

How an erroneous illustration led to the misidentification of *Hoya macrophylla*

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ABSTRACT. Accurate botanical illustrations play a crucial role in plant identification. *Hoya macrophylla* Blume, one of the earliest described species of *Hoya* R.Br. from Southeast Asia, and among the earliest to be illustrated, presents significant identification challenges. This paper elucidates how its first illustration incorporates features characteristic of both *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. latifolia* G.Don, and this is the reason behind the difficult application of the name. Furthermore, the type specimen of *Hoya macrophylla* is indistinguishable from *H. cinnamomifolia* Hook., a taxon published later and consistently correctly applied. This study underscores the need for careful re-evaluation of historical illustrations in the context of modern taxonomic standards. A lectotype and an epitype are designated for *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. latifolia* respectively and their synonyms are clarified and where necessary typified.

Keywords. Apocynaceae-Marsdenieae, botanical art, historical illustrations, identification, Java, plant description, typification

Introduction

Hoya R.Br. is the largest genus within the family Apocynaceae in Asia, comprising approximately 350 to 450 species (Rodda, 2015; Endress et al., 2019). These species are primarily succulent epiphytes and exhibit diverse growth habits, including climbing, pendulous, and small, erect or pendulous shrubs. Due to their diverse and attractive flowers, *Hoya* species have gained significant popularity in horticulture, particularly among plant enthusiasts. This popularity is reflected in the frequent plant identification requests observed in specialised online communities such as the Facebook groups “Hoyas 101+ (Not ID)”, “Hoya Lovers Group”, “Hoya Identification”, and “Hoya Indonesia”. Remarkably, social media have played a key role in the discovery of new species, with many recently described taxa first being highlighted through these platforms (Rahayu & Rodda, 2019; Rodda & Rahayu, 2020). Additionally, online groups occasionally feature photographs of species considered rare or even thought to be extinct based on herbarium records, underscoring the potential of digital platforms as a valuable resource for botanical research. For instance, *Hoya albiflora* (Zipp. ex Blume) K.Schum., a species previously known solely from its type specimen and an accompanying illustration (Blume, 1849a), was recently rediscovered in Papua, Indonesia. Flowering specimens were shared on online platforms, facilitating its

identification through a direct comparison with the original published illustration (Blume, 1849a). *Hoya albiflora* is now widely available in cultivation. This example highlights the value of historical botanical illustrations for plant identification and how modern digital platforms can bridge gaps in knowledge, aiding in the identification and rediscovery of species considered extinct.

Carl Linnaeus emphasised detailed written descriptions of plant species over illustrations, arguing that: “Botanical progress, depended on the use of clear, detailed, technical, written descriptions rather than pictures” (Linnaeus, 1737, as cited in Reeds, 2004). Nonetheless, few botanists agreed with Linnaeus’ point of view, and, illustrations, in the past limited to lavishly produced monographs and journals, are now considered fundamental tools of plant identification (Oxley & Bebbington, 2017; Guner, 2019) and complement descriptions in most modern taxonomic publications. However, both illustrations and descriptions can contain errors if they are not based on directly observed, verified specimens. Therefore, in cases of uncertainty, it is crucial to compare and critically evaluate literature, specimens, and illustrations to ensure reliable plant identification. The application of *Hoya macrophylla* Blume and its distinction from *H. latifolia* G.Don (a new name for the homonym *H. macrophylla* Wight) has been the subject of debate in horticultural journals for decades, e.g., in *The Hoyan* (Burton, 1982, 1990, 1995) and *Fraterna* (Anonymous, 2002). This is despite it being illustrated in the same publication as *Hoya albiflora* (Blume, 1849a). In cultivation, the names *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. latifolia* are generally applied to plants that look much alike in their broad fleshy leaves with prominent basal veins. There are often requests on Facebook groups such as the ones mentioned above on how the two names should be correctly applied to plants in the horticulture trade.

The application of *Hoya latifolia* was clarified by Rodda (2012) by critically examining the type specimen and its numerous duplicates, which does not include one but two species: the leaves belong (in part) to *H. latifolia* as it is applied e.g., in Rintz (1978), Rodda (2017), Thaithong et al., (2018), Middleton & Rodda (2019), but the flowers (on the K duplicate [K000895124]) and some of the leaves present on numerous other duplicates belong to a taxon described as *Hoya wallichiana* Decne., an earlier name for *Hoya mitrata* Kerr which has been conserved (Rodda, 2012). The distinction between *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. latifolia*, and a summary of their synonyms was beyond the scope of Rodda (2012, 2017).

