

# NOTES FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

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## STUDIES IN THE GESNERIACEAE OF THE OLD WORLD

### XVIII: THE CONTROVERSY ON PHYLLOBOEA

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In 1857, and again in 1864, the Rev. C. Parish collected a gesneriad near Moulmein in Burma, attaching to specimens and drawings of it the manuscript name *Boea amplexicaulis*. Some years later C. B. Clarke (Comm. & Cyrt. Bengal. 117, t. 84: 1874) published an illustration and description under this name, but, while mentioning Parish's collection, Clarke stated that his illustration was taken from a specimen found by Sulpice Kurz (No. 2998) near Prome. His plate shows a plant with strongly twisted fruits.

George Bentham studied Parish's specimens and drawings at Kew when preparing his account of Gesneriaceae for *Genera Plantarum*, and he decided that they represented an undescribed genus which he called *Phylloboea* (Gen. Pl. ii, 1020: 1876). He associated with Parish's plant certain other species now referred elsewhere (see Burtt in Notes R.B.G. Edinb. xxi, 207: 1955), but he made it clear that the Kurz specimen illustrated by Clarke was different for he said 'non *B. amplexicaulis* Clarke', and the fruit of *Phylloboea* was not described as spirally twisted. C. B. Clarke never accepted the judgement that Kurz's and Parish's plants were different. He adopted Bentham's genus *Phylloboea*, but restricted it to the one species, *P. amplexicaulis*, and described it as having twisted fruits. Clarke, then at Kew, sent for the specimens he had originally studied and added the following amusing annotation, which I copied when visiting the Calcutta herbarium in August 1958: "I am *most delighted* that the opinion of the most accomplished species-splitter at Kew is that Kurz n. 2998 is identical with 445 Parish. . . ."

Otto Stapf, after examining the Parish material at Kew, agreed with Bentham that *Phylloboea* has straight, untwisted fruits and he described a new genus, *Dichiloboea*, with the capsules spirally twisted. Stapf appears to have regarded Clarke's illustration as an error.

In 1955 I pointed out that the type of Bentham's genus was clearly Parish's specimen, but that Kurz's specimen must be chosen as the lectotype of *Boea amplexicaulis* C. B. Clarke. So the matter stood until

I had the opportunity of examining the specimens at Calcutta. It then became clear that Clarke's illustration, despite his statement that it is based on Kurz 2998, is a composite drawing. The general pattern of the plant is taken from Parish's specimen, but to this the infructescence of large twisted fruits from Kurz's specimen has been added.

Thus it appears that Parish's plant comprised a larger element of the original publication than I had thought. Nevertheless in view of the importance of the fruit character as illustrated by Clarke, and remembering Bentham's treatment of the name, my earlier conclusion stands: the lectotype of *Boea amplexicaulis* C. B. Clarke is Kurz 2998.

There is no doubt whatever that the Kurz and Parish specimens represent quite distinct species. Parish's plant has thin leaves, green foliaceous calyx-lobes which are spatulate in shape, have recurved margins and are covered with glistening sessile glands; the fruit is untwisted and is only twice the length of the calyx. Kurz 2998 has thicker leaves and the petiole is woolly at the base where it joins the stem; the calyx-lobes are not foliaceous; the fruits are at least three times as long as the calyx and are strongly twisted. This plant reverts to its original name, *Boea amplexicaulis* C.B. Cl., at least pending availability of further material when its relationship to *Dichiloboea* will need examination. To the best of my knowledge it has not been re-collected.

Parish's plant, the type species of the genus *Phylloboea*, still lacks a specific name and description: these are now supplied, though flowering material is somewhat inadequate.

**Phylloboea glandulosa** B.L. Burtt, *species nova* in genere nunc restricto unica. *Herba* basi sublignosa, ad c. 30 cm. alta. *Folia* opposita, petiolis alatis 3 mm. latis et ad 9 cm. longis praedita; lamina ovata, ad 30 cm. longa et 17 cm. lata, supra glabra viridis, subtus pallidior. *Pedunculi* (inferiores ex axillis foliorum, superiores ex axillis foliorum bracteiformium ad 2 cm. longorum) ad 16 cm. longi. *Bractee* primae rotundatae, persistentes, 1 cm. longae, aliae gradatim minores. *Flores* binati; pedicelli 4–8 mm. longi, uti partes inflorescentiae superiores calycesque glandulis aureis sessilibus praediti. *Calyx* c. 9 mm. longus, bilabiatus; lobi 2 inferiores fere ad basin liberi 7.5 mm. longi, 3 superiores ad 6 mm. inter se coaliti, marginibus foliaceis recurvis trans sinum continuis. *Corolla* (ex icone Parishiano) alba, superne in ore rubicunda; lobi subaequales, rotundati, 6 mm. longi et 5 mm. lati. *Filamenta* curvata, glabra; antherae glabrae, reniformes, loculis confluentibus. *Ovarium* conicum 2 mm. longum, stylo arcuato glabro 4 mm. longo. *Fructus* c. 1.5 cm. longus et 2.5 mm. latus, viridis, haud tortus.

BURMA. Moulmein, 1857, *C. Parish* 4 (K); *ibidem*, 1862, *C. Parish* 445 (holo., K).