

## BLEPHARIS CILIARIS

by B. L. BURTT

**Blepharis ciliaris** (Linn.) B. L. Burtt, comb. nov.

Syn.: *Ruellia ciliaris* Linn., Syst. Nat. ed. 12, ii, 424 (1767); Mantissa, 89 (1767); Mantissae Prioris Additamenta [in Mantissa Altera], 515 (1771).

*Ruellia persica* Burm. f., Fl. Ind. 135, tab. 42, fig. 1 (1768).

*Blepharis persica* (Burm. f.) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. ii, 483 (1891).

"*Blepharis edulis* (Forsk.) Pers." sec. Post, Fl. Pal. Syr. Sin. 607 (1896), ed. 2 (ed. Dinsmore), 317 (1933)—non *Acanthus edulis* Forsk.?

There appears to be no room for doubt that *Ruellia ciliaris* Linnaeus is the same as *R. persica* of Burmann's Flora Indica. A comparison of the descriptions suggests very strongly that one was derived from the other—for instance, both make comparison with *Melampyrum arvense*. Linnaeus certainly saw Burmann's work before publication, for it is quoted several times in the Mantissa, and in the Linnaean Correspondence there are letters from Burmann to Linnaeus discussing various points. Later authors (for example C. B. Clarke in Hook. fil., Fl. Brit. Ind. iv, 479: 1884) seem to have overlooked the fact that Linnaeus reduced Burmann's *R. persica* to his own *R. ciliaris* in the Additamenta to the Mantissa (1771). For this reference I am myself indebted to Mr. T. O'Grady.

The prior publication of Burmann's *Ruellia* by Linnaeus is not an isolated happening. *Convolvulus sericeus* L. is another instance. Under this species Linnaeus actually quoted the reference (but not the name) in Burmann's work, though his own publication came out a year earlier. Once again Linnaeus later (Additamenta, 512: 1771) reduced Burmann's name (*C. mollis*) to synonymy under his own.

Whether *Blepharis ciliaris* is the correct name for *Blepharis edulis* (Forsk.) Pers. remains for further investigation. It is certainly the plant so called from Palestine and Transjordan. *Acanthodium spicatum* Delile (Fl. Egypte, 97, tab. 33: 1813), usually quoted as a synonym, is possibly a distinct species; it may be that this is the true *Blepharis edulis*, which was described from the Red Sea coast of Arabia. Be that as it may, *B. ciliaris* is the oldest name for the species in a broad sense, and Burmann's illustration shows that it is strictly accurate for the Palestinian plant at least.