The present paper aims at clarifying the application of *Hoya macrophylla* starting from the examination of its type specimen and comparing its morphology with the subsequently published descriptions and illustrations. A taxonomic summary of *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. latifolia* and their synonyms is provided. In preparation for this paper, specimens of *Hoya* were examined in person or via loans from A, BK, BKF, BM, BO, CGE, E, FI, K, KEP, L, MO, NY, P, SING and US herbaria (Thiers, continuously updated).

The identity of *Hoya macrophylla*

When Blume (1826) published *Hoya macrophylla*, his description was extremely brief: “*foliis trinervis ovato-vel ovali-oblongis acuminatis carnosus, corolla intus sericea (a H. carnosa differt foliis nervosis majoribus acuminatis et floribus minoribus)*” [leaves tri-nerved, ovate or ovate-oblong, acuminate fleshy, corolla pubescent inside (different from *H. carnosa* in the larger acuminate leaves with different venation, and smaller flowers)]. In 1826, *Hoya* was a genus of less than 50 species; however, Blume’s description was already barely sufficient to separate *H. macrophylla* from other previously named species. Subsequent treatments extended Blume’s description of *H. macrophylla* but often show inconsistencies. The leaves were described as 3-veined (Blume, 1826; Decaisne, 1844; Blume, 1849a, 1849b; de Vriese, 1855; Miquel, 1857) or 3–5-veined (Koorders, 1912; Costantin, 1912). The peduncles were not mentioned by Blume (1826) but later Blume (1849a) described them as in pairs to in groups of five, or just “long” (Blume, 1849b; Miquel, 1857); multiple peduncles were not mentioned by Costantin (1912). The pedicels were described as short and glabrous (Decaisne, 1844), 1/4 to 1 poll (0.635–2.54 cm) (Blume, 1849a), or 1–2 cm long (Costantin, 1912). The flower size was indicated as smaller than that of *Hoya carnosa* (L.f.) R.Br. (Blume, 1826) (*H. carnosa* flowers are 1.5–2 cm diam.), similar to that of *H. carnosa* (Blume, 1849a; de Vriese, 1857), c. 18 mm diam. (Costantin, 1912), or c. 10 mm (Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink, 1965). The flower colour and pubescence were indicated as light pink, pubescent inside with white hairs (Blume 1849a), reddish-white and pubescent inside (Miquel, 1857), white with pink tips (Costantin, 1912), or red or violet outside, densely white-papillose inside (Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink, 1965). The corolla was described as convex with revolute margins of the lobes (Decaisne, 1844), or with spreading lobes and revolute apex (Blume, 1849a). The corona lobes were described as about the same length as the corolla lobes, lanceolate, acute, convex above with an acute outer process and an inner process obtuse, incumbent on stigma (Decaisne, 1844), carinate in the middle, with an acute or slightly obliquely retuse apex (Blume, 1849a), lanceolate, slightly carinate and acute (Blume, 1849b; Miquel, 1857), navicular white or pink in the centre, concave above and with a short cusp on the outer process (Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink, 1965), or ovate, with triangular apices and a central depression above (Costantin, 1912).

A certain range of morphological variation is certainly expected in a widespread species, particularly parts which might vary in size considerably between fresh and dry state; nonetheless, excessive variation suggests that different authors might have applied *Hoya macrophylla* to different taxa. There is well-preserved fertile original material of *Hoya macrophylla* at L [L0004331] and P [P00639847] and all authors mentioned above had access to either collection. The species was also beautifully illustrated in Blume (1849a) (Fig. 1). Upon comparing the illustration with the descriptions and the specimens, the match is only partial. The dissection at the bottom of the illustration (Fig. 1) appears to match the morphology of the flowers present on the type specimen so well that it might have been directly drawn from it. The flowers on the type specimen have a rotate or reflexed corolla 14–15 mm diam. and have a

