

## THE IDENTITY OF *LONICERA RHYTIDOPHYLLA*

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**ABSTRACT.** Evidence is produced that *Lonicera rhytidophylla* Hand.-Mazz. (Caprifoliaceae) from Kiangsi (China) should be considered as a synonym of *L. reticulata* Champion ex Benth. A detailed description of *L. reticulata* is presented.

In describing *Lonicera rhytidophylla* as a new species from Kiangsi (China) Handel-Mazzetti (p. 1050, 1936) compared it with *L. confusa* DC., *L. affinis* Hook. & Arn. and *L. similis* Hemsl. from which it differs in a number of obvious characters. In the course of going through the eastern Asiatic species of *Lonicera* in Edinburgh in connection with work on the L  veill   herbarium, the resemblance of *L. rhytidophylla* to material assigned to *L. reticulata* Bentham was noted. An examination of more material at the British Museum and Kew and in particular a detailed comparison of an isotype of *L. rhytidophylla*, (*Wang-Te-Hui*, *Plantae sinenses* 461) housed in Edinburgh, with type material of *L. reticulata* (*J. G. Champion* 93) from Kew, has confirmed that these are indeed conspecific.

Of all the types of leaves encountered in *Lonicera* those of *L. reticulata* are some of the most striking. While their lower surface is covered by a dense tomentum of simple hairs, the upper surface is scarred by grooves which follow the venation pattern. Champion's specific epithet derives from the fact that these grooves are even encountered over the vein reticulum. Bentham (p. 167, 1852), described the leaves of *L. reticulata* as having a rugose texture. The specific epithet chosen by Handel-Mazzetti (1936) for his species derives from the same source. A detailed examination of the leaves, which included scrutinizing the tomentum under a Scanning Electron Microscope failed to reveal any difference between the two species. Furthermore, with regard to floral structures *Lonicera rhytidophylla* agrees with *L. reticulata*, with the possible exception of the size of its anthers. Handel-Mazzetti (p. 1049, 1936) described the anthers of *L. rhytidophylla* as being 2-3 mm in length. In the four flowers examined by the present author, the anthers were  $\pm 3$  mm long (range: 2.5-3.2 mm). Although no mention was made of the anthers in Bentham's description of *L. reticulata*, these were found to be 2.8-4.8 mm in length in the specimens examined (*J. G. Champion* 93, K; *H. H. Chung* 2768, K; *J. M. Dalziel* s.n., E). A difference of this order is probably insignificant since the sample is rather small. The overwhelming similarity throughout the range of other characters examined would suggest that *L. rhytidophylla* be reduced to synonymy under *L. reticulata*.

Of the three specimens of *L. reticulata*, two are from Hooker's collection and one from Bentham's herbarium.

*Lonicera reticulata* Champion ex Benth., Hook., Journ. Bot. 4 (no. 42): 167 (1852).

Syn.: *L. rhytidophylla* Hand.-Mazz., Symb. Sin. 7: 1049 (1936).

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Climbing shrub,  $\pm$  1.6–1.8 m high, young branches and petioles with thick velvety, ochreous-coloured tomentum. Leaves opposite with robust petioles, 0.5–1.8 cm long; lamina ovate, oblong or broadly elliptical, rarely obovate, 0.8–7 (–10)  $\times$  0.5–4.5 cm; apex (acute-) obtuse or rounded, mucronate, base broadly cuneate, obtuse to rounded or in large leaves subtruncate, margin entire, slightly revolute (in a dried state); venation camptodromous with (2-) 3–6 pairs of secondary veins; upper surface of leaves rugose with grooves following even the fine vein reticulum, and a sparse indumentum of simple hairs, largely restricted to primary and secondary veins, lower surface with a dense mat of simple hairs. Inflorescence a (lax-) dense corymb of 4–6 (–8) pairs of flowers arising in the axils of the leaves. Peduncle, pedicels, bracts and bracteoles covered by a tomentum similar to that found on the young branches and petioles. Pedicels 3–12 (–30) mm long; bracts linear or lanceolate, 2.5–5 (–8) mm long; bracteoles broadly triangular to linear, 1–3 mm long. Calyx with 5 triangular or lanceolate sepals, 1–2 mm long, covered with numerous antrorse spreading long hairs. Corolla yellow, bilabiate, lips 20–23 mm long, sparsely pilose; upper lip erect with 4 rounded lobes, lower lip reflexed, narrowly oblong, rounded at the tip; tube narrow, 17–27 mm long in opened flowers, soft retrorse hairs without, pilose within. Stamens (4-) 5; filaments 23–30 mm long, inserted at top of corolla tube, distally glabrous, proximally sparsely ciliate; anthers versatile (2-) 2.5–4.8 mm long. Pollen grains brevicolpate with 3 colpi, ellipsoidal, convex-triangular in polar view, diameter (polar view)  $\pm$  60  $\mu$ m, ornamentation baculate. Style 43–50 mm long, glabrous, or sparsely ciliate on the inserted part, stigma discoid. Ovary free to base, glabrous, blue, 1–2 mm long, trilocular with 2 (–3) ovules per locule. Mature fruits globose, blue-black, 6–7 mm in diameter, calyx persisting.

CHINA. Kiangsi, near Ningtu at foot of Lienhwa Shan, 1921, *Wang-Te-Hui* 461 in herb. Handel-Mazzetti (isotype of *L. rhytidophylla*, E). Lungnan District, Oo Chi Shan near Lam Uk village, *S. K. Lau* 4649 (BM). Fukien, Minhow Hsien, Kushan Monastery on road to Kuliang, 700 m, *H. H. Chung* 2768 (K). Kwantung, Pan Ling Tsze, *W. Y. Chun* 5910 (E); Thai Yong, 60 miles west of Swatow, 609 m, *J. M. Dalziel* s.n. (E); Thai Yong Shan, *F. A. McClure* 147 (K); Loh Ch'ang District, Chong Ven Shan near Kau Fung, *W. T. Tsang* 20784 (K); Tapu District, Taimo Shan, *W. T. Tsang* 21202 (K).

HONG KONG. *J. G. Champion* 93 (holotype, K); *H. F. Hance* 6054 (BM).

#### REFERENCES

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 HANDEL-MAZZETTI, H. (1936). *Symbolae Sinicae* 7: 1049–1050.