

Olea luzonica (Oleaceae), a new name for *O. obovata* from the Philippines

R. Kiew

Forest Research Institute Malaysia,
52109 Kepong, Selangor, Malaysia
ruth@frim.gov.my

ABSTRACT. A new name, *Olea luzonica* Kiew, is proposed to replace the later homonym *Olea obovata* (Merr.) Kiew.

Keywords. Illegitimate, *Linociera obovata*

Introduction

The Philippine species *Olea obovata* (Merr.) Kiew has an illegitimate name because *Olea obovata* Baker was earlier published for a species from Mauritius (Baker, 1877: 219). This older name came to light when Hong-Wa et al. (2014) revised *Noronhia* for Mauritius. Their *Noronhia obovata* (Baker) Hong-Wa & Callm. is based on *Olea obovata* Baker and its type. This, therefore, necessitates a new name for the Philippine *Olea* and it is here proposed to name it *Olea luzonica* Kiew because it is known only from that island.

Taxonomy

Olea luzonica Kiew, **nom. nov.** – *Linociera obovata* Merr. [in Elmer, Leaflet. Philip. Bot. 5: 1652 (1913) *nom. nud.*] Philip. J. Sci. (Bot.) 10: 338 (1915); Merrill, Enum. Philip. Pl. 3: 304 (1923). – *Olea obovata* (Merr.) Kiew, Gard. Bull. Singapore 51: 94 (1999), non Baker (1877); Green, Kew Bull. 57: 116 (2002). – TYPE: Philippines, Luzon, Laguna Province, San Antonio, September 1912, *Ramos Bur. Sci. 15014* (lectotype K, designated by Kiew (1999)).

Small tree, glabrous except minutely puberulent on branchlets and inflorescences. **Twigs** grey to whitish, stout, terete, glabrous. **Leaves:** petioles 1–1.5 cm; lamina very thickly coriaceous, obovate, 4–7 × 2–4.5 cm, pale when dry, upper surface glossy, dull beneath, base narrowed and more or less decurrent, margins entire, recurved, apex broadly rounded, sometimes very shortly and broadly acuminate, sometimes even slightly retuse; lateral veins indistinct, often subobsolete, c. 8 on each side of midrib.

Inflorescences axillary, sessile, densely many-flowered cymose panicles, branched from base, brown when dry, 2–5 cm long, the branches spreading and 2–3 cm wide. **Flowers** (mature female flowers not seen) 4-merous, buds ellipsoid or obovoid, c. 2 mm long, pedicels 1–3 mm. **Male flowers:** calyx 0.5–0.7 mm long, lobes irregularly broadly triangular, 0.3–0.5 mm long, apex acute; corolla thickish, tube 0.5 mm long, lobes involute, 1 mm long; filaments 0.2 mm long, anthers ellipsoid, 0.8 mm long, with a very small terminal appendage. **Drupes** ellipsoid 6–7 × 4.5–5 mm.

Distribution. Endemic in the Philippines, Luzon (Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Nueva Ecija and Tayabas Provinces).

Ecology. In mossy forest at about 2000 m. From herbarium specimens, it apparently has the habit of many trees of mossy forest as judged from its much branched, bushy canopy with branches of upstanding, thick leaves with recurved margins at the tip of the twigs.

Additional specimens examined. PHILIPPINES: **Luzon:** Ilocos Norte, Mt. Palimlim *Ramos Bur. Sci.* 33262 (L); Nueva Ecija, Mt. Umingan *Ramos & Edano Bur. Sci.* 26328 (K); Tayabas, Mt. Alzapan *Ramos & Edano Bur. Sci.* 45667 (K), 45716 (K).

Notes. *Olea luzonica* is a very distinctive species in its small, very thick, obovate leaves with a rounded apex and decurrent base, obscure lateral veins, recurved margin and dense pyramidal inflorescences. It was first listed by Elmer (1913) as *Linociera obovata*, but lacking a Latin diagnosis the name was a *nomen nudum*. Merrill (1915) validated this name by providing a description and the required diagnosis. In 1999, Kiew recognised it was an *Olea* species and transferred it to *Olea*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am indebted to Jose Ignacio de Juano Clavero for pointing out the illegitimate status of *Olea obovata* (Merr.) Kiew.

References

- Baker, J.G. (1877). *Flora of Mauritius and the Seycelles*. London: L. Reeve & Co.
 Elmer, A.D.E. (1913). Philippine *Linociera*. *Leaflet Philipp. Bot.* 5: 1651–1657.
 Hong-Wa, C., Callmander, M.W. & Baider, C. (2014). Taxonomy and conservation of the genus *Noronhia* Thouars (Oleaceae) in Mauritius. *Candollea* 69: 157–163.
 Kiew, R. (1999). Reappraisal of *Olea* species in Malesia. *Gard. Bull. Singapore* 51: 85–98.
 Merrill, E.D. (1915). New or noteworthy Philippine plants XII. *Philipp. J. Sci., C.* 10: 287–349.