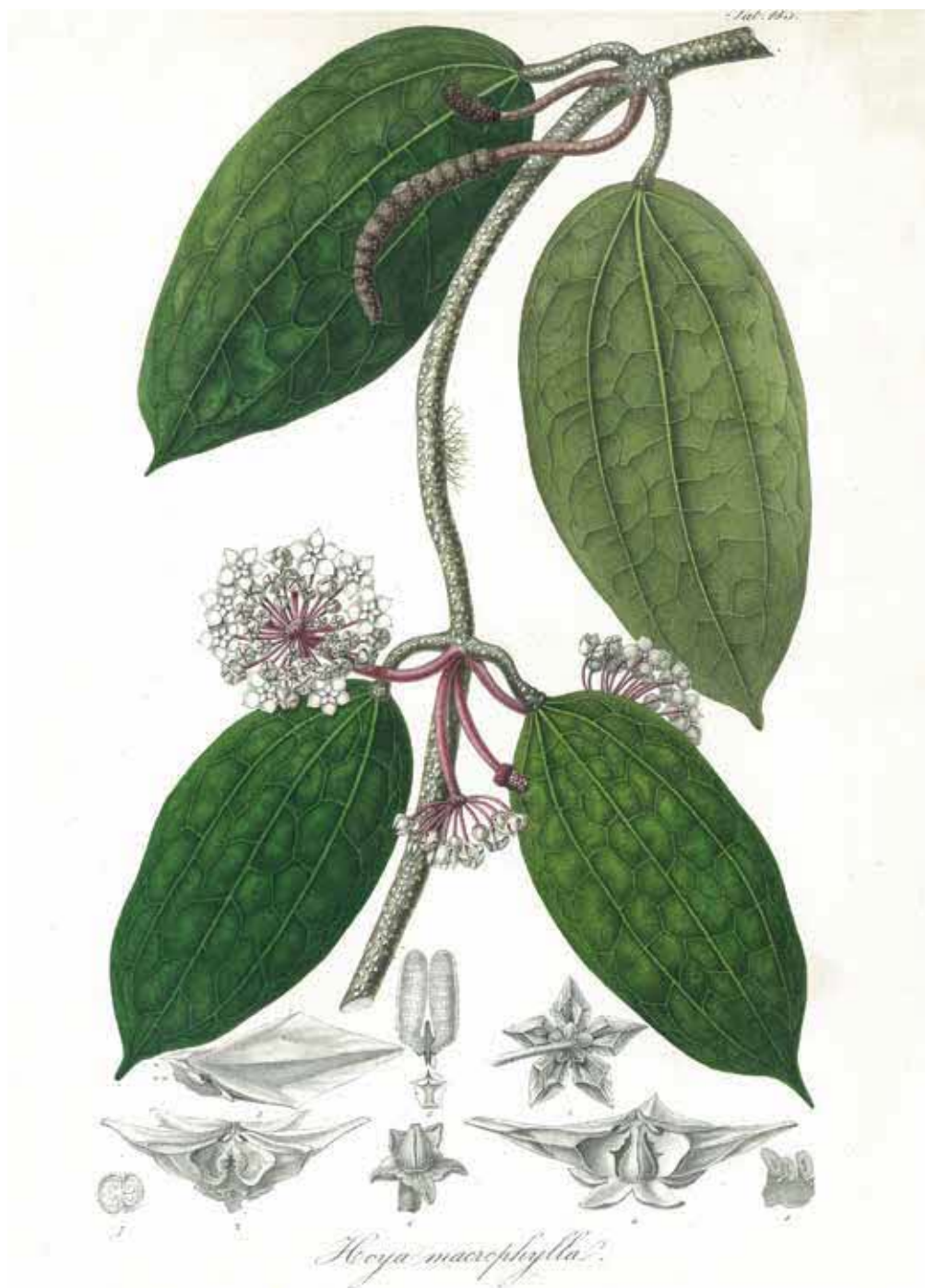


Fig. 1. The illustration of *Hoya macrophylla* Blume published in Blume (1849a). The habit shows a specimen of *H. latifolia* G.Don, while the flower dissection is a good match to the flowers present on the type specimen of *H. macrophylla*.

staminal corona 9–10 mm diam., c. 2.5 mm high, with rhomboid lobes with acute inner and outer tips. However, the flowering branch represented above (Fig. 1) does not match the type, and might have been illustrated from a live plant. It has multiple peduncles at each node (matching Blume's 1849a description) and the inflorescence forms a long rachis. The habit of *Hoya macrophylla* (Fig. 1) is indistinguishable from *H. latifolia*, suggesting the two names may apply to the same species. Rintz (1978), for instance, considered both *Hoya macrophylla* and *H. polystachya* as synonyms of *H. latifolia*, overlooking the fact that *H. macrophylla* has nomenclatural priority. He did not examine the type specimen of either.

