

## A NOTE ON SONERILA

L. A. LAUENER & D. MCKEAN

ABSTRACT. *Fordiophyton begoniifolium* Li, a Chinese species of the *Melastomataceae*, is reduced to a synonym of *Sonerila plagiocardia*.

*Sonerila plagiocardia* Diels in Bot. Jahrb. 65: 117 (1932); Li in Journ. Arn. Arb. 25: 36 (1944).

Syn.: *Fordiophyton begoniifolium* Li in Journ. Arn. Arb. 25: 28 (1944), syn. nov.

CHINA. Yunnan, Szemao forests, 1820 m, occurring mostly in quantity, flowers pink, Henry 13152 (iso. *S. plagiocardia*, E); Chengkang, Tapingchang, snow range, 2350 m, under forest, perennial herb 1-2 ft, common, flower pink, 6 viii 1938, Yü 17244 (holo. *F. begoniifolium*, A, iso. E); between Tengyueh and Lungling, x-xi 1922, J. F. Rock 7188 (E).

Whilst preparing material of *Melastomataceae* in the Lévillé herbarium, the resemblance was noticed between the species of Li and Diels cited above. Isotype specimens and other collections of both species are represented at Edinburgh and the holotype of *F. begoniifolium* in the Arnold Arboretum was kindly checked for us.

*Fordiophyton* is characterised by 8 stamens and *Sonerila* by 6 or 3. Although Li refers to "staminibus inaequalibus . . . antheris majoribus" and "minoribus", the flowers of *F. begoniifolia* quite clearly have only 3 stamens, identical to those of *S. plagiocardia*. Other features of the two species also agree: the asymmetrical cordate membranous leaves with 7-12 main veins; the setulose-serrulate margins; the pedicels and calyx with a few glandular hairs.

In addition, the general facies of the two species is the same and there seems to be no reason for distinguishing between them.