PSYCHOTRIA FARAMEOIDES BREM. N. SPEC. (RUBIACEAE)

C. E. B. BREMEKAMP

(*Botanical Museum and Herbarium, Utrecht*)

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Among the *Rubiaceae* collected by Dr. P. C. Heyligers near Jodensavanne, a village on the Suriname River, I found a new *Psychotria* species which I provisionally described as *Psychotria farameoides*. At the time I made this description, it was not my intention to publish it, as on account of the absence of fruits it was incomplete. As in this genus the most trustworthy characters for the determination of the position of the species are found in the fruit, especially in the pyrene and in the endosperm, it is, in my opinion, undesirable to publish descriptions in which these characters are not recorded. However, as Dr. Heyligers wanted to mention this species in the description of one of the vegetation types found in the savannas of this region, and as after all its position could be determined with a reasonable degree of probability by means of the characters in which it resembled some other species, I decided to put my scruples aside and to publish the description. Here it is.

Psychotria farameoides Brem. n. spec., a speciebus quas Mueller Argovensis ad *Eu-psychotriae* species *Bracteosas* ascripsit combinatione florum subcapitatorum cum foliis basi rotundatis et vix notabile petiolatis distinguenda, a *Ps. bracteata* DC quam Mueller Argovensis ad *Inundatas* adnumeravit forma bractearum lineari-lanceolata et foliis minoribus, pro rata angustioribus, basi rotundatis et brevius petiolatis diversa, a speciebus quas Mueller Argovensis ad subgeneris *Cephaëlis* species *Barbifloras* retulit foliis aut majoribus et pro rata angustioribus aut subsessilibus, basi rotundatis et insuper stipulis brevissimis recedens.

Frutex ramosior, circ. 1.5 m altus. Rami graciles, primum circ. 1 mm diam. et puberuli, deinde glabrescentes, subteretes, sicc. chryseo-virides, internodiis 0.4–6.0 cm longis. Folia subsessilia i.e. petiolo longitudine 1.5 mm non excedente instructa; lamina oblongo-lanceolata vel ovato-lanceolata, 2.4–5.4 cm longa et 1.0–2.6 cm lata, apice acuta, basi rotundata vel subcordata, subcoriacea, utrimque glabra et nitidula, sicc. supra olivacea et subtus viridis, costa tamen utrimque vel minime subtus chryseo-viridi, nervis utroque latere costae 7–9, sicc. utrimque prominulis, reticulatione laxa utrimque distinguenda. Stipulae e vagina truncata vix 0.5 mm alta et lobulis duobus dentiformibus remotis etiam vix 0.5 mm altis compositae. Inflorescentia pedunculo communi gracili 0.5–1.7 cm longo puberulo elata, e capitulis tribus composita. Capitulum centrale subsessile, bracteis duabus circumdatum et e floribus circ. 9 compositum; capi-

tula lateralia pedunculo 1–2 mm longo instructa, ad apicem pedunculi bracteis tribus quarum centralis aliis longior est instructa et e floribus 6–8 composita. Bracteae involucrales lineari-lanceolatae, 4.5–9.0 mm longae et 1.2–2.8 mm latae, apice acutae, basi contractae, penninerviae, subglabrae. Flores ipsi ebracteati et ebracteolati, sessiles, 5–meri. Ovarium 0.8 mm altum, subglabrum. Calyx 0.4 mm altus, tubo 0.2 mm alto, lobis late deltoideis tubo subaequilongis. Corolla 5.5 mm longa, tubo 3.3 mm longo, dimidio superiore dense barbato, ceterum extus intusque glabro, lobis 2.2 mm longis, glabris. Antherae in flore dolichostylo subsessiles, in dimidio superiore tubi inclusae, 1.5 mm longae. Granula pollinis globosa, 45 μ diam. Discus annularis glaber. Stylus glaber, in stigmata 2 filiformia exeuns, in flore dolichostylo 5.0 mm longus. Drupa nondum nota.

Habitat Guianam Batavorum.

Suriname: near Jodensavanne, in a shrub vegetation with much *Dimorphandra conjugata* on a sandy savanna, Heyligers s.n., January 1957, type.

The classification of the *Psychotria* species given by Müller-Argau in the "Flora Brasiliensis" is, on the whole, unsatisfactory, because insufficient attention was paid to the characters of the fruit. Especially the subgenera *Eu-psychotria* and *Cephaëlis* are badly defined, and but a small part of the species included in the latter form a natural unit and show a well-marked affinity with the type species of Swartz's genus *Cephaëlis*. The group *Barbiflorae* is doubtless much nearer related to the *Inundatae* and the *Bracteosae*, two groups which Müller-Argau referred to his *Eu-psychotria* than to the type of *Cephaëlis* Sw. The affinity between the *Barbiflorae*, the *Inundatae* and the *Bracteosae* is so pronounced that it seems impossible to keep them apart. The four species to which *Ps. farameoides* comes nearest, were divided by Müller-Argau over these three groups.

Its nearest ally is doubtless *Ps. paradoxa* Müll. Arg., of which Müller-Argau says "Primo intuito *Farameae* aut *Ixorae* species, in sua cohorte insigniter distincta". It differs from this species by its shorter stipules and its much smaller and far more compact inflorescence. Other species with which it shows a rather strong resemblance are *Ps. rupestris* Müll. Arg., which has smaller and comparatively wider leaves, *Ps. barbiflora* DC, whose leaves are much larger, towards the base contracted and distinctly petiolate, whose stipules are longer and whose inflorescence is less compact, and *Ps. bracteata* DC, which has larger, differently shaped leaves and shorter and comparatively wider bracts. The fruits are known to me only in *Ps. barbiflora* and in *Ps. bracteata*. In both these species the pyrenes are costate with a commissural side which shows in the middle a longitudinal intrusion; in transverse section this groove proves to be more or less semicircular. In view of the similarity between these two species, the other two mentioned above and *Ps. farameoides*, it is to be expected that this type of fruit will be found in the latter too.