

A new combination in *Meliosma* (Sabiaceae)

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ABSTRACT. *Meliosma pinnata* (Roxb.) Walp. subsp. *barbulata* (Cufod.) Welzen is a new combination for the illegitimate name *M. pinnata* subsp. *arnottiana* (Wight) Beusekom.

When Van Beusekom (1971) did his world revision of the genus *Meliosma* (Sabiaceae) he reduced several names to *Meliosma pinnata* and recognised many infraspecific entities. In one of the subspecies recognised, the oldest epithet was *arnottiana*, a name derived from the species *Meliosma arnottiana* (Wight) Walp. (basonym *Millingtonia arnottiana* Wight). Van Beusekom thus created *Meliosma pinnata* (Roxb.) Walp. subsp. *arnottiana* (Wight) Beusekom and even distinguished several varieties within this subspecies.

Unfortunately the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Greuter et al., 2000) states that (art. 11.2) per classification level the oldest, available epithet should be selected: “In no case does a name have priority outside the rank in which it is published”. On the species level the oldest epithet is *arnottiana*. However, one of the synonyms for the entity is *Meliosma rhoifolia* Maxim. subsp. *barbulata* Cufod. Thus, on the subspecific level *barbulata* is the oldest, available epithet and should have been selected.

Van Beusekom became aware of this small error after publication of his thesis, but he never made the new combination. On identification labels he used both names.

Because the new combination was never published and because the revision of the Sabiaceae for the Flora of Thailand is forthcoming, I would here by like to make the new combination:

***Meliosma pinnata* (Roxb.) Walp. subsp. *barbulata* (Cufod.) Beusekom ex Welzen, comb. nov.**

Meliosma rhoifolia Maxim. subsp. *barbulata* Cufod., Oesterr. Bot. Zeit. 88: 254. 1939.— Syntypes: China: *Handel Mazzetti* 12234 (A, W), Hunan; *Mell* 668 (A), Kwangtung; *C. L. Tso* 20653, 21156 (W), Kwangtung; *Y. Tsiang* 1357 (or incorrectly *W.Y. Chun* 1357) (BO, E, P), Kwangtung; *Canton Christian College (To & Tsang)* 12256, 12572, 12673 (E, W), Kangtung; *W.T. Tsang* 27673 (A), Kwangsi; *T.S. Tsoong* (= *Z.S. Chung*) 83303, 83551 (A), no locality.

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This taxon should be understood in the sense of Van Beusekom's *Meliosma pinnata* subsp. *arnottiana* (1971, p. 499).

REFERENCES

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