

## A NEW SPECIES AND A NEW NAME FOR A SUBSPECIES OF CLERODENDRUM (LAMIACEAE) FROM AFRICA

CAREL C.H. JONGKIND

Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Wageningen University branch (Herbarium Vadense),  
Generaal Foulkesweg 37, 6703 BL Wageningen, The Netherlands  
e-mail: Carel.Jongkind@wur.nl

### SUMMARY

*Clerodendrum atlanticum* Jongkind and *C. cephalanthum* Oliv. subsp. *occidentale* Jongkind are described and illustrated.

**Key words:** Lamiaceae, *Clerodendrum*, taxonomy, Africa.

### INTRODUCTION

Recently the author did collect a *Clerodendrum* liana in Gabon that was matching several older specimens in the herbarium identified as *C. buetnerii* Gürke. However, in the field it was noted that the corollas of these herbarium specimens were completely greenish white, while the corollas of the majority of the specimens identified as *C. buetnerii* did have a conspicuous red or reddish throat. Detailed comparison between specimens with different coloured corollas revealed additional differences in indumentum and flower size. It became clear that two species were involved of which the species with the completely whitish corolla was still in need of a scientific name, it is baptized here as *C. atlanticum* Jongkind. *Clerodendrum buetnerii* differs from the new species by its calyx that is more or less equally pilose all over the outer surface, its stamens that are 3–5 cm exerted and its corolla lobes that are also clearly longer than in *C. atlanticum*. The young parts of *C. buetnerii* are covered with conspicuous 2–3 mm long hairs, the hairs of *C. atlanticum* are shorter and less conspicuous. A third species that can be confused with the other two here mentioned is *C. fuscum* Gürke, a species with a similar large calyx and a small and straight corolla. This species differs from the other two by its leaves that are usually strongly ovate and have always a conspicuously cordate leaf-base. The corolla is white with red to purple lobes, the stamens are 2–2.5 cm exerted and the young parts are short hairy. The whitish calyx of *C. fuscum* is usually drying lemon-yellow, in the other species the calyx changes never to yellow when drying but usually to dull-brownish. This last species is in Gabon the most commonly collected of the three. During the recent work on the Checklist of Gabon all obscure names that could possibly represent the new species were checked and rejected.

In the Flora of West Tropical Africa the new subspecies described below is mentioned as *C. capitatum* (Willd.) Schumach. & Thonn. var. *cephalanthum* (Oliv.) Baker (Huber, 1963: 440). Verdcourt (1992: 105) more recently studied related plants from

East Africa including the type of *C. cephalanthum* Oliv. and did come with a completely different opinion. He reinstated *C. cephalanthum* as a distinct species and even described several subspecies in it. At the same time he did exclude what was the West African *C. capitatum* var. *cephalanthum* sensu Huber from his *C. cephalanthum* (Verdcourt, 1992: 106) suggesting that it should be placed close to *C. capitatum*.

When the author studied *C. capitatum*, *C. cephalanthum* sensu Verdcourt and the West African material formerly named *C. capitatum* var. *cephalanthum*, it became clear that the last taxon had more in common with *C. cephalanthum* than with *C. capitatum*. Especially the shape of the inflorescence, that is characteristically capitate in *C. capitatum* but usually more elongated in *C. cephalanthum*, was important for the decision to describe a new subspecies in *C. cephalanthum* to accommodate the nameless taxon. In the Flora of Tropical East Africa the new subspecies keys out with *C. cephalanthum* because of its glabrous bracts and calyx. However, the combination of its characters is not found in any of the already described subspecies.

***Clerodendrum atlanticum* Jongkind, spec. nov. — Fig. 1a**

Cum *C. buetnerii* Gürcke confuse corolla viridescenti-alba 2–2.5 cm longa. Incolit in Cameruno Gabonia. — Typus: A. Louis 79 (holo WAG; iso BR, K, LBV, MO, P), Gabon, Libreville, 10 Nov. 1982.

