

**RUTHIELLA, A NEW GENERIC NAME FOR PHYLLOCHARIS DIELS,  
1917, NON FÉE, 1824 (CAMPANULACEAE)**

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In Taxon 10 (1961) 261, a proposal was published to conserve the generic name of the Papuan genus *Phyllocharis* Diels, 1917, against *Phyllocharis* Fée, Essai Crypt. (1824) lix, xciv, t. ii, fig. 3 & 7, a name for a genus of Lichens. Fée was the only author who ever recognized it; it was reduced by Montagne about 15 years later and this reduction was accepted by all later lichenologists. As a matter of fact an experienced lichenologist was one of the three botanists who endorsed the proposal by undersigning it. Therefore, no harm would have come from accepting the proposal and this would have been distinctly useful for stabilizing the generic name *Phyllocharis* in the *Campanulaceae*, not only for the few botanists working in New Guinea, but for all handbooks and monographs on the family. It is precisely for this purpose that there is the provision in the Rules to conserve generic names. No useful purpose is pursued to drop established names if it is reasonable to maintain them, which I strongly think it is in this case. The proposal has unfortunately been found redundant by the majority of the Subcommittee for Phanerogams (Taxon 12, 1963, 238) and was rejected. This necessitates the creation of a new generic name and the transfer of the epithets.

**Ruthiella** Steen. *nom. nov.* — *Phyllocharis* Diels, Bot. Jahrb. 55 (1917) 122, *non* Fée, 1824; Wimmer, Pfl. Reich Heft 107 (1953) 724; Tuyn, Fl. Mal. I, 5 (1960) 137.

Lectotype species: *R. schlechteri* (Diels) Steen.

**R. oblongifolia** (Diels) Steen. *comb.nov.* — *Phyllocharis oblongifolia* Diels, Bot. Jahrb. 55 (1917) 124, fig. 1 L-N.

**R. saxicola** (Van Royen) Steen. *comb.nov.* — *Phyllocharis saxicola* Van Royen, Fl. Mal I, 6 (1960) 139, fig. 22 d-f.

**R. schlechteri** (Diels) Steen. *comb.nov.* — *Phyllocharis schlechteri* Diels, Bot. Jahrb. 55 (1917) 124, fig. 1 A-K.

**R. subcordata** (Merr. & Perry) Steen. *comb.nov.* — *Phyllocharis subcordata* Merr. & Perry, J. Arn. Arb. 22 (1941) 387.

It is a particular pleasure to dedicate the new name to Miss Ruth van Crevel, draughts-woman of Flora Malesiana since March 1952. It may be of interest to add a short note here to demonstrate how important things may grow from a trivial, accidental coincidence and how curiously a penny can turn. Feeling the need of a permanent draughtsman for our Foundation, Mrs van Steenis drew my attention to a one-line advertisement in a newspaper in which a graduate of the Academy of Arts, The Hague, Miss Ruth van

Crevel, solicited an appointment as typist. This curiosity roused my interest and I promptly replied by a one-line letter saying 'I am interested to meet you'. At the interview she explained at once, rather nervously and hurriedly, that she was not yet fully qualified as a typist but would be so in a week. I asked her why she had learnt typing, in addition to her studies at the Academy of Arts, whereupon she replied that she could hardly expect to succeed in getting a job to her liking as an artist. I told her then I did not intend to employ her as a typist, but for making drawings. I remember vividly how the expression on her face then suddenly changed from rather nervous and drawn to a mixture of disbelief, astonishment, and excitement. I continued to explain that I wanted her to make scientific drawings of plants, upon which the expression became less vivid and eager, while she said: 'I have never drawn a plant, I have only experience with human faces and pots'. To this I answered that as she had shown to possess the gift to make drawings that it would only require some patience and time to draw plants. She agreed that she would try. Then followed some months of copying existing drawings, drawing twigs with leaves from living plants, study of methodologies used in various illustrated works of great standing, such as *Flora Brasiliensis*, *Botanische Jahrbücher*, Ross-Craig's Drawings of British plants, and also of discussions on published pictures which showed deficiencies. We also verified how to arrange details on plates without making them ugly, and decided about the normal formats which would be best adapted to the rather small size of *Flora Malesiana*. From then on she developed her own style, in which she combines great accuracy with artistic arrangement as far as this is possible with scientific illustration. She strives after simplicity to give a vivid 'expression' of the plant with a minimum of shading. Great care is given further to the 'poise' in order to provide an acceptable picture how the plant will look alive. For anybody who is acquainted with the often poorly dried, ugly, and fragmentary nature of tropical herbarium material this appears to be an immense artistic achievement. Only on few occasions we can provide her with living material from the greenhouse to give her a suggestion for her 'reconstruction' and only in exceptional cases we have photographs from which such hints can be derived. It is quite astonishing, and a great pleasure indeed, to see a drawing gradually grow to precision under her able hands.

Her great attention to detail and consciousness to co-operate with the monographers has on several occasions in the past led to the correction of the botanists' observations and even prevented the publication of at least two new species. With her capacity of dissecting plants she takes the liberty to have a general distrust in already dissected material of the botanist. She has also a distrust in the structure of only one flower and has detected sometimes a hitherto unnoticed dimorphism by dissecting several flowers.

We feel extremely indebted to her for setting a standard of illustration in the *Flora Malesiana* and other publications of staff members and students of the Rijksherbarium and collaborators of the *Flora Malesiana* engaged in the study of tropical plants, for whom her work has become of vital importance.

The occasion for remembering her name in scientific botany is the more fitting as she has in that *Flora* made the drawings of the *Campanulaceae* including those of the genus *Phyllocharis*, now renamed *Ruthiella*, dedicated to her in honour and appreciation of her devoted service to our *scientia amabilis*.