Anonymous (2002) considered *Hoya macrophylla* as a mysterious species quoting "Blume's description" (but without mentioning which one), and mentioned that the corona (sic) [corolla], glabrous outside, pale purple silky inside, combined with the presence of multiple peduncles per node makes *H. macrophylla* a very unusual species. The type specimen of *Hoya macrophylla*, however, has only one peduncle per node. *Hoya macrophylla* may not be so mysterious or unusual after all: the leaves and peduncles in the illustration, as well as inflorescence shape and flower colour as described by Blume (1849a), match well with *H. latifolia* as applied in Thailand (Thaithong et al., 2018), Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore (Middleton & Rodda, 2019; Rintz, 1978; Ridley, 1923; King & Gamble, 1908). The dissected flowers at the bottom of the illustration do not fully match these of *Hoya latifolia*: the corona lobes are rhomboid, quite flat and slightly carinate above, while in *H. latifolia* they are ovate and convex above (Middleton & Rodda, 2019).

The type specimen of *Hoya macrophylla* is very similar to that of *H. cinnamomifolia* Hook. Both were described based on material from Java, have 3–5-nerved oblanceolate to ovate leaves, corollas at least 12 mm diam. (when dry and flattened), pubescent inside, corona lobes rhomboid c. 4×2 mm, slightly carinate above, with acute inner and outer tips. The flowers match well with the dissection illustration (Fig. 1) in Blume (1849a). *Hoya macrophylla* is therefore the earliest name for this taxon. *Hoya cinnamomifolia* was published with a complete description (Hooker, 1848) and an accurate illustration (Fig. 2).

Hoya cinnamomifolia currently includes two varieties, *H. cinnamomifolia* var. *cinnamomifolia* and *H. cinnamomifolia* var. *purpureofusca* (Hook.) Kloppenb. (basynym: *Hoya purpureofusca* Hook., Fig. 2), which are distinguished on flower colour and pubescence (green to yellow, sparsely pubescent corolla, dark red to dark purple corona in *H. cinnamomifolia* var. *cinnamomifolia* vs dark purple, more densely pubescent corolla, dark purple corona in *H. cinnamomifolia* var. *purpureofusca*). The flower colour of *Hoya macrophylla* was not mentioned by Blume (1826) but was later indicated as light pink by Blume (1849a) (likely erroneously based on a specimen of *H. latifolia*), or within the range of variation of *H. cinnamomifolia*: reddish-white and pubescent inside by Miquel (1857); red or violet outside, densely white-papillose inside by Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965). Additionally, the flowers on the type specimen appear to have densely pubescent corolla and therefore most similar to *Hoya cinnamomifolia* var. *purpureofusca*.

