Notes on the Systematy of Malayan Phanerogams

XXV AQUIFOLIACEAE *

by

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ABSTRACT

*Ilex tahanensis* Kiew nom. nov. replaces *I. rupicola* Ridley — a nomen nudum; *I. polyphylla* Ridley and *I. triflora* var *longifolia* Ridley are reduced to *I. triflora*; and *I. venulosa* var *nervulosa* Loes. is *I. macrophylla* Hook. f.

ILEX

*Ilex tahanensis* Kiew nom. nov.


*Ilex tahanensis* most resembles in its habit and foliage *I. epiphytica* King, a widespread montane holly, and *I. praetermissa* Kiew, which is only known from Klang Gates Ridge, Selangor. It is distinguished from these two species by its inflorescence, a simple cyme with a long peduncle about 1 cm long; *I. epiphytica* has umbels and *I. praetermissa* has solitary fruits. Ridley (1915) had originally described his species as having terminal panicles but corrected this in his flora. Most species of *Ilex* bear their flowers on young shoots, the flowers develop before the leaves so that the whole shoot has the appearance of a terminal inflorescence.

I have called this species *tahanensis* because it was originally described in Ridley’s paper (1915) entitled “The Botany of G. Tahan, Pahang”. It is a rare montane shrub known only from G. Tahan (Pahang) and G. Rabong (Kelantan).

Specimens: Pahang, G. Tahan. Ridley 16040 (Type) K!, Ridley 16173 K!, Haniff & Nor 7993 SING!; Kelantan, G. Rabong, Soepadmo & Mahmud 1072 KLU!


*Ilex triflora* is the most common Malayan holly and is found on almost every mountain. It is also the Malayan holly with the widest geographical range, extending from China through Indo-China and Assam to Malaya and south to Borneo, Sumatra and Java (Kiew & Stone, in press). It is extremely variable in such characters as the indumentum, shape and size of the leaf and the length of

the fruit pedicel. This variation led Loesener to describe seven varieties, two of which were present in Malaya viz. var. lobbiana (Rolfe) Loes. and var. kurziana Loes. Hu considered that there was no key character to separate the material collected from the various geographical areas and concluded that I. triflora was a variable species. She reduced Loesener’s seven varieties as there were no constant differences in floral and fruit characters to support them.

Within Malaya the variation in leaf shape and size is marked (Corner, 1940, Text—fig. 116 and Kiew, in press). This variation does not correlate with any floral or fruit characters or with geographical range. Thus Ilex polyphylla from G. Kerbau, Perak, was characterised by small, thick leaves with a shiny upper surface (Ridley, 1915): similar plants have been collected from the Cameron Highlands, Pahang and G. Ulu Kali, Selangor. Specimens of I. triflora collected from the Cameron Highlands, where several peaks are readily accessible, show a complete range of leaf shape and size. Ridley’s var. longifolia, with larger and thinner leaves, does not represent a lowland form as his original collections are from the montane vegetation of Taiping Hills (1000m), Perak, where typical specimens are also present. Odd plants with equally large and thin leaves have been collected from several other localities, such as Cameron Highlands, where the typical form predominates. Neither I. polyphylla nor I. triflora var. longifolia can be justified as distinct taxa and are here reduced to synonymy with I. triflora.


Synonym: Ilex venulosa var nervulosa Loesener loc. cit. 90. Ridley loc. cit. 442.

Specimen: Singapore, Beccari s.n. FI sheet no. 2935, 2935A & 2935B FI!

Ilex venulosa is a Burmese species and has not been recorded from Malaya. Loesener’s variety is known from a single unnumbered collection made by Beccari in Singapore. Examination of photographs of this collection show that Loesener’s variety is Ilex macrophylla in young bud with leaves more coriaceous than the average specimen. Both I. macrophylla and I. venulosa have large entire, membranous or subcoriaceous leaves and cymose inflorescences with many tiny fruits. I. venulosa can readily be distinguished from I. macrophylla by its long acumen (up to 5 cm long) and the inflorescence which is a trichotomously branched cyme with extremely short secondary branches giving the inflorescence the appearance of a stalked umbel: in contrast, I. macrophylla has an acumen up to 1½ cm long and the inflorescence is an open lax cyme with secondary branches about ½–1 cm long. Loesener’s description of var. nervulosa differed from that of the Burmese variety in its shorter acumen, 1–1½ cm long, and its lax inflorescence, thus conforming to the description of I. macrophylla.

Loesener records his variety from Malacca but this is probably an error as he cites Beccari’s single specimen from Singapore. Ridley had not seen this specimen but took Loesener’s description for his flora. Singapore has been intensively collected and several collections of I. macrophylla exist from Bukit Timah and it is from these trees that Corner (1940) based his observations on the flowering, fruiting and leaf fall of this species.
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REFERENCES
