Semialarium mexicanum (Miers) A.M.W. Mennega, a new name for *Hemiangium excelsum* sensu A.C. Smith, not *Hippocratea excelsa*

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ABSTRACT

N. Hallé's renaming of the genus *Hemiangium* A.C. Smith. in *Semialarium* N. Hallé necessitated a name change for the Mexican and Central American species *Hemiangium excelsum* (H.B.K.) A.C. Smith.

Semialarium mexicanum (Miers) A.M.W. Mennega, comb. nov., is proposed as the new name.

The genus *Hemiangium* A.C. Smith was created in 1940 with the sole species *H. excelsum* (H.B.K.) A.C. Smith (basionym: *Hippocratea excelsa* H.B.K.). The type of *H. excelsum, Humboldt & Bonpland 3933*, collected in Mexico, was misinterpreted by Smith however, who had only seen a photograph. Recently, this type collection was identified by Hallé as *Hippocratea volubilis* L. (Hallé 1983). Therefore *H. excelsum* falls into synonymy with the latter species. As a consequence, *Hemiangium* A.C. Smith was in need of a new name, and Hallé therefore replaced it with *Semialarium* Hallé. The type species of *Semialarium* is *S. paniculatum* (Mart. ex Schultes) Hallé (basionym: *Anthodus paniculatus* Mart. ex Schultes - type: *Martius s.n.* Brazil. Rio de Janeiro: San Christoforo).

A.C. Smith, as already indicated, treated his concept as monotypic. I came to disagree with that since I found populations in Mexico and Central America to be different in a number of characters from populations in Southern Brazil (Mennega 1983). This led me to formally recognize the plants from Southern Brazil as a separate species, *Hemiangium paniculatum* (Mart. ex Schultes)

A.M.W. Mennega. Independently however, Hallé published on the genus, and supported Smith's monotypic view (Hallé Op. cit.).

Thus *H. paniculatum* (Mart. ex Schultes) A.M.W. Mennega becomes a homotypic synonym of *Semialarium paniculatum* (Mart. ex Schultes) Hallé, and at the same time it will be clear that a correct name must be found for the Mexican and Central American plants.

On Smith's list of synonyms, *Hippocratea uniflora* D.C. is the oldest name available. De Candolle (1824) based this name on a drawing by Sessé and Moçiño (Dessins Calqués, Flora Mexicana, no. 141). Authors have not been unanimous in their interpretation of this figure showing an inflorescence with only one flower, though with a faint indication of a few more ramifications apparently lost, and a poorly drawn fruit albeit with three basally connected carpels. It seems that correct interpretation of this figure will hardly be possible.

The following name listed by Smith, *Hippocratea bilobicarpa* Miers, has to be rejected, too. As I pointed out before (Mennega Op. cit.), the herbarium specimen on which it is based is in such a poor state, and so incomplete, that it could be interpreted in various ways.

Next comes *Hippocratea mexicana* Miers (1872). The type specimen is a plant collected by Andrieux (*Andrieux 499*) in Oaxaca, Mexico. The collector described the plant as a tree of medium height (20–25 feet) with a straight bole, not scandent. The specimen is in the fruiting state, and although the fruit parts have become separated, the basal scars of about 10 mm long clearly indicate that the three mericarps must have been connate at the base before. The leaves are coriaceous, obovate, 4×7 cm, with the short hairs characteristic for this species still present, though scantily so, on some of the leaves. There is no doubt as to the identity of this collection, and therefore *Hippocratea mexicana* Miers appears to be the obvious choice as basionym for this species.

Prionostemma setulifera Miers (1872), based on a plant collected by Friedrichsthal in Guatemala, might also have been taken into account. This specimen is abundantly covered with the indument of short brown hairs characteristic for the species on all parts including inflorescence, young branches, petioles, midribs. The flowers on this specimen, unfortunately, are too young for proper investigation. In view of this, and because of the presence of the good fruit on Andrieux's specimen, I selected that one as the type.

Semialarium mexicanum (Miers) A.M.W. Mennega, comb. nov.
Hippocratea mexicana Miers, Trans. Linn. Soc. **28**, 352. 1872. –
Type: Mexico. Oaxaca: Tehuantepec, 1834 (fr), *Andrieux 499* (K).
Prionostemma setulifera Miers, Trans. Linn. Soc. **28**, 359. 1872. –
Type:Guatemala. 1841 (fl), *Friedrichsthal s.n.* (K).

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