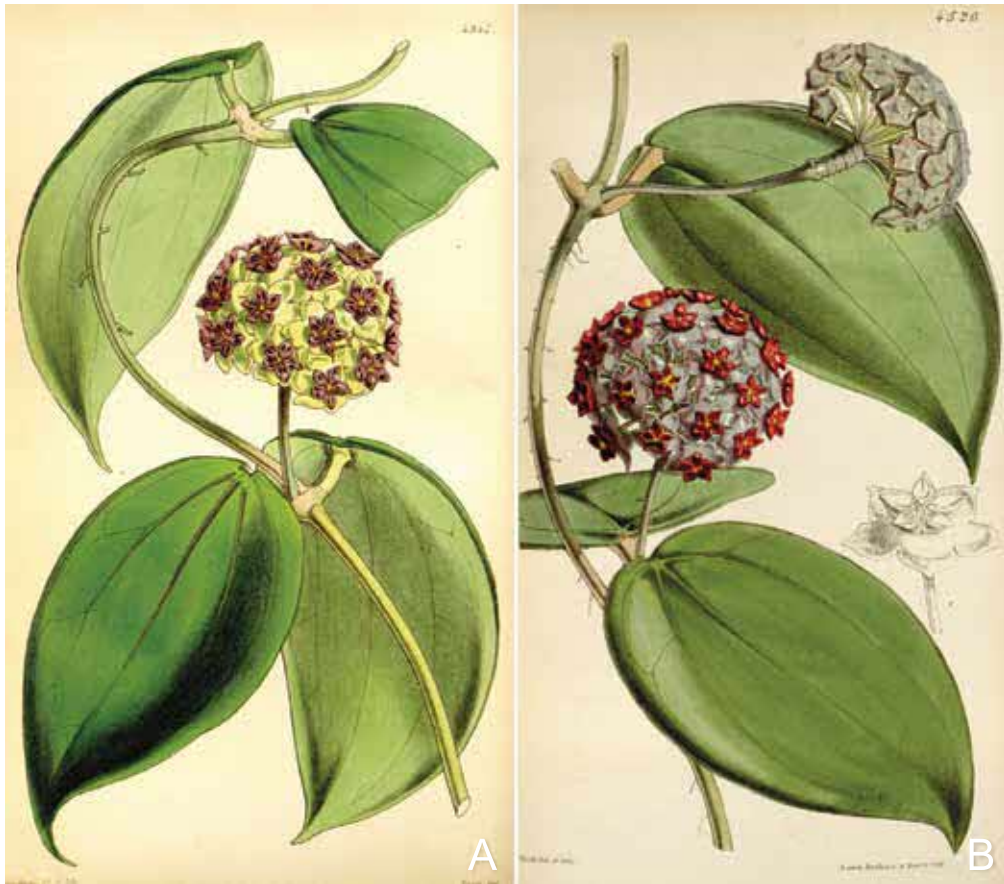


Fig. 2. Two colour forms of *Hoya macrophylla* Blume. **A.** *Hoya cinnamomifolia* Hook. (Hooker, 1848). **B.** *Hoya purpureofusca* Hook.

However, it appears that *Hoya cinnamomifolia* presents a range of variation in flower colour and extent of pubescence of the corolla, and the distinction of varieties may not be justified. The morphological and molecular variation of this taxon is currently being investigated (Rahayu, pers. comm.).

The type specimen of *Hoya cinnamomifolia* at K [K000911115] bears an anonymous (perhaps by C.B. Clarke) pencilled note “*Hoya macrophylla* Blume”, therefore this synonymy was already noticed.

It is now clear that the misapplication of *Hoya macrophylla* started by Blume himself when he extended his first description (Blume, 1826) to include multiple peduncles (Blume, 1849a) likely observed from specimens of *H. latifolia*, and published an illustration comprising elements of both species (Blume, 1849a). Later authors overlooked the examination of type material of *Hoya macrophylla* while perhaps trusting Blume’s extended descriptions and illustration.

Hoya macrophylla sensu Costantin is instead based on large-leaved specimens belonging to the *H. verticillata* (Vahl) G.Don complex (e.g., *Bon 2118* [P05391712]

and *Harmand 1100* [P05391710, P05391711], which were identified by him as *H. macrophylla*), explaining the discrepancies between descriptions. Tran (2017) in Vietnam also adopted *Hoya macrophylla* sensu Costantin.

Taxonomy

Hoya macrophylla Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 16: 1063 (1826); Decaisne in A.DC., Prodr. 8, 637 (1844). – TYPE: [Indonesia], Java, “*Hoya macrophylla* Bl. 737. Gede” (lectotype L [L0004331], designated here; possible isoelectotype (or syntype) P [P00639847]). (Figs 1 (nos. 1–8; excl. the coloured plant ill.), 2)

Hoya cinnamomifolia Hook., Bot. Mag. 74: t. 4347 (1848), **syn. nov.** – TYPE: “Bot Mag 1848, Hort Veitch Java” (lectotype K [K000911115], designated here).

Hoya coccinea *nom nud.* Flore des serres, et des jardins de l’Europe 4: 310 (1848).

Hoya purpureofusca Hook., Bot. Mag. 76: t. 4520 (1850). – *Hoya cinnamomifolia* var. *purpureofusca* (Hook.) Kloppenb., Fraterna 14(1): 12 (2001), **syn. nov.** – TYPE: Bot. Mag. 1849, Java Th. Lobb cult (lectotype K [K000894742], designated here).

Hoya lindaueana Koord., Syst. Verz. (Koord.-Schum.) i. Fam. 248, 7 (1911). – TYPE: Windender Strauch. Ost-Java, Pasuruan, G. Ardjuno Region II, 11 November 1899, *Koorders 38161* (lectotype BO [sheet no. BO-1818950], designated here; isoelectotype BO [sheet no. BO-1292094]) (synonym by Bakhuizen van den Brink (1950), here confirmed).

Hoya browniana Koord., Syst. Verz. (Koord.-Schum.) i. Fam. 248, 5 (1911). – TYPE: West-Java, Preanger, Tjibodas Region II, 5 November 1896, *Koorders 25935* (lectotype BO [sheet no. BO-1467036], designated here; isoelectotype BO [sheet no. BO-1467039]) (synonym by Bakhuizen van den Brink (1950) and Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965), here confirmed).

Hoya tenggerensis Bakh.f., Blumea 6(2): 380 (1950), **syn. nov.** – TYPE: Java, Jawa Timur, Tengger, 9 August 1907, *M. Buysman 301* (holotype U [U0000689], now in L).