*Liana*. Leafy twigs pilose. *Leaves* opposite, ovate-elliptic, 4.5–15 by 2–8 cm, base acute to rounded, sometimes subcordate, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate, above with scattered erect hairs, beneath with erect hairs mainly on the larger nerves, punctate,

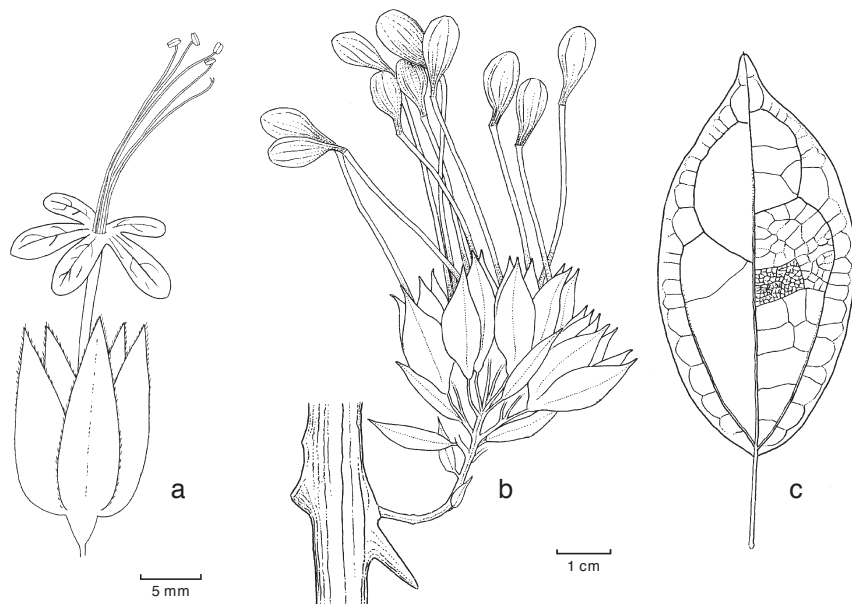


Fig. 1. a: *Clerodendrum atlanticum* Jongkind. Flower. — b, c: *Clerodendrum cephalanthum* Oliv. subsp. *occidentale* Jongkind. b. Inflorescence; c. leaf (a: Jongkind & Breteler 1330; b, c: J.J. de Wilde 408; all WAG).

4 or 5 pairs of main lateral nerves; petiole 4–25 mm, pilose. *Inflorescence* axillary, umbellate-cymose, up to 10 cm long. *Calyx* campanulate, 1.5–2 cm long and 1 cm wide, lobes about two times as long as tube, green to purple-red, covered with dense short glandular hairs mixed with a few ordinary hairs on the outside but on the margin with much denser and longer hairs, glabrous inside. *Corolla* very pale greenish white, with glandular and ordinary hairs on the outside, tube 2–2.5 cm long and 1.5 mm in diameter, with reflexed hairs inside, lobes elliptic, c. 6 by 4 mm, may be reflexed, glabrous inside. *Stamens* glabrous, 1.5–2 cm exerted; filaments greenish white; anthers yellow to orange-brown or dark brown, c. 2 mm long. *Fruit* not known.

Distribution — Known from only two localities, one in Cameroon and one in Gabon.

Habitat — Wet forest.

Additional material examined:

CAMEROON: *Bos* 3587 (K, P, WAG), 2 km S of Kribi, 8 Jan. 1969; *ibid.*, *Bos* 3588 (B, BR, K, M, MO, P, PRE, UPS, WAG). — GABON: *Jongkind & Breteler* 1330 (MO, WAG), Forêt de la Mondah, 19 Dec. 1993; *Jongkind & Niangadouma* 5896 (BR, K, LBV, MO, P, WAG), Peninsula of Cap Esterias, 8 Dec. 2003; *Reitsma* 2757 (WAG), Peninsula of Cap Esterias, 26 Dec. 1986.

