

GUTTIFERAE

In the Flora of Southern Africa 26: 250 (1963), a specimen from Swaziland, *Ben Dlamini* s.n., was listed as *Acokanthera* sp. The receipt of further material of this plant has led to its correct identification as *Garcinia gerrardii* Harv. ex Sim. The name *Garcinia gerrardii* was not validly published by Harvey in his Genera of South African Plants, ed. 2: 26 (1869). It was, however, taken up and provided with a description and illustration by Sim in The Forests and Forest Flora of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, 141, t. 13 (1907). In the same year, *G. natalensis* Schltr. was described and, as the two are generally considered to be synonyms, it becomes necessary to settle the question of priority. The date of publication of the part of Engler's Botanische Jahrbücher containing *G. natalensis* is given as 21 May, 1907. Evidence collected by Mr. W. Marais, our Liaison Officer at Kew, indicates that Sim's publication was available by May 1907 and probably has priority. I am grateful to Mr. Marais for the trouble he has taken to obtain this information, and to Dr. Stearn of the British Museum (Natural History) who provided him with useful assistance and advice. The pertinent information gathered by Mr. Marais is summarized below:

1. The Copyright Receipt Office of the British Museum, Bloomsbury, reports that Sim's book was received on 14 May 1907.

2. The University Library, Cambridge, reports that their copy is stamped 27 May, 1907.

3. The National Library of Scotland also received their copy on 27 May, 1907.

4. The Library of the Trinity College, Dublin, received their copy during May, 1907, but cannot give the exact date.

5. The book was reviewed by the Natal Agricultural Journal for 28 June, 1907. The review could hardly have appeared in less than two months after the copy was distributed.

6. A query sent to the printers in Aberdeen was referred to the Aberdeen Public Library, who stated that the date was given in the English Catalogue of Books as March, 1907. This date is not altogether reliable as the Catalogue is in part compiled from "dates of intended publication".

The weight of evidence indicates that Sim's book was available by the middle of May. On this basis, the correct name for the *Garcinia* is as follows, together with its synonyms.

Garcinia gerrardii Harv. ex Sim, Forest Fl. Cape Col. 141, t. 13 (mid-May 1907).
G. natalensis Schltr. in Bot. Jahrb. 40: 93 (21 May, 1907); Robson in Fl. Zamb. 1: 398 (1961).

G. transvaalensis Burt Davy in Kew Bull. 229 (1924); Fl. Tvaal. 1: 252 (1926).
Acokanthera sp. Codd in Fl. S. Afr. 26: 250 (1963).

Robson, l.c., draws attention to the similarity between this species and *G. volkensii* Engl. (1895) which has the outer floral whorls usually 5-merous, while in *G. gerrardii* they are 4-merous. He considers that the difference may be only of subspecific value, but there are also slight differences in texture and venation which give the impression that the two are distinct species.