Notes. Blume (1826) indicated that *Hoya macrophylla* was found “*in calcareis Kuripan et ad pedem montium Salak, Gede, etc*” [in the Kuripan karst and at the base of Mount Salak, Gede, etc]. Extant unequivocal original materials are only the fertile [L0004331], from Gede, with a possible isoelectotype or otherwise syntype at P [P00639847]; [L0004331] is therefore designated as lectotype.

Hooker (1848) did not clearly indicate a type specimen for *Hoya cinnamomifolia* but stated “To Messrs. Veitch and Sons, again, we are indebted for the introduction to our stoves of this new and handsome species of *Hoya*, from Java, whence it was sent

by Mr. Thomas Lobb". At K there is a specimen [K000911115] with a note "Bot Mag 1848" and "Hort. Veitch Java", which is the only available original material apart from the published illustration and is therefore designated as lectotype.

Hooker (1850) did not clearly indicate a type specimen for *Hoya purpureofusca* but stated "A native of Java, where it was detected and, thence it was sent to Messrs. Veitch of the Nursery, Exeter, by his collector, Thomas Lobb". At K there is a specimen [K000894742] with a note "Bot Mag 1849" and "Java Th. Lobb cult" which is the only available original material with a direct connection to the protologue apart from the published illustration and is therefore designated as lectotype. There is another Lobb collection at BM (*Lobb 321* [BM001125297]) which is undated and possibly part of the original collection and might be considered as a syntype.

Hoya lindaueana Koord. was considered a synonym of *H. macrophylla* by Bakhuizen van den Brink (1950) and omitted by Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965). When Koorders published it, he mentioned it growing together with *H. cinnamomifolia* but regarded it as distinct because it only develops one leaf at each node. This is a variable character and numerous *Hoya* species including *H. cinnamomifolia* occasionally develop one leaf per node. *Hoya lindaueana* was published based on *Koorders 38161*. Two sheets are present at BO. The better preserved one [BO1818950] is designated as lectotype.

Hoya browniana Koord. was considered as a synonym of *H. macrophylla* by Bakhuizen van den Brink (1950) and Backer and Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965) and this is confirmed here. When *Hoya tenggerensis* Bakh.f. was described, no flower colour was mentioned. The corolla pubescence was indicated as "*breviter tomentellae*" (shortly pubescent). Morphologically it is a good match for *Hoya macrophylla*. *Hoya browniana* was published based on *Koorders 25935*. Two sheets are present at BO. The only fertile one, sheet no. 1467036 is designated as lectotype.

Hoya latifolia G.Don Gen. Hist. 4: 127(1837); King & Gamble, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 74(2): 568 (1908); Ridley, Fl. Malay Penins. 2: 395 (1923); Rintz, Malayan Nat. J. 30(3&4) 508 (1978); Thaithong et al., Handb. Asclepiads Thailand: 212 (2018); Middleton & Rodda, Fl. Singapore 13: 588 (2019). – *Hoya macrophylla* Wight, Contr. Bot. India 38 (1834), nom. illeg. non Blume (1826). – TYPE: [Malaysia], Penang, *Wallich s.n.* [EIC 8161A, Asclep. 138] (lectotype K [K000895124], p.p., designated by Rodda, Gard. Bull. Singapore 69: 45 (2017); isoelectotypes CGE [2 sheets incl. a mixed collection], E [E00179576], K [K000895125]). – EPITYPE: Singapore, Mandai, Zoo carpark, growing on a large *Samanea saman*, 7 March 2012, *M. Rodda MR12-S045* (epitype SING [SING0403482], designated here; isoeptotypes BO, E, K, KEP). (Figs 1 (unnumbered coloured part of illustration only), 3, 4)

Hoya polystachya Blume, Mus. Bot. 1, fasc. 3: 45, fig. 9 (1849). – TYPE: [Indonesia], Java (lectotype L [L0004341], designated here) (synonym by Middleton & Rodda, 2019, confirmed here).

