

ASTERACEAE

NEW COMBINATION IN *DICOMA*

In the course of extensive studies of herbarium material of various genera of the tribes Mutisieae and Inuleae (Asteraceae) from sub-Saharan Africa, we have noted new localities and other data for species of *Dicoma* Cass. (Mutisieae).

Dicoma membranacea S.Moore

Although *D. membranacea* S.Moore has been considered by various authors (Moore 1904; Wilson 1923; Merxmüller 1967) to be closely related to *D. sessiliflora* Harv., nobody to date has questioned the species status of this taxon; this may be because the currently accepted distribution of *D. membranacea* (northwest Namibia and southern Angola) (Figure 4) does not overlap either with that of *D. sessiliflora* subsp. *sessiliflora*—Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique and parts of Zaïre (Pope 1992)—or with that of the recently described *D. sessiliflora* subsp. *stenophylla* Pope in West Africa (Pope 1991). However, we have examined the material from Mozambique cited below, and currently referred to subsp. *sessiliflora*, which is morphologically indistinguishable from *D. membranacea* from Angola and Namibia.

We found *D. sessiliflora* and *D. membranacea* to differ only in length of stem (less than 150 mm tall in the latter). Moore (1904) considered the presence of pedunculate capitula to be diagnostic for *D. membranacea*, but we have examined specimens of this taxon in which the capitula are sessile [Voucher: Angola, *Rui Correia* 2589 (LUAI)] or subsessile [Vouchers: Angola, *Borges* 123 (LUAI); Mozambique, *Gomes e Sousa* 2157 (COI)], and furthermore the capitula of *D. sessiliflora* are not always sessile. Moore (1904) considered corolla size to discriminate between the two taxa, but the size cited by this author for *D. membranacea* is the same as that given by Pope (1992) for *D. sessiliflora*. Similarly, Moore (1904) stated that the corolla lobes are the same length as the tube in *D. membranacea*; this is not the case in a number of specimens examined by us in which the lobes are longer than the tube [including those of *Rui Correia* 2589, *Borges* 123 and *Giess* 8969 (K) from Namibia]. In our opinion the putatively distinguishing characters included in Pope's (1991) key to the section *Pterocoma* are, with the exception of length of stem (maximum 150 mm in *D. membranacea*), likewise of limited value. This author cites stem hairiness as a distinguishing character and states that

only the stems of *D. sessiliflora* can be glabrescent. We have not been able to identify clear differences between the two taxa in this respect, and have found specimens of *D. membranacea* with glabrescent stems [Voucher: Angola, *Borges* 123 (LUAI)]. We did not find significant differences with regard to length of leaves (more than 120 mm long in *D. sessiliflora* versus up to 100 mm long in *D. membranacea*); indeed Moore (1904) described *D. membranacea* as having leaves up to 140 mm long.

MOZAMBIQUE.—1235: Inhambane, Massinga-Vilanculos, Govuru River, 7-1938, *Gomes e Sousa* 2157 (COI, K, LISC). 2335: Niassa, Administrative Post of Mujoco, 30-9-1948, *Pedro & Pedrógão* 5449 (LMA).



FIGURE 4.—Distribution of *Dicoma sessiliflora* subsp. *sessiliflora* var. *membranacea*. Known distribution based on Moore (1904), Merxmüller (1967) and herbarium material: dotted area. New localities: triangles.

Since the morphological differences between these two taxa are minimal, and since the range of *D. membranacea* is not geographically continuous, we consider that this taxon should be viewed as a variety of *D. sessiliflora*.

***Dicoma sessiliflora* Harv. subsp. *sessiliflora* var. *membranacea* (S.Moore) S.Ortiz & Rodr.Oubiña, comb. et stat. nov.**

D. membranacea S.Moore in Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier, sér. II, 4: 1025 (1904).

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