

DISPOSITION OF GLAPHYRIA NITIDA JACK (ERICACEAE)

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The genus *Glaphyria* Jack (Trans. Linn. Soc. 14, 1823, 128; reimpr. Calc. J. Nat. Hist. 4, 1843, 306) was based on two species, *G. nitida* Jack from G. Bunko or Sugar Loaf Mt in Bencoolen (neighbourhood of Mt Dempo) and *G. sericea* Jack, l.c. 129, from Penang I.

Bentham & Hooker (Gen. Pl. 1, 1865, 703) interpreted the genus *ex descr.* as a synonym of *Leptospermum* adding that the fruit was erroneously described as baccate.

Merrill (J. Arn. Arb. 33, 1952, 226) properly reduced *G. sericea* Jack to *Decaspermum fruticosum* Forst. (*Myrtaceae*) and brought *G. nitida* Jack to the synonymy of *Leptospermum javanicum* Bl. = *L. flavescens* Sm. Obviously he also did not see any material of Jack.

By pure luck I located an authentic Jack specimen in the Rijksherbarium with an original Jack label. This proved at first sight to be a *Vaccinium*. It was annotated by Boerlage who reduced it *in sched.* to *Vaccinium rollisoni* W. J. Hook., adding that it should be kept under *Leptospermum* in the herbarium. Boerlage was absolutely correct in this disposition, even to the species; *V. rollisoni* Hook. is a synonym of *V. lucidum* (Bl.) Miq. and we have almost identical material of it from Mt Dempo (coll. Forbes 2433). In passing it may be remarked that it is peculiar that Boerlage (Handl. 1, 1890, 487) did simply copy B. & H.'s comment.

Jack's error in assigning it to the Myrtaceae was possibly because the native people informed him that it also grew on Mt Dempo and that an infusion of its leaves was said to be drunk as a substitute for tea; it was also called tea plant, kayu umar pandjang, the tree of long life. This information doubtless refers to *Leptospermum*; Jack had, however, another plant in his hands.

In comparing Jack's specimen with his description all data are in detail in favour of *Vaccinium lucidum* and are against the characters of *Leptospermum*: branchlets smooth; petiole short, reddish (as often in *Vaccinium*); blade obovate, very firmly coriaceous, undersurface with depressed dots (glands); stipules minute (he probably meant the tiny, scaly, axillary buds); peduncles axillary, solitary, few-flowered; pedicels alternate rather long, bracts deciduous; berry pea-size; nectarial disk tomentose (only in young fruit); seeds arranged in a double series in each of the 5 cells. The only discrepancy noted is "Corolla five-petalled. Stamens numerous". As he described, also from the Sugar Loaf Mt collection, the flowers of *Vaccinium sumatranum* in a proper way, my only comment can be that he derived these two floral characters from a detached myrtaceous flower, possibly mixing it while in the field. The overwhelming evidence is that *Glaphyria nitida* Jack = *Vaccinium lucidum* (Bl.) Miq.

Fortunately the specific epithet cannot be used for purpose of priority, there being already *Vaccinium nitidum* Andr. Bot. Rep. (1807) t. 480.

Another point is the generic disposition; the generic diagnosis is clearly a mixture of characters of both species. There is no use in typification and the generic name should be discarded, partly belonging to *Vaccinium*, partly to *Decaspermum*.