

A name change in *Gynochthodes* (Rubiaceae)

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ABSTRACT. A new combination *Gynochthodes wongiana* (Suratman) W.W.Seah is proposed here based on *Morinda wongiana* Suratman and the name *Gynochthodes suratmanii* K.M.Wong & Razafim. is placed in its synonymy.

Keywords. *Gynochthodes suratmanii*, *Gynochthodes wongiana*, *Morinda wongiana*, new combination

Introduction

Following molecular phylogenetic studies which led to a new circumscription of *Gynochthodes* Blume that included many taxa with a lianescent or climbing habit earlier placed in *Morinda* L. (Razafimandimbison et al., 2008, 2009; Razafimandimbison & Bremer, 2011), several new combinations were made (Razafimandimbison & Bremer, 2011) and a new name, *Gynochthodes suratmanii* K.M.Wong & Razafim., was proposed for *Morinda wongiana* Suratman (Wong & Razafimandimbison, 2015).

The new name was proposed as the authors considered that the specific epithet *wongiana* could not be used in combination with *Gynochthodes* as the resulting combination *Gynochthodes wongiana* would become a later homonym of the existing *Gynochthodes wongii* Razafim. & B.Bremer. This is incorrect as although Turland et al. (2018) has a recommendation (23A.2) that 'The use of the genitive and the adjectival form of the same word to designate two different species of the same genus should be avoided', it does not state that it is not allowed. In the case of *Gynochthodes*, this is unavoidable. Therefore, a new combination is proposed and the name *Gynochthodes suratmanii* is placed in its synonymy. Description of the species can be found in Suratman (2011, 2018).

The new combination

Gynochthodes wongiana (Suratman) W.W.Seah, **comb. nov.** – *Morinda wongiana* Suratman, *Blumea* 56(1): 27 (2011). – *Gynochthodes suratmanii* K.M.Wong & Razafim., *Reinwardtia* 14(2): 297 (2015), nom. illeg. superfl.; Suratman, *Blumea* 62(3): 237 (2018). – TYPE: Indonesia, Sumatra, Baturadja [Baturaja] (fruits), *H.F. Sun* 9937 (holotype BO).

Distribution and habitat. According to Suratman (2018), the species is known from two localities in Sumatra: Baturadja [Baturaja] and Riau Archipelago, Sambu Island (*P. Buwalda* 6223, BO) as well as two localities from Borneo: West Kalimantan, Soengei Sambas (*H. Hallier* 1048, BO) and Kalimantan, without locality (*Jaheri* 1893, BO). It occurs in rainforest and secondary vegetation, at low elevations just a few metres above sea level.

Provisional IUCN conservation assessment. No conservation assessment was provided when the species was first described. There were also no results found after a search on some online databases and catalogues for herbarium specimens. However, the genera here are not well studied in many geographic regions and some species records could simply be overlooked. Given the lack of information, the species is assessed as Data Deficient (DD) (IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee, 2022).

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