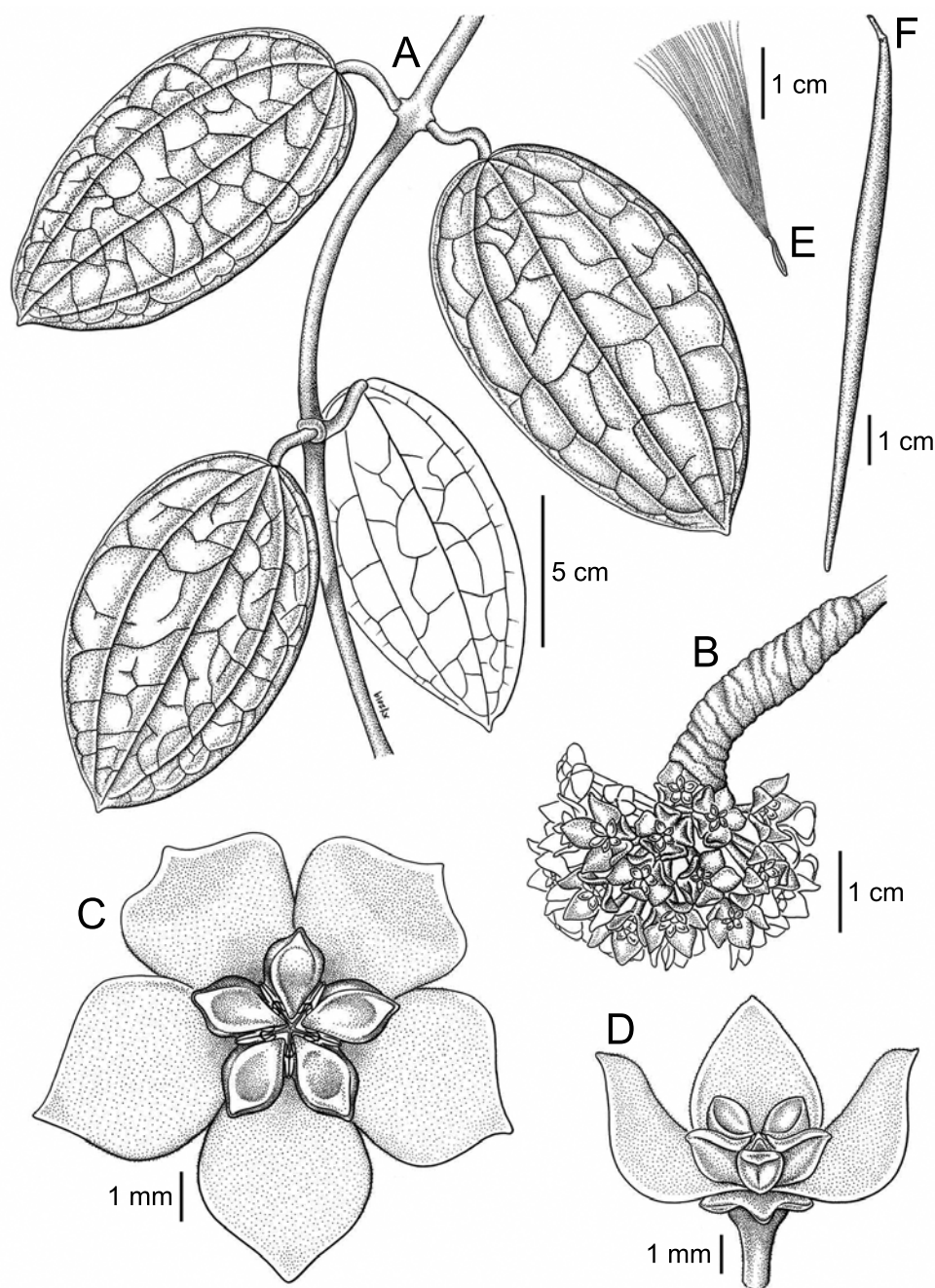


Fig. 3. *Hoya latifolia* G. Don. **A.** Leafy branch. **B.** Inflorescence, showing the elongated persistent peduncle. **C.** Corolla, from above. **D.** Flower, side view, with part of the corolla removed exposing the gynostegium. **E.** Seed. **F.** Fruit. From Singapore; A, F from Upper Seletar, Lok s.n.; B, E from Singapore Zoo, Rodda MR12-S045; C, D from Singapore Zoo, Rodda MR12-S043. Drawn by X.Y. Loh.



Fig. 4. Habit of *Hoya latifolia* G.Don. From Singapore Zoo, Rodda MR12-S045 on day of collection. (Photo: M. Rodda)

Hoya clandestina Blume, Mus. Bot. 1, fasc. 3: 45 (1849), **syn. nov.** – TYPE: Indonesia, Java, “Sallak, Aug.”, s. coll. (lectotype L [L0004330], designated here).

Hoya tjadasmalangensis Bakh.f., Blumea 6(2): 380 (1950), **syn. nov.** – TYPE: Java, West Java, Preanger Regencies, Tjadsmalang, near Tjidadap, S.W. of Tjebeber, forest, 1000 m, *Winckel 488 β* (holotype L [L0004344]).

