

# NOTES ON POLYGALACEAE FROM SURINAME

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## SUMMARY

A new *Polygala* from the Nassau Mts. in Suriname is described. The taxonomic status of *Polygala stipulata* Chodat and *Monnina membranacea* Miq. is reconsidered; this resulted in a new combination.

In preparing the additions and corrections to the second edition of the Flora of Suriname II, the author revised the Polygalaceae. Three species proved to be new to Suriname, namely *Securidaca spinifex* Sandwith, *Polygala blakeana* Steyermark, and *P. hygrophila* H. B. K. There remained an unmatched collection, apparently representing an undescribed species. Two additional collections by B. Maguire, which seemed to belong to the same species, were kindly forwarded by Dr. J. J. Wurdack (Washington).

### *Polygala echinosperma* Görts, *spec. nov.* Fig. 1.

Herba, vel fruticulus 5–10 dm altus. Rami adscendentes, sparse pilosi, sicut petioli pilis brevibus uncinatis dense pubescentes. Folia alterna, membranacea, ciliata, glabrescentes, lanceolata vel elliptica vel ovata, acuminata, basi cuneata, 6–9 cm longa, 2–3.5 cm lata; petiolus 3 mm longus. Racemi terminales, pubescentes sicut rami, ca. 2 cm longi, dense floriferi, pedunculo 1 cm longo, pedicellis 3 mm longis, bracteae 0.6 mm longae, deciduae, bracteolae 0.3 mm longae, deciduae. Flores albi et lavandulacei, 9 mm longi; sepala viridia, dua inferiora connata, ciliata, 3.5 mm longa, superius 2 mm longum; alae rhomboideo – obovatae, glabrae, 7 mm longae, 3 mm latae, petalis subbreviores. Sepala alaeque persistentes. Petala lateralia linearia, 8 mm longa, 1 mm lata, parte inferiora pubescentia, basi cum carina connata; stamina 8, filamentis liberis, 1.5 mm longis; discus unilateraliter incrassatus; stylus glaber, 4 mm longus, stigma superius terminale, inferius barbatum, ovarium glabrum, ellipsoideum, emarginatum, demum cordatum, exalatum. Capsula glabra, 7 mm longa. Semen globosum, 4 mm diametro (sine arillo), cinereo- sive ferrugineo-patente-pilosulum, arillo 3 mm longo, 2 mm lato, subtrilobato.

Nassau Mts., mountain savanna forest near km 11.6, 16-III-1949 (*Lanjouw and Lindeman 2738*, type [U]); Nassau Mts., Marowijne R., weak shrub 5–10 dm tall. Fls. lavender white. Occasional on ferrite on east slopes of Plateau B 3-III-1955 (*Maguire 40748*); ibidem on plateau C in forest (*Maguire 40783-A*, paratypes [NY, U, US]).

The species belongs to section *Hebeclada* Chodat and may be related to several Venezuelan species, e.g. *P. retifera* Blake according to Sandwith's note on the

