

Note on the identity and re-naming the genus *Quisqualis* Linnaeus (Combretaceae)

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Abstract

Quisqualis indica Linnaeus is the generitype for the genus *Quisqualis* Linnaeus and was monotypic at the time of publication in 1762. The accepted name of *Quisqualis indica* Linnaeus is *Combretum indicum* (Linnaeus) DeFilipps in *Useful Pl. Dominica* 277. 1998. Since the **type** of *Quisqualis* has been shifted to another genus, i.e., *Combretum*, the genus *Quisqualis* needs a new name. In this present paper nine species of *Quisqualis* species are considered for renaming as species of *Sphalanthus* Jack.

Key words: *Quisqualis*, replacement names, *Sphalanthus*

Quisqualis indica Linnaeus (Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 1: 556. Sep 1762) is the generitype of *Quisqualis* Linnaeus. This name was monotypic at the time of publication. Now, the accepted name for *Quisqualis indica* Linnaeus is *Combretum indicum* (Linnaeus) DeFilipps in *Useful Pl. Dominica* 277. 1998.

There are 11 names of *Quisqualis* which are still retained under this said genus (<http://www.theplantlist.org>). Out of which 8 names are considered for the purpose of this discussion.

According to the code, when a genus is monotypic at the time of publication and the type is shifted to another genus, the former genus needs to be renamed [McNeill *et al.* (2012)]. Hence, the genus *Quisqualis* Linnaeus requires a new name.

The generic synonyms of the genus *Quisqualis* are:

Kleinia Crantz, Inst. ii. 488 (1766). T.: *K. quadricolor* Crantz [‘Rumph. Amb. 5. p. 71. t. 38’]

Kleinia Mill. (1754) is the accepted name (belonging to the family Asteraceae). So, *Kleinia* Crantz cannot be considered for this purpose.

The remaining two options are:

1. *Sphalanthus* Jack, in Malay. Misc. ii. (1822) n. VII. 55 (1822). T: *Sphalanthus confertus* Jack
2. *Cacoucia* Aublet, Hist. Pl. Guiane 450. t. 179. Jun-Dec 1775. T.: *Cacoucia coccinea* Aublet

Though, *Cacoucia* Aublet could have been selected as the correct replaced name for *Quisqualis* Linnaeus following ICN principle as this genus which has a priority, but, the ICN

does not play any role here. One has to decide whether *Sphalanthus* and *Cacoucia* together refer to one genus or remain as 2 distinct genera.

Cacoucia Aublet is a synonym of *Combretum*. Thus, it is not considered in this case.

Sphalanthus Jack is the generic synonym of *Quisqualis* Linnaeus and is available for use to replace generic name *Quisqualis* for the names which are retained under the genus *Quisqualis*.

Hence, the following new combinations are proposed.

***Sphalanthus caudatus* (Craib.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Quisqualis caudata* Craib., Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew. 1930: 164. 1930 (Siam)

***Sphalanthus confertus* Jack**

= *Quisqualis conferta* (Jack) Exell., J. Bot. 69: 122. 1931

***Sphalanthus littoreus* (Engl.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Cacoucia littorea* Engl. Pflanzenw. Ost-Afrikas C: 293. 1895

= *Quisqualis littorea* (Engl.) Exell., J. Bot. 69: 121. 1931

***Sphalanthus mussaendiflorus* (Engl. & Diels) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Combretum mussaendiflorum* Engl. & Diels, Monographien afrikanischer Pflanzen Familien und -Gattungen 3: 87. 1899.

= *Quisqualis mussaendiflora* (Engl. & Diels) Exell., J. Bot. 69: 121. 1931

***Sphalanthus parviflorus* (Gerard ex Sond.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Quisqualis parviflora* Gerard ex Sond., Fl. Cap. 2: 512. 1862

= *Quisqualis natalensis* Gerard ex Engl. & Diels, Mongor. Afrik. Pflanzen. Fam. 4: 6. 1899

***Sphalanthus pellegrinianus* (Exell.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Combretum pellegrinianum* Exell., J. Bot. 67: 177. 1929

= *Quisqualis pellegriniana* (Exell.) Exell., J. Bot. 69: 121. 1931

***Sphalanthus prostratus* (Craib.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Quisqualis prostrata* Craib., Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1926: 167. 1926

***Sphalanthus sulcatus* (Slooten) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Quisqualis sulcata* Slooten, Bijdr. Combret. Flacourt. Ned-Ind. 49. 1919

= *Quisqualis sulcata* var. *subcordata* Slooten, Bijdr. Combret. Flacourt. Ned-Ind. 49. 1919

***Sphalanthus thorelii* (Exell.) S. Dutta (comb. nov.)**

= *Quisqualis thorelii* Exell., J. Bot. 69: 122. 1931

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, I propose the correct name for *Quisqualis* Linnaeus is *Sphalanthus* Jack. Eight new combinations has been made for the same in this paper.

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