Hoya latifolia subsp. *kinabaluensis* C.M.Burton, Hoya 12(3:2): iii (1991). – TYPE: Malaysia, Sabah, Mt Kinabalu, Dallas via Dusan, 5 September 1931, *J. & M.S. Clemens 26727* (holotype BO, sheet number 1292085/112027) (synonym by Burton, 1995, confirmed here).

Notes. *Hoya latifolia* has been correctly applied by King & Gamble (1908), Ridley (1923), Rintz (1978), Thaithong et al. (2018), and Middleton & Rodda (2019). Yet all original material found so far is sterile or bears flowers of *Hoya mitrata*. Therefore, an epitype is here selected to fix the application of the name and avoid confusion with taxa bearing similar foliage.

Hooker (1885) and King & Gamble (1908) listed *Hoya polystachya* Blume as a synonym of *H. latifolia*. Ridley (1900) accepted the synonymy, and indicated that it is the most common *Hoya* species in Singapore, with small pink flowers and often dull red leaves. Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965) accepted *Hoya polystachya*; however, they did not consider *H. latifolia* as also occurring in Java and possibly overlooked the synonymy. Rintz (1978) provided the first complete illustration of *Hoya latifolia* and reinstated the synonymy with *H. polystachya*. Burton (1990) overlooked the fact that the flowers and leaves on the type of *Hoya latifolia* do not belong to the same species (the flowers are of *H. mitrata*), and suggested that species with multiple peduncles at each node should be identified as *H. polystachya*, *H. macrophylla* or *H. clandestina* Blume. Burton (1995) concluded that *Hoya loyceandrewsiana* T.Green was a synonym of *H. latifolia*. *Hoya loyceandrewsiana* does have large, almost orbicular leaves and flowers almost the same size as *H. mitrata*. However, its inflorescences are globose (vs flat in *Hoya mitrata*), its corona lobes are rhomboid and apically flat (vs erect and obtuse in *H. mitrata*), and it belongs to the *Hoya verticillata* complex. The synonymy of *Hoya polystachya* with *H. latifolia* was accepted by Middleton & Rodda (2019) and confirmed here.

Hoya polystachya was published based on unspecified collections from Java and Sumatra “*In montanis insularum Javae et Sumatrae*”. One original specimen from Java is available in L [L0004341] identified in Blume’s hand as *Hoya polystachya* while none could be found from Sumatra. That specimen is designated as lectotype.

Hoya clandestina was mentioned by Blume (1849b) as very similar to *H. macrophylla* but easily distinguished by the shape of the staminal corona lobes. Later, Miquel (1857) explained that its corona lobes are obtuse and convex above (vs lanceolate, acute, above slightly carinate in *Hoya macrophylla*). Bakhuizen van den Brink (1950) considered this taxon a synonym of *Hoya macrophylla*. The only original material of *Hoya clandestina* is the sterile specimen [L0004330] which is identified in Blume’s hand. It also bears the note: “*Flores cum H. macrophylla mixta*”. If a fertile duplicate is ever found, the identity of the flowers is to be considered doubtful. Miquel (1857) described the corona lobes of *Hoya clandestina* as obtuse and convex above, matching the morphology of the corona lobes *H. latifolia*. Consequently, *Hoya clandestina* is here considered a synonym of *H. latifolia*.

Hoya tjadasmalangensis Bakh.f. when first published was not compared to any other similar species. However, Backer & Bakhuizen van den Brink (1965) compared it to *Hoya polystachya* and separated them on the shape of the corona lobes (oblong, narrow at both ends and acute in *H. polystachya* vs obovate and rounded at the outer angle in *H. tjadasmalangensis*) and in the type of inflorescence (long pedunculate, with multiple peduncles in *H. polystachya* vs short and single in *H. tjadasmalangensis*). It is now known that the shape of the corona lobes of *Hoya latifolia* can vary from round to acute and it is not diagnostic (Thaithong et al., 2018; Middleton & Rodda, 2019). Inflorescences are borne on multiple peduncles on particularly strong specimens, while smaller plants may produce single peduncles, therefore there are no significant differences to maintain *Hoya tjadasmalangensis* separate from *H. latifolia*.

Burton (1995) published an image of the type specimen of *Hoya latifolia* subsp. *kinabaluensis* at BO, sheet number 1292085/112027, with two leaves and an envelope. The specimen was remounted in 1999. It is possible that the envelope contained flowers, which are mentioned on the label as “all but a fragment of fls.” but it is now missing on the remounted sheet.

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