7 (1925) 251, f. 65.

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