

Notes on African plants

VARIOUS AUTHORS

ANACARDIACEAE

A NEW COMBINATION IN *OZOROA*

Fernandes in Bol. Soc. Brot. 27: 150 (1965) resuscitated the genus *Ozoroa* Del. to accommodate all the species formerly placed in *Heeria* Meisn. except for *Heeria argentea* (Thunb.) Meisn. which remained as the only species of this monotypic genus. The main reasons for resuscitating *Ozoroa* lie in the differences in the fruits of the two genera. Since *Heeria argentea* is very similar in general facies to some of the other species formerly placed in *Heeria*, a special effort was made to study fresh fruits. The main differences mentioned by Fernandes could be confirmed and the resuscitation of *Ozoroa* is therefore supported. Most of the combinations in *Ozoroa* have already been made in various publications. The species *Heeria concolor* (C. Presl) Kuntze, however, is retained under the genus *Heeria* in the Prodr. Südwestafrika 74: 5 (1968) by Merxmüller and Schreiber because mature fruits of this species were not available for study at that time. Even though they suspected that it would prove to be an *Ozoroa* they

refrained from making the combination. The affinities of *Heeria concolor* are clearly with *Ozoroa dispar* (C. Presl) R. & A. Fernandes and *O. crassinervia* (Engl.) R. & A. Fernandes. Recently fairly mature fruits of this species have been collected by Mrs Eve Jenkins and there is no further doubt that it belongs in *Ozoroa*. The new combination is here effected.

Ozoroa concolor (C. Presl ex Sond.) De Wint., comb. nov. Type: Cape, between Natvoet and Gariep, 1 000-1 500, Drege (S, holo.; TCD, PRE, iso.).

Anaphrenium concolor E. Mey. in Drege, Zwei Doc. 163 (1843), nom. nud.

Rhus concolor E. Mey. ex C. Presl, Bot. Bemerk. 42 (1844), nom. nud.

Rhus concolor C. Presl ex Sond. in Fl. Cap. 1: 521 (1860).

B. DE WINTER

ASCLEPIADACEAE

A NOTE ON THE IDENTITY OF *CELASTRUS FILIFORMIS*

This note is the outcome of a request by Dr L. E. Codd to investigate the identity of *Celastrus filiformis* L.f.

Linnaeus fil., Suppl. 153 (1781), based his description of *Celastrus filiformis* on a Thunberg specimen from the Cape Province. Linnaeus described the species as follows: "Celastrus inermis, foliis lanceolatis integris, ramis filiformibus, pedunculi axillariibus uniflorus".

Thunberg in his Prodr. 42 (1794) and Fl. Cap. ed. Schult. 217 (1823), repeated the protologue almost verbatim but, in the latter work, he added a more detailed description. From this latter description it was clear that the type specimen of *C. filiformis* had opposite leaves.

Sonder in Fl. Cap. 1: 470 (1860) cited, under *Myroxylon eucleaeforme*, *M. filiforme* Eckl. & Zeyh., Enum. 125 (1836), but excluded the synonymy, namely, "C. filiformis Thunb. Fl. Cap. p. 217", which suggested that this basionym did not belong to the same taxon as his *M. eucleiforme*. Sonder was quite correct because *M. eucleiforme* has alternate leaves, while the type of *C. filiformis* has opposite leaves. The true identity of *C. filiformis* L.f., however, was not revealed by Sonder in his treatment of Celastrineae.

Following Sonder's decision, it is somewhat surprising to find that Davison in Bothalia 2: 327 (1927), cited "*Celastrus filiformis* Thunb. Prodr. (1794), 42; Fl. Cap. ed. Schultz (1823), 217" as a synonym of *Cassine eucleiformis* (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze, particularly so as the latter is a younger name. As species of *Cassine* have alternate leaves, it was clear that Davison's decision was incorrect, and that the identity of *Celastrus filiformis* remained unresolved.

Through the courtesy of the Director, Institute of Systematic Botany, Uppsala, the type of *Celastrus filiformis* from the Thunberg Herbarium, number 5606, was sent on loan to Kew (see Fig. 1). Examination of the specimen revealed that it belongs in Asclepiadaceae and that it is a *Secamone*. To be more precise, it matches what we have been accustomed to calling *S. frutescens* (E. Mey.) Decne. Drege 2230a from near the Zwartkop River, Uitenhage division, in the Kew Herbarium, an isosyntype of *S. frutescens*, is a good match of the right-hand twig of Thunberg's type, except that the latter lacks follicles. The basionym of *S. frutescens* (E. Mey.) Decne. (in DC., Prodr. 8: 501, 1844) is *Astephanus frutescens* E. Mey., Comm. 223 (1837). *Celastrus filiformis* L.f., Suppl. 153 (1781) is, therefore, a far earlier name and, as this specific epithet has not previously been taken up in *Secamone*, it will have to be adopted for this taxon. The new combination is effected below.

Secamone filiformis (L.f.) J. H. Ross, comb. nov.

Celastrus filiformis L.f., Suppl. 153 (1781); Thunb., Prodr. 42 (1794); Fl. Cap. ed. Schult. 217 (1823). Type: Cape Province, Thunberg No. 5606 (UPS, holo.!).

Astephanus frutescens E. Mey., Comm. 223 (1837). Syntypes: Cape Province, 3226 (Fort Beaufort), near Kat River, Drege (K!); 3325 (Port Elizabeth), near Zwartkop River, Drege (K!); Beans River (Boontjesrivier), Zuurburg Range, Drege (K, fragm.!).

Secamone frutescens (E. Mey.) Decne. in DC., Prodr. 8: 501 (1844). Syntypes as for *Astephanus frutescens*.

Cassine eucleiforme sensu Davison in Bothalia 2: 327 (1927) pro parte quoad syn. *Celastrus filiformis* L.f., non (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Kuntze sensu stricto.

J. H. ROSS



FIG. 1.—Thunberg 5606, the holotype of *Celastrus filiformis* L.f. (by permission of the Director, Institute of Systematic Botany, Uppsala).

EUPHORBIACEAE

A NEW SPECIES OF *EUPHORBIA*

Euphorbia celata R. A. Dyer, sp. nov. dioecia, habitu subterraneo valde distincta. Herba perennis dioecia tuberosa. *Tuber* plus minusve napiformis durus 3–5 cm diam. *Caules* subterranei 2—plures, erecti vel usque 15 cm rhizomatosi; rami epegaei, 1–2 cm longi, 3–5 mm crassi. *Folia* pauca alterna subsessilia obovata vel non-nunquam rotunda, 3–6 mm longa, 3–5 mm lata, apice recurva acuta. *Bractee* 2 (3), foliaceae. *Inflorescentia masculina* cymosa; cyathium primum sessile, lateralia 2 (3), breviter pedunculata, cyathium circiter 4 mm longum, infra glandulos 2,5 mm diam.; glanduli transverse late elliptici 1,5 mm lati concavi, margine leviter

crenulati; lobi oblongi circiter 0,75 mm longi, fimbriati. *Cyathium femineum* solitarium; involucrum mox deciduum. *Ovarium* sessile glabrum; styli 2,5 mm longi, fere ad medium lobati, apice bifidi. *Capsula* 5,5–6 mm diam., sessilis obtuse triangulata vel subglobosa; semina subpyriformia, 3 mm longa rugulosa.

TYPE: Cape Province, Vanrhynsdorp District, Moedverloer, 4 km N. of Hol River railway siding. E. slope of white quartzite hill in grey clay beneath quartz pebbles, 100 m alt., 12 May 1973, H. Hall 4272 (PRE, holo.).