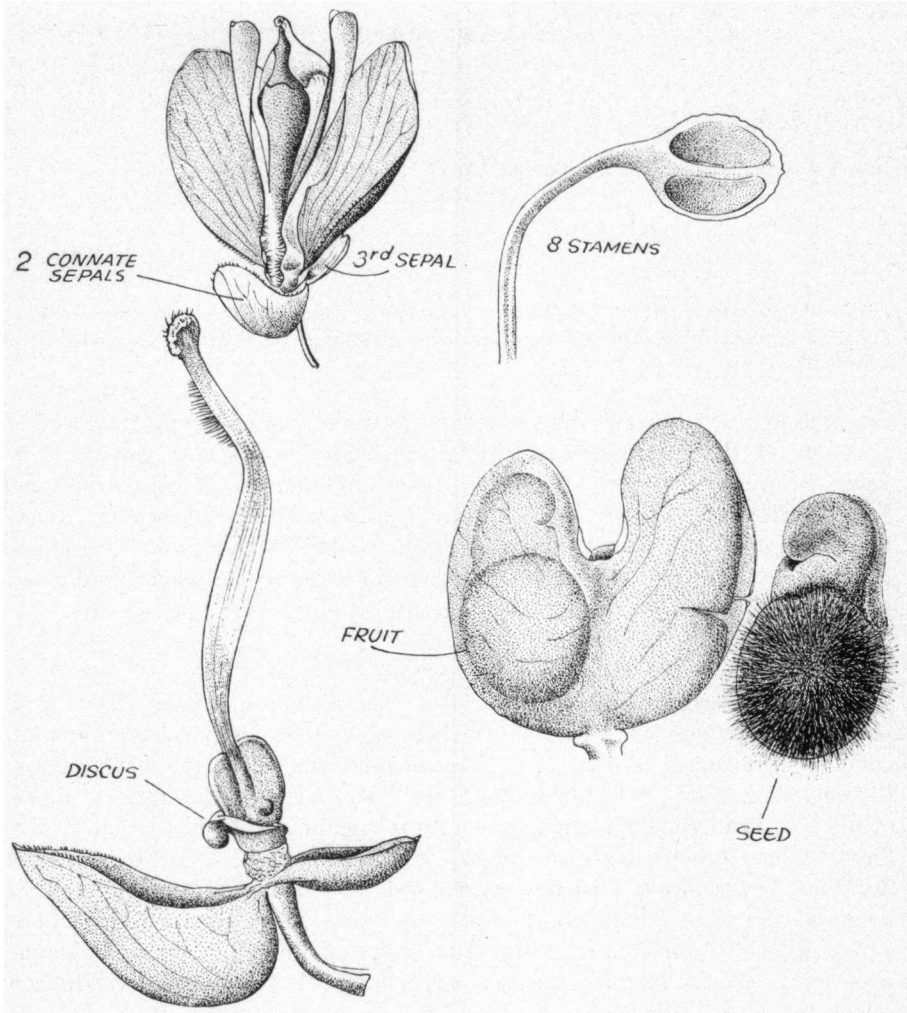


Fig. 1. *Polygala echinosperma* Görts. Details of flower and fruit.

sheet of the type collection. It is distinguished by the globose, pilose seed with a huge aril.

A problem to which Dr. J. J. Wurdack called the author's attention is the great resemblance between *Monnina membranacea* Miquel and *Polygala stipulata* Chodat. CHODAT (l.c.: 89.1893) described *P. stipulata* as a representative of section *Gymnospora* Chodat. This section has exarillate seeds. OORT included the species in his treatment of the Polygalaceae for the Flora of Suriname (p. 410) and quoted Chodat's description. He listed two collections; one of them, however, Hostmann 99, is the type collection of *Monnina membranacea* Miquel.

It is not clear why Oort did not cite this collection under *M. membranacea* as he had annotated it in the Utrecht herbarium. Instead he cited several other collections (l.c.: 424). In his description MIQUEL (l.c.: 30) did not include details of the seed. The genus *Monnina* is characterized (CHODAT in E.P.: 340, FERREYRA, l.c.: 126, 1946) by seeds without an aril and caducous sepals. It differs from *Polygala* by the indehiscent, one-seeded fruits and the stamens in 2 groups. Hostmann 99 has persistent sepals, a dehiscent, 2-seeded fruit and seeds with a distinct 2-lobed aril. Chodat might have been wrong in citing Hostmann 99, and Miquel evidently failed to realize that his new species was not a *Monnina* but a *Polygala*. After examination of the type collections of the two species and the other collections listed by Chodat it is clear that the two species are the same and should correctly be named:

***Polygala membranacea* (Miq.) Görts, *comb. nov.* Basionym: *Monnina membranacea* Miquel, *Stirpes surinamenses selectae*: 30. 1850.**

The collection *Dr. Rech 16* Guyane française 1862 also belongs to this species, it was wrongly named *Badiera acuminata* DC.

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