
Acknowledgements

The author thanks Mr B. L. Burt for advice and encouragement.

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New combinations and synonymy in some rhododendrons of section *Vireya*

A database of all *Rhododendron* names and a secondary list of all names published in *Rhododendron* section *Vireya* are being compiled for publication at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. This has necessitated change in the status of some names to keep these taxa more in line with current usage, particularly of subspecific categories where new information on ecology and variability are available. This note formalises the changes adopted in the forthcoming lists.

Rhododendron borneense* (J. J. Sm.) Argent, A. L. Lamb & Phillipps subsp. *angustissimum* (Sleumer) Argent, **stat. nov.*

Basionym: *R. quadrasianum* Vidal var. *angustissimum* Sleumer in *Blumea* 12: 92 (1963).

Distinguished from other forms of *R. borneense* by its very narrow leaves (mostly only 1mm wide but occasionally up to 1.5mm wide) and its restricted distribution, as it is known only from Gunong Mulu in northern Sarawak.

Rhododendron brookeanum* Low ex Lindl. subsp. *brookeanum* var. *kinabaluense* (Argent, A. L. Lamb & Phillipps) Argent, **comb. nov.*

Basionym: *R. javanicum* (Blume) Bennett subsp. *brookeanum* var. *kinabaluense* Argent, Lamb & Phillipps in *Notes RBG Edinb.* 42: 113 (1984).

Distinctive in its vigorous habit and growing at higher altitude than the type variety, it also has bicoloured flowers. It is known only from Mt Kinabalu in Sabah.

Rhododendron brookeanum is resurrected from Argent et al. (1988) on the basis of several characters which, used in combination, seem to distinguish these two species. Chief among these are behaviour and shape of the median flower bud scales, which are acute and stand away from the bud in *R. javanicum* but cucullate-obtuse and appressed tightly to the bud right to the apex in *R. brookeanum*. The leaves of *R. javanicum* are smooth and lanceolate with a petiole up to 4mm wide, while *R. brookeanum* has generally rugose leaves most commonly elliptic or narrowly elliptic in shape and with a petiole usually exceeding 4mm in width. The *R. brookeanum*/

javanicum complex still needs more careful study and probably the recognition of further infraspecific taxa.

Rhododendron brookeanum subsp. **brookeanum** var. **moultonii** (Ridl.) Argent, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *R. moultonii* Ridl. in J. Str. Br. R. As. Soc. 63: 61 (1912).

Syn.: *R. javanicum* subsp. *moultonii* (Ridl.) Argent in Bot. J. Linn. Soc. 85: 16 (1982).

This is kept at the same status as *R. javanicum* var. *teysmannii* (Miq.) King & Gamble, which varies in the same character state though with a hairy as opposed to glabrous ovary. It similarly does not appear to have a coherent distribution or ecology either and does not warrant higher status.

Rhododendron brookeanum subsp. **cockburnii** (Argent, A. L. Lamb & Phillipps) Argent, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *R. javanicum* subsp. *cockburnii* Argent, Lamb & Phillipps, in Notes RBG Edinb. 42: 113 (1984).

Requires further evaluation but retained at this status at present. Its flowers are distinctive in both colour and shape and it may warrant specific status.

Rhododendron brookeanum subsp. **gracile** (Lindley) Argent, **stat. nov.**

Basionym: *R. gracile* Low ex Lindl. in J. Hort. Soc. 3: 84 (1848).

Syn.: *R. brookeanum* var. *gracile* Henslow in J. Hort. Soc. 13: 261 (1891).

Clearly requiring at least subspecific status. Specimens from Sabah, Brunei and N Sarawak occur terrestrially at relatively low altitudes in heath forest (Kerangas) and have narrow, linear-lanceolate leaves and the petioles weakly but distinctly grooved in the fresh state. Typical *R. brookeanum* is usually epiphytic with much broader leaves and with no trace of a groove in the petiole in the fresh state (although this may appear on collapse of tissue after drying). More study is required to see if forms with narrow leaves in southern Sarawak conform to this distinctive pattern.

Rhododendron javanicum (Blume) Bennett subsp. **schadenbergii** (Warb.) Argent, **stat. nov.**

Basionym: *R. schadenbergii* Warburg in Perk., Fragm. Phillip. 3: 172 (1905).

Syn.: *R. javanicum* var. *schadenbergii* (Warb.) Sleumer in Reinwardtia 5(2): 195 (1960).

This warrants at least subspecific status. The different geographical area occupied by this taxon (NE Sulawesi and the Philippines), the obtuse apex to the leaf and longer anthers separate specimens seen from the Philippines easily, quite apart from the spectacular flowers of a colour I have never seen in typical *R. javanicum*. I have not yet studied specimens from Sulawesi.

Rhododendron konori Becc. var. **phaeopeplum** (Sleumer) Argent, **comb. et stat. nov.**

Basionym: *R. phaeopeplum* Sleumer in Reinwardtia 5: 92 (1960).

Distinctive in its smaller and more delicate habit. It is, as Sleumer (1966) notes, a 'small edition of *R. konori*'. The anther length difference does not give sufficient discontinuity to maintain these as distinct species and small forms are now known from the eastern end of New Guinea (Torricelli Mts, Saruwaket Mts) and they do not even seem to have distinctive distributions. The general similarity of leaves, flowers and buds leaves little doubt that they should be regarded as one wide-ranging and rather variable species.

Rhododendron leptanthum F. Muell. var. **warianum** (Schltr.) Argent, **comb. et stat. nov.**

Basionym: *R. warianum* Schltr. in Bot. Jahrb. 55: 151 (1918).

I cannot maintain these two species on small differences in leaf shape alone when they agree in every other respect. *R. leptanthum* is very variable and easily accommodates *R. warianum*. It is doubtful even if it will prove to be a particularly good variety. Sleumer's dichotomy 23 (1966: 502) essentially means *R. leptanthum* has leaves broadest in the lower half whilst *R. warianum* has its leaves broadest in the middle or upper half.

Rhododendron rugosum Low ex Hook. f. var. **laeve** Argent, A. L. Lamb & Phillips in Notes RBG Edinb. 42: 118 (1984).

Syn.: *R. kinabaluense* Merr. in J. Str. Br. R. As. Soc. 76: 108 (1917).

Isotypes of *R. kinabaluense* (Clemens 10892) have been examined at the National Museum Herbarium in Manila (PNH) and the Natural History Museum (BM), and found to be identical to *R. rugosum* var. *laeve*. Although *R. kinabaluense* is the earlier name, the correct name for this variety remains as var. *laeve* (ICBN Art. 11.2).

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