

PODOCARPACEAE

THE TYPIFICATION OF *PODOCARPUS ELONGATUS*

The taxon was first described by Solander in Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* ed. 1, 3: 415 (1789) as *Taxus elongata*. It is mentioned that the plant is a native of the Cape of Good Hope and that it was introduced in 1774 by Thomas Lucas.

Two sheets at the British Museum (Natural History) were annotated by Solander as *Taxus elongata*. The first was collected by Masson at the Cape but no exact locality or date are indicated. As Masson undertook his last collecting trip at the Cape during 1774 the specimen could not have been gathered later than that year. Mounted on the sheet are two branches with male cones and both represent the Cape plant.

On the second sheet three specimens are mounted, all bearing male cones. One of them is annotated by Solander: "Hort. Dni. Lucas Lee in Kent 1777". ("Dni." stands for "Domini" and Lee is the village in Kent in which the Lucas garden was situated). The two other specimens are labelled in a different hand: "Hort. Dni. Salisbury 1785" and "Hort. Dni. Vere in Kensington Gore 1788". These three specimens are referable to *Podocarpus macrophyllus* (Thunb.) Don subsp. *maki* Sieb., an Asiatic species which closely resembles *P. elongatus*.

Stapf in *Flora Capensis* 5, 2 (Suppl.): 8 (1933) cites (among others) the Masson specimen and the specimens from the gardens of Lucas, Salisbury and Vere as *P. elongatus*. In a typewritten report on the South African species of *Widdringtonia* and *Podocarpus* (27/5/1921), he expresses the opinion that the specimen from the garden of Lucas in the BM is the one that Solander described in the *Hortus Kewensis*.

It appears, however, that Solander included a mixture in his concept and there is no conclusive evidence that his description of *Taxus elongata* is based solely or even mainly on the Lucas specimen. The plant mentioned in the Hortus Kewensis was introduced in 1774 whilst the "Hort. Lucas" specimen was collected in his garden in 1777. As most plants were brought to England as seed or cuttings it is unlikely that a specimen of *Podocarpus* which was introduced in 1774 could have borne male cones in 1777.

The Hortus Kewensis refers to a plant in the Lucas garden which is a native of the Cape of Good Hope, while the "Hort. Lucas" specimen is undoubtedly of Asiatic origin. It thus appears that Lucas had both species in his garden. The source of the Asiatic species is not known but the date 1774 given for the introduction of the Cape species points to Masson who sent large botanical collections from the Cape to England during that year. Salisbury mentions in a note in Burchell's Memoranda Botanica (MS. in Kew Library) that he had a specimen of "*Taxus elongata*" growing in his garden which Masson had collected at the Cape.

Gray (Journ. Arn. Arb. 34: 166, 1953) pointed out that the specimens from the gardens of Lucas, Salisbury and Vere in the BM do not represent the Cape species and argued that the Lucas specimen can thus not be taken as the type of *Podocarpus elongatus*. She proposed two "lectotypes": as male type she chose the Thunberg specimen in UPS and as female type the Sonnerat specimen in P. Obviously this treatment cannot be accepted. Apart from the fact that a name cannot be typified by more than one specimen, neither of the specimens chosen by Gray bears Solander's handwriting and it is unlikely that he saw either of them. Instead, the Masson specimen in the BM is proposed as lectotype of the name *Podocarpus elongatus*. The specimen was identified by Solander and although no specimens are explicitly mentioned in the Hortus Kewensis there is every reason to assume that the author saw it before publishing the description. The only alternative lectotype is one of the specimens from the gardens of Lucas, Salisbury or Vere and this would involve transference of the name *P. elongatus* to the Asiatic species presently known as *P. macrophyllus* subsp. *maki* whilst the Cape plant would require a new name.

I am grateful to Dr. L. Codd of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, and to Mr. A. A. Bullock of Kew who provided valuable advice.