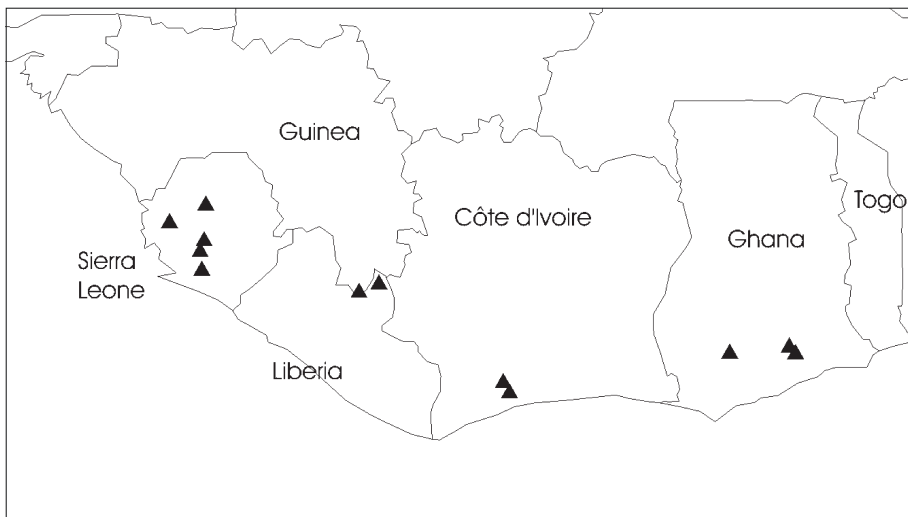
***Clerodendrum cephalanthum* Oliv. subsp. *occidentale* Jongkind, *subsp. nov.* —**

Fig. 1b, c; Map 1

A subsp. *swynnertonii* (S. Moore) Verdc. lobis calyces ca. 17 mm longa differt. Incolit in Africa occidentali aequatoriali. — Typus: *J.J. de Wilde* 408 (holo WAG), Côte d'Ivoire, region d'Abidjan, 23 Aug. 1956.

*Clerodendrum capitatum* (Willd.) Schumach. & Thonn. var. *cephalanthum* (Oliv.) Baker sensu Huber in *Flora of West Tropical Africa*, sec. ed., part 2 (1963) 440.

*Liana* climbing with spine-like woody petiole-bases. Branches with hollow internodes. *Leaves* more or less elliptic, up to 17 cm long, base shortly cuneate or rounded, apex



Map 1. Distribution of *Clerodendrum cephalanthum* Oliv. subsp. *occidentale* Jongkind.

acuminate. *Inflorescences* shortly spicate to almost capitate, usually on short leafless side-branches, sometimes cauliflorous, almost glabrous. *Calyx* with scattered tiny hairs on tube and glabrous lobes, c. 22 mm long, lobes more than three times as long as tube, c. 8 mm wide, acute to acuminate. *Corolla* with scattered small glandular hairs and sessile glands, tube 4.5–6 cm long, lobes 15 mm long and 5 mm wide. *Stamens* c. 2 cm exserted; anthers 2.5–3 mm long. *Fruit* not known.

Distribution — Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana.

Habitat — Forest.

Additional material examined:

GHANA: *Andoh 4237* (K), Ampunyase, Aug. 1936; *Deighton 3417* (K), Suhum, 3 Sept. 1937; *Gyakari 510* (WAG), Atewa Range F.R., 1 Aug. 1999. — CÔTE D'IVOIRE: *Aké Assi 3196* (K), Baléko, 17 Sept. 1955. — LIBERIA: *Baldwin 9303* (K), Ganta, 17 Sept. 1947; *Harley 1453* (K), Bilimi, 13 Aug. 1946. — SIERRA LEONE: *Deighton 3523* (K), Taiama, 18 Aug. 1938; *Deighton 3790* (K), Mano, 21 Sept. 1939; *Deighton 6113* (K), Gbonge (Kamagai), 3 Sept. 1954; *N.W. Thomas 2296* (K), Yelaya, 23 Sept. 1914.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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