

A NEW COMBINATION IN *HENCKELIA* (GESNERIACEAE)

ETTICKAL SUKUMARAN SANTHOSH KUMAR

Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Karimankode P.O., Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala-695562, India; e-mail: santhoshkumares@gmail.com

The genus *Henckelia* Sprengle was considered synonymous with *Didymocarpus* Wall. until Weber and Burt (1998) separated them by an array of morphological characters. Presently, *Henckelia* has ca 180 species distributed from southern India, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, southern Thailand, the Malay Peninsula and Borneo to the Philippines, Sulawesi and New Guinea (Middleton *et al.* 2013). *Henckelia* can be distinguished from *Didymocarpus* by its continuous growth habit, leaves being alternate and rosulate, small ventricose flowers without nectarines, and plagiocarpic fruits. Rajakumar *et al.* (2009) proposed a new *Didymocarpus* species, *D. sivagiriensis* Rajakumar, Selvak., S. Murug. & Chellap., from the Thalayanai Reserve forests of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu, India. Perusal of literature and type materials revealed that *D. sivagiriensis* belongs to the genus *Henckelia* as suggested by Weber and Burt (1998). Hence a new combination is proposed here.

Henckelia sivagiriensis (Rajakumar, Selvak., S. Murug. & Chellap.) E. S. S. Kumar, **comb. nov.**

BASIONYM: *Didymocarpus sivagiriensis* Rajakumar, Selva., S. Murug. & Chellap., Indian J. Forest. **32**(3):

481, fig. 1. 2009. TYPE CITATION: India: Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli district, Thalayanai Reserve forests, *s.d.*, Rajakumar, Selvakumari, Murugesan & Chellaperumal 829 (HOLOTYPE: Herbarium, Department of Botany, St. John's College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu; ISO-TYPE: MH!).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am grateful to Dr. P. G. Latha, Director of the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, for the facilities provided and for constant encouragement, to Dr. G. V. S. Murthy, Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle (MH), for permitting me to consult the type materials, and to the anonymous reviewers for valuable remarks on the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- MIDDLETON D. J., WEBER A., YAO T. L., SONTAG S. & MÖLLER M. 2013. The current status of the species hitherto assigned to *Henckelia* (Gesneriaceae). *Edinburgh J. Bot.* **70**(3): 385–404.
- RAJAKUMAR T. J. S., SELVAKUMARI R., MURUGESAN S. & CHELLAPERUMAL N. 2009. *Didymocarpus sivagiriensis*, A new species of Gesneriaceae from Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu, India. *Indian J. Forest.* **32**(3): 481–483.
- WEBER A. & BURTT B. L. 1998. Remodelling of *Didymocarpus* and associated genera (Gesneriaceae). *Beitr. Biol. Pflanzen.* **70**: 293–363.

Received 28 March 2013