

THE IDENTITY OF HOMALIOPSIS SP. MOORE

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My revisional work in the *Flacourtiaceae* confronted me with the genus *Homaliopsis* Sp. Moore, J. Bot. 58 (1920) 187, from Madagascar, based on a Forbes collection without locality, and never recollected. The genus was placed in the *Flacourtiaceae* by Sp. Moore himself, and, with reservation, included in its tribe *Homalieae* by Gilg in E.-P., Nat. Pflfam. 2nd ed., 21 (1925) 424; it has remained there in Perrier's revision of the family for Madagascar (Fl. Madag. Fam. 140, 1946, 119) and still in Hutchinson, Gen. Fl. Pl. 2 (1967) 217.

Already the study of the original description which speaks of leaves with pellucid dots and a simple (not partite) style raises doubts whether *Homaliopsis* really belongs to the *Homalieae*, or even, by the mention of stamens arranged in phalanges (not alternating with glands) and almost opposite leaves, to the *Flacourtiaceae* at all.

The holotype of *Homaliopsis* preserved in BM consists of a single small branch with leaves and flowers, the latter almost at the end of the anthesis; the leaves show peculiar flattish rounded galls. On the sheet is written with pencil 'Madagascar. J. Forbes' and the name and citation, apparently by Sp. Moore himself.

The specimen immediately reminds of the *Myrtaceae*, and by close investigation was found to represent *Tristania suaveolens* Sm., a tree rather common in the lowlands of N. and NE. Australia and New Guinea; even the form of the galls is in good accordance with this.

The explanation how it came to such an error, is not easy. *Tristania suaveolens* is cultivated occasionally, but it is rather doubtful whether the species is or was cultivated on Madagascar, because it is not known to the botanists there (R. Capuron in litt.). The specimen of *Homaliopsis* might have made part of another Forbes collection, i.e. that of H. O. Forbes (1852—1932) who collected in parts of New Guinea, where *Tristania suaveolens* occurs. The genus certainly has to be removed from the list of genera endemic in Madagascar.