

**A NEW VARIETY OF *SARCOTHECA LAXA* (OXALIDACEAE)
FROM SUMATRA**

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In 1985 during the Fourth Expedition to S Aceh, Sumatra, in the neighbourhood of the G. Leuser National Park a representative of *Sarcotheca* (Oxalidaceae) was collected. It clearly is a member of the *S. laxa* complex previously known only from Malaya and the Riouw Archipelago. It differs from all by the golden puberulous, soon glabrescent innovations, the thicker, broader, more ovate leaflets, and the structure of the inflorescences (short, slender, subequally branched). In the technical characters it seems closest to var. *sericea* (Ridley) Veldk., but it differs by the leaf-blades with fewer pairs of nerves, the sparsely white puberulous inflorescence axes and branches (the hairs can easily be distinguished separately and seem longer), the pedicels with the lower part distinctly much longer than the upper, the rounded petals, and the apparently larger fruits.

It does not seem to be identical with the collection from the Riouw Archipelago mentioned earlier [Veldkamp, *Blumea* 15 (1967) 533; *Fl. Males. I*, 7 (1971) 171], which has the typical long and narrow leaves of the other varieties of *S. laxa*, although also rather coriaceous. The infructescence seems similar, but the sepals in fruit are hairy mainly in the midline and not regularly all over as in var. *brigittae*. Another collection from the same area is *De Wilde & De Wilde-Duyffes 20674* (L).

***Sarcotheca laxa* (Ridley) Kunth var. *brigittae* Veldk., var. nov.**

Valde sodalis *Sarcothecae laxae* complexis, omnium differt in innovatione aureo-puberula mox glabrescenti, foliolo crassiore, latiore, ovatiore, structura inflorescentiae (brevis, gracilis, subaequaliter ramificans), technicaliter var. *sericea* proxima, sed paribus nervium pauciore, axibus ramulisque inflorescentiae sparse albo-puberulis, pedicellis parte inferiore parte superiore multo longiore, apice petalae rotundato, fructu majore ut videtur. — Typus: *de Wilde & de Wilde-Duyffes 20714* (L, hoto), N Sumatra, Aceh, Belintang, West of Sibulussalam, P.T. Hargas logging concession, 30–60 m alt., 6 August 1985.

Young innovations golden pubescent, hairs soon deciduous, a few persisting, brownish to cinereous. Leaves unifoliolate, subcoriaceous, 8–15.5 by 3.7–7 cm, (ovate-) oblong (index 1.8–2.4), apex acuminate, base broadly cuneate to truncate, above pale olive brown, glossy, glabrous, beneath cinnamon coloured, dull, glabrous or sparsely brownish puberulous on and between the nerves, very slightly glaucous (match!), nerves 5–7 pairs, the basal at c. 60°; petiole 7.5–10 by 1–2.5 mm diam., petiolule 4–5 by 1–2.5 mm diam., sparsely white puberulous, glabrescent. Panicle solitary, rarely paired, (1.5–)3–9.5 cm long, erect, sparsely white puberulous; branches quaquaversal, patent, up to 2 mm long, subequal, none distinctly longer

then the others, none forked, subtended by a caducous bract. Lower joint of pedicel up to 1.5 mm long, longer than the up to 0.8 mm long upper joint, somewhat more densely puberulous. Calyx 2.5–3 mm long, outside moderately, evenly white puberulous, darkish brown (i. s.), membranaceous (i. s.), to firm, patent, more or less glabrous in fruit. Sepals 2–2.5 by 1–1.5 mm, outer ones shortest, ovate, apex subacute, inner ones elliptic, apex rounded to truncate. Petals 6–7 by 2–2.5 mm, obovate-lanceolate, apex rounded, claw c. 1 mm long. Filaments (LF) 1.25–1.5 mm (at base on the staminal annulus with faint, slightly paler inflations) and 2.25–2.5 mm long; (SF) 2–2.5 mm long (no distinct inflations at base) and c. 3.5 mm long; pollen white. Pistil sparsely appressed strigose all over, (LF) c. 4.5 mm long, (SF) c. 2 mm long; styles (LF) c. 3 mm long, (SF) c. 0.5 mm long; ovary ellipsoid, 1–1.5 by 0.9–1 mm in diam. Fruit patent to reflexed, ellipsoid, c. 13 by 8 mm in diam., apex acutish, glabrous; rimae not seen. Seed (once observed) 1 per fruit, ellipsoid, c. 8 by 5 mm, acutish, testa finely transversally rugulose; cotyledons c. 5 by 2.75 mm, about twice as long as the c. 1.3 by 0.5 mm radicle.

Distribution – N Sumatra, Aceh, Belintang, West of Sibulussalam, P.T. Hargas logging concession.

Habitat – Primary and secondary forest on rolling hills, 30–60 m alt.

Collector's notes – Slender, erect tree, 4.5–6 m high. Leaves pale green beneath. Calyx dirty green. Corolla dark red. Anthers bright yellow. Fruits dirty red.

Eponymy – Named for Ms. Brigitta E. E. de Wilde-Duyfjes, co-collector of this taxon [see also Fl. Males. I, 8 (1974) cvii, cviii, portr.].

Note – In the publications mentioned above no key to the varieties of *S. laxa* was given, which is inconvenient. The Riouw specimen is not included being too poor.

KEY TO THE VARIETIES OF *SARCOTHECA LAXA*

- 1a. Twigs and panicle axes glabrous to sericeous puberulous. Leaflets glabrous to sparsely puberulous beneath. Pistil glabrous to moderately strigose 2
- b. Twigs and panicle axes ferruginous tomentose. Leaflets pale to ferruginous pubescent beneath. Pistil densely strigose. — Branches of the inflorescence subequal, reduced, stout. Fruit 9–13 mm long. Johore **4c. var. *hirsuta*** Veldk.
- 2a. Innovations serious, glabrescent or not. Leaflets papyraceous to pergamentaceous, oblong to lanceolate, greatest width on or above the middle, index 2.2–3.8. — Axes of the inflorescence glabrous or densely puberulous. Fruits 6–10 mm long 3
- b. Innovations golden puberulous, soon glabrescent. Axes of the inflorescence sparsely puberulous. Leaflets subcoriaceous, oblong, greatest width on or below the middle, index 1.8–2.4. Axes of the inflorescence sparsely puberulous. — Axes of the inflorescences slender, branches reduced, subequal, none forked, lower part of the pedicel much longer than the upper one. Aceh **4d. var. *brigittae*** Veldk.
- 3a. Twigs, blades, axes of the inflorescence, and pistil glabrous. Leaflets with 6–9 pairs of nerves. Branches of the panicle distinct, slender, near top once forked. Claw of the petals 0–0.5 mm long. Fruit 6–7 mm long. Seed c. 5 by 3 mm. — NW Malaya **4a. var. *laxa***
- b. Twigs, blades, axes of the inflorescence, and pistil more or less densely puberulous. Leaflets with 8–11 pairs of nerves. Branches of the panicle much reduced, stout, not forked. Claw of the petals 0.67–1 mm long. Fruit 8–10 mm long. Seed 7.5–8 by 3–4 mm. — E Malaya **4b. var. *sericea*** (Ridley) Veldk.