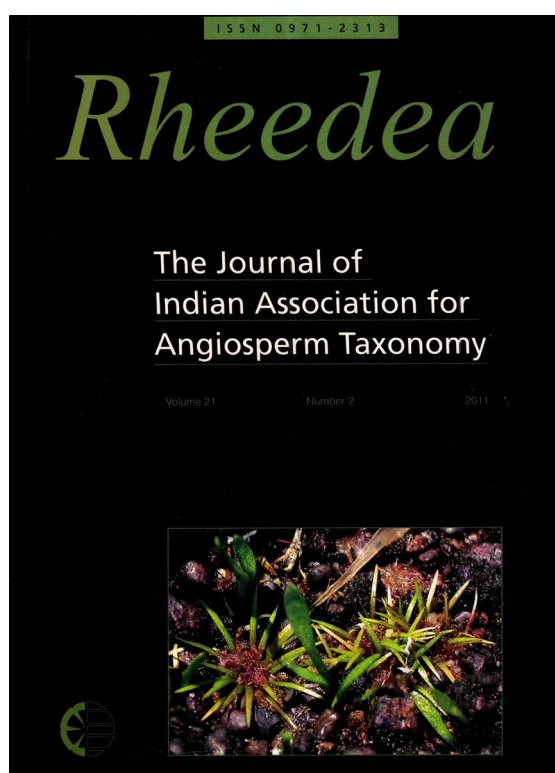




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Crotalaria khasiana (Fabaceae), a taxonomic synonym of *C. bhutanica*

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Abstract

The nomenclatural error of treating the legitimate name *Crotalaria bhutanica* Thoth. (1969) as a taxonomic synonym of *C. khasiana* N.P. Balakr. ex Thoth. & A.A. Ansari (1979) is rectified. The typification of *C. capitata* Benth. ex Baker is discussed.

Keywords: *Crotalaria khasiana*, *C. bhutanica*, Taxonomic Synonym

Introduction

Crotalaria capitata Benth. ex Baker (1876), the name for an Asian species, is illegitimate being a later homonym of *C. capitata* Lam. (1786), an African species. Thothathri & Ansari (1979) proposed *C. khasiana* as the replacement name for the Baker's name. Earlier they had seen an herbarium specimen annotated as *C. khasiana* by Balakrishnan. So, they cited the authorship of the replacement name as "Bal. ex Thoth. & Ansari" [The author name abbreviation "Bal." has been mistaken for "Baker" in Indian literature and "Balansa", *vide* Tropicos, 2011]. *Crotalaria capitata* Benth. ex Baker was also cited as a misapplied name in Indian literature (*vide* Chauhan, 2000).

Grierson & Long (1987) who recorded the species in question for Bhutan and Sikkim accepted *C. capitata* Benth. ex Baker as the correct name and thus overlooked its illegitimacy. They also cited *C. bhutanica* Thoth. (*l.c.*), a new species described based on *Abraham* 2382 (CAL) from Bhutan, as a synonym. Taking a cue from Grierson & Long (*l.c.*) on the taxonomy of the species, Sanjappa (1992) treated *C. khasiana* as the correct name of the species and cited *C. bhutanica* as a taxonomic synonym. His treatment has been followed by later authors (e.g., Kumar & Sane, 2003; Ansari, 2008; ILDIS, 2011).

It is puzzling that more recent authors accept *C. khasiana* (with priority from 1979) as the correct name for this species and treat *C. bhutanica* (with priority from 1969) as a taxonomic synonym. It is apparent that all these authors simply overlooked the priority of the 1969 name.

Article 11.4 of the Vienna Code (McNeill & al., 2006) makes it clear, "For any taxon below the rank of genus, the correct name is the combination of the final epithet of the earliest legitimate name of the taxon in the same rank, with the correct name of the genus or species to which it is assigned ...". Accordingly *C. bhutanica*, being priorable, is the correct name of the species in question, which is restricted to the Eastern Himalaya and Northeastern region in India.

Typification of *Crotalaria capitata*

The protologue of *C. capitata* Benth. ex Baker includes three collections, "Hook.f. and Thomson, Lobb, Simons", all from the Khasia mountains. Thothathri & Ansari (*l.c.*), without a discussion, merely cited "J.D. Hooker & T. Thomson s.n. (Isotypes, CAL! MH!)" but did not mention the location of the "holotype". Since they narrowed down the choice of a type to a single gathering, it is construed that they designated the (first-step) lectotype. Subsequently Ansari (*l.c.*) further narrowed down the choice to a single specimen by citing the one at K as the (second-step) lectotype.

Since neither Thothathri & Ansari (*l.c.*) nor Ansari (*l.c.*) discussed the choice of their lectotypes and chose the first-cited gathering (J.D. Hooker & T. Thomson s.n.) as the type, one may construe that their typification was mechanical (*vide* Rec. 9A.2 of the Vienna Code, McNeill & al., 2006). Nevertheless, their typification stands.

Taxonomic summary

Crotalaria bhutanica Thoth., J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66: 70, ff. 1 – 5. 1969. – Type: Bhutan, Thimpu, 18.9.1964, *Abraham* 2382 (Holotype, CAL).

C. capitata Benth. ex Baker in Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 2: 74. 1876, non Lam. 1786; Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 66: 352. 1897; Fischer, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 12(2): 89. 1938; Kanjilal & al., Fl. Assam 2: 15. 1938; Deb, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 3: 265. 1961; Grierson & Long, Fl. Bhutan 1(3): 734. 1987. *C. khasiana* N.P. Balakr. ex Thoth. & A.A. Ansari, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 20: 180, ff. 1 – 8. 1979; Sanjappa, Legum. India: 122. 1992; Chauhan in Singh & al., Fl. Manipur 1: 278. 2000; Singh in Singh & al., Fl. Mizoram 1: 444. 2002; Ansari, *Crotalaria* India: 97, f. 12. 2008. – Syntypes: (India), Khasia Mts., 5 – 7000 ft., *Hook.f. & Thomson s.n.*, *Lobb s.n.*, *Simons s.n.*; first-step lectotype, *Hook.f. & Thomson s.n.* (*vide* Thothathri & Ansari, *l.c.*); second-step lectotype, K; isolectotype, CAL, MH (*vide* Ansari, *l.c.*).

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