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Systematics and biogeography of the *Dissochaeta* alliance (Melastomataceae)

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Citation

Kartonegoro, A. (2021, October 14). *Systematics and biogeography of the *Dissochaeta* alliance (Melastomataceae)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3217085>

Version: Publisher's Version

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STELLINGEN

Behorend bij het proefschrift
“Systematics and Biogeography of the *Dissochaeta* alliance (Melastomataceae)”
van Abdulrokhman Kartonegoro

1. The subjective use of morphological characters by various authors resulted in multiple classifications for the *Dissochaeta* alliance (this thesis).
2. The epiphytic *Creochiton* is represented by few herbarium specimens, probably due to the fact that the plants grow high in the host trees and are overlooked, therefore most of the specimens were collected from logged or fallen trees (This thesis, chapter 2).
3. The option to recognize four genera in the scrambling taxa of the *Dissochaeta* alliance clade is preferred over lumping them into a single large genus because of the increased stability and predictability in classification (This thesis, chapter 6).
4. The Dissochaeteae and some other old world Melastomataceae tribes have their own, separate neotropical ancestors and migrated independently from South America to Southeast Asia through North America, entering Eurasia via the North Atlantic land bridge (This thesis, chapter 7).
5. The main object of systematic botany is not the finding out of the name of a plant, but determining its relations and affinities (Bentham G. 1875. On the recent progress and present state of systematic botany. *Rep. Brit. Assoc. Advancem. Sci.* 1874: 27–54).
6. It is not yet clear whether the dimorphism in stamens and the conspicuous connective appendages present in many Melastomataceae have a function in the pollination mechanism beyond that of enhancing the visual attractiveness of the flowers and making the stamens easier to grasp (Renner SS. 1989. A survey of reproductive biology in Neotropical Melastomataceae and Memecylaceae. *Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 76: 496–518).
7. Indirect evolution of staminode function allows greater flexibility of function by allowing staminodes to take over roles not performed by stamens, such as involvement in mechanisms to prevent self-pollination and mechanisms of explosive pollination (Walker-larsen J, Harder LD. 2000. The evolution of staminodes in Angiosperms: patterns of stamen reduction, loss, and functional re-invention. *Am. J. Bot.* 87: 1367–1384).
8. Without the background of a critical general Flora for tropical countries it is impossible to gain satisfactory knowledge on the delimitation of taxa, their area of distribution, variability, and consequently their names and synonyms (van Steenis CGGJ. 1957. Specific and infraspecific delimitation. *Fl. Males., Ser. 1, Spermat.* 5: 167–234).
9. Botanical illustrations and their artists are very important elements in plant systematics and taxonomy and are irreplaceable, because illustrations offer an optimization of all general aspects of morphological characters that can only be partly captured by photographs.
10. Plant taxonomy is not about botanical knowledge only; it also requires familiarity with law, geography and history.
11. Cycling is one of the best daily habits in the Netherlands.

Abdulrokhman Kartonegoro

Leiden, 14 October 2021