

A NEW MALLOTUS FROM CHINA

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ABSTRACT. *Phytolacca esquirolii* Lévl. is transferred to the genus *Mallotus* (Euphorbiaceae) as *M. kweichowensis* Lauener & W. T. Wang, descr. emend.

Mallotus kweichowensis Lauener & W. T. Wang, **nom. nov.** Fig. 1.

Syn.: *Phytolacca esquirolii* Lévl. Fl. Kouy-Tchéou 313 (1915), non *Mallotus esquirolii* Lévl.

Proximus *M. contubernali* Hance a quo caulibus, foliorum pagina inferiore, petiolisque pubescentioribus, petiolis brevioribus differt.

Frutex scandens(?), dioicus, ramulis juvenilibus teretibus c. 4 mm crassis ferrugineis vel fulvo-stellatim pubescentibus. *Folia* alterna, ovata, integra, chartacea, 5-9 × 2.5-4 cm, basi rotundata, apice acuta vel breviter acuminata, supra nitida, glabrescentia, subtus in sicco flavo-viride pubescentia; nervis conspicuis, lateralibus 5-6-jugis; petiolis 1.5-2 cm longis, fulvo-pubescentibus. *Inflorescentia* ♂ ut videtur terminalis(?), 5-8.5 cm longa, dense fulvo-pubescentia, bracteis minutis, lanceolatis, pedicellis gracilibus 4-5 mm longis. *Sepala* 5, ovata, acuta, 3 × 2 mm, extra fulvo-pubescentia, intus glabra. *Stamina* numerosa (60-100), filamentis in glomerulis interdum ad basim connatis 1.5-2 mm longis, antheris 0.5 mm paucis pilis dispersis, latrorsim dehiscentibus. *Inflorescentia* ♀ fructusque ignota.

CHINA. Kweichow, rochers de L'ao t'eng, fleur jaunâtre, 20 v 1904, *Esquirol* 45 (holo. E, iso. PE).

This newly recognised species of *Mallotus* was originally described as a *Phytolacca* by Léveillé. It has been compared by both authors with specimens in the herbaria at Edinburgh and Peking and does not appear to agree with any known species of *Mallotus*. *M. kweichowensis* closely resembles *M. contubernalis* Hance but differs in having more pubescent stems, lower leaf surfaces and petioles; the petioles are also thicker and much shorter.

We are grateful to Dr Kit Tan for drawing the illustration and to Mr. B. L. Burtt for checking the Latin description.

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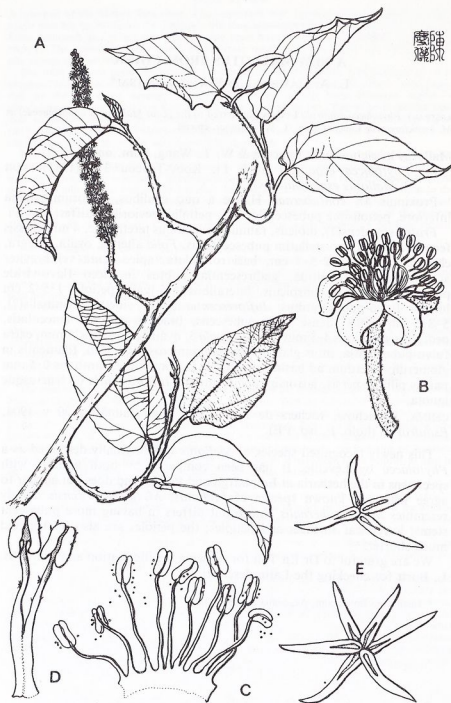


FIG. 1. *Mallotus kweichowensis* Lauener & W. T. Wang: A, flowering branch $\times \frac{3}{5}$; B, staminate flower $\times 8$; C, part of androecium showing free filaments $\times 13$; D, stamens with partially fused filaments (note stellate and unicellular hairs present) $\times 20$; E, stellate hairs from sepal $\times 215$.