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Lectotypification of *Ardisia dawnaea* (Myrsinaceae)

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ABSTRACT. A taxonomically complex issue regarding *Ardisia gracilis* Lace, *A. dawnaea* C. E. Parkinson, and *A. dawnensis* M. P. Nayar & G. S. Giri (Myrsinaceae) from Burma [Myanmar] is discussed and resolved with the lectotypification of *A. dawnaea*.

RESUMEN. Se resuelve una situación complicada y confusa entre tres especies Birmania: *Ardisia gracilis* Lace, *A. dawnaea* C. E. Parkinson y *A. dawnensis* M. P. Nayar & G. S. Giri (Myrsinaceae), por lectotipificar a *A. dawnaea*.

Key words: *Ardisia*, Burma [Myanmar], Myrsinaceae.

Recent studies within the genus *Ardisia* Sw. have revealed a complex series of taxonomic mistakes that have taken place over the last century. This short note is intended to finally resolve one of these issues, including the lectotypification of *A. dawnaea* C. E. Parkinson.

Ardisia dawnaea C. E. Parkinson, Indian Forester 60: 266. 1934, replacement name. Replaced syn.: *Ardisia gracilis* Lace, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1914(4): 153–154. 1914, nom. illeg., non *Ardisia gracilis* Miq., Fl. Bras. 10: 287, t. 33. 1856. TYPE: Burma [Myanmar]. Kayin: Amherst Distr., below Mulai-Tit Peak, Dawna Range, 3500–6000 ft. [1067–1829 m], 27 Jan. 1912, *J. Lace 5624* (lectotype, designated here, E [barcode] E00413551; isoelectotypes, CAL, K).

Ardisia dawnensis M. P. Nayar & G. S. Giri, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 27(1–4): 222, fig. on p. 223. 1985 [1987]. TYPE: Burma [Myanmar]. Kayin: Amherst Distr., below Mulai-Tit Peak, Dawna Range, 3500–6000 ft. [1067–1829 m], 27 Jan. 1912, *J. Lace 5624* (holotype, CAL; isotypes, E, K).

Miquel (1856: 287) described material from Colombia, validly establishing the name *Ardisia gracilis* legitimately. Unfortunately, Lace (1914: 154) would later use the same epithet when

describing material from Burma [Myanmar], with three syntypes, “Indo-China. Burma: Tenasserim, Dawna Range, 1050–1800 m., *Lace 4627, 5624, Beddome 114*,” without a single element identified as type. Although the name was validly published by Lace, it is illegitimate, blocked in *Ardisia* by the priority of Miquel’s earlier epithet. Parkinson (1934: 266) corrected Lace’s error, “Lace in naming the Mulayit plant overlooked the fact that the trivial name *gracilis* had already been given by Miquel to a Brazilian plant,” but failed to unambiguously identify a type for his replacement name *A. dawnaea* by citing three or four collections “Mulayit, *Beddome, Lace* [it is unclear if he means both Lace numbers], *Parkinson*.” Both *Beddome* and numbered *Lace* collections were earlier used by Lace in 1914; Parkinson ambiguously mentioned these syntypes, although the Parkinson collection would not be syntypic. Thus, the nomen novum is valid, but the species name is still ambiguously typified. According to Kanchi Gandhi (pers. comm., 2012) “the nom. nov. is valid, but the name is not typified . . . for new combinations and new names, typification is not mandatory” because both are “typified by the type of the basionym/replacement synonym,” respectively (cf. Articles. 7.3, 7.4, McNeill et al., 2012). Finally, independently and apparently unaware of the above transactions, Nayar and Giri (1985 [1987]) described a new species, *A. dawnensis* from the *J. Lace 5624* collection at CAL. They list two additional specimens as “Specimens other than type:” a collection without collector or number, collected on 22 Feb. 1909 [which is the same day and general location as *J. Lace 4627*] and a gathering by *G. Gallatly 281 A–E*. Unfortunately, they do not indicate where either of these specimens is currently housed. Nayar and Giri make no reference to any other material, or to either of the names published by Lace or Parkinson. Although Nayar and Giri’s species name was validly published, it corresponds taxonomically to the material earlier considered by both Lace and

Parkinson and, thus, is placed in synonym under *A. dawnaea* which has priority. It should be noted that Larsen and Hu (2001: 147) were the first to place *A. dawnensis* in synonym under *A. dawnaea* in their work related to the Flora of Thailand, but also failed to unambiguously indicate a type for *A. dawnaea*.

Thus, our intention here is to clarify a complex taxonomic issue and to finally designate a lectotype based on the original three collections mentioned by Lace in 1914. Fortunately, all the original material is still available. Although we have not seen the material at CAL, we know from Nayar and Giri (1985 [1987]) that a specimen of *J. Lace 5624* is present [the holotype of *Ardisia dawnensis*] and the original drawing of the material used in the manuscript indicates a good quality sheet. We also could assume that the material mentioned by them (Nayar & Giri, 1985 [1987]: 223) as “Dawna range, Thatan dist., Burma, 4500 feet (1215 m), 22 Feb. 1909” is that of *J. Lace 4627*, because the collection information is essentially the same; we cannot be certain, and no information on where the specimen is housed is given. We reject both of these specimens as candidates for lectotypification to avoid confusion with the holotype designation of the *J. Lace 5624* sheet at CAL and the confusion created by the second sheet. All three of the original collections mentioned by Lace (1914: 154) are present at Kew (K), and all are good quality sheets with no additional annotations by Parkinson, Nayar and Giri, or Larsen and Hu. Any of these specimens would be good candidates for election as a lectotype. However, Lace’s original herbarium is housed at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh (E), and both of his original collections are present and of equal quality. Although the selection of the *J. Lace 4627* specimen would be a less confusing selection, we reject it as a candidate primarily because of its uncertain presence in India as mentioned above. Thus, we elect to designate the *J. Lace 5624* specimen at E as the lectotype of *A. dawnaea*. It should be noted that this same sheet is also an isotype of *A. dawnensis*.

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