

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SOME INDIAN ORCHIDACEAE

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Abstract. Nomenclatural and taxonomic notes are provided for some Indian orchids, with additional synonymy provided for *Cleisostoma tenuifolium*, *Dendrobium tsanganum*, and *Vanda tessellata*. The identities of *Eria clarkei* (= *Pinalia rimannii*) and *Nephelaphyllum nudum* are elucidated. *Habenaria modesta* is reinstated over *H. ovalifolia* due to nomenclatural priority. Two taxa are excluded from the Indian flora, namely *Dendrobium fargesii* (misidentified) and *D. versicolor* (= Philippine *D. ionopus*).

Keywords: additions, India, lectotypifications, Orchidaceae, synonymy

Schuitman et al. (2022) recently published a checklist of the Orchidaceae of India, providing a handy base reference for studies of the Indian orchid flora. We add here a few additional synonyms, elucidate the identities of some obscure taxa, and provide some nomenclatural notes on other entities.

Cleisostoma Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 8: 362. 1825.

Type species: *Cleisostoma sagittatum* Blume

A genus of about 100 monopodial orchids distributed from India to Fiji. It was long known as *Sarcanthus* until Garay (1972) showed that *Cleisostoma* was the correct name. The flowers are small (sepals usually 5–8 mm long) and bear a complex, spurred labellum. About 22 species are recorded from India, but some of these require further study to ascertain their identities and correct names.

Cleisostoma tenuifolium (L.) Garay, Bot. Mus. Leaf. Harv. Uni. 23, 4: 175. 1972.

Basionym: *Epidendrum tenuifolium* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 952. 1753.

Lectotype (Majumdar and Bakshi, 1979: 353): t. 5 of *Tsjerou-mau-maravara* in Rheede, Hort. Malab. 12: 11. 1692.

Homotypic synonyms: *Cymbidium tenuifolium* (L.) Willd., Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 1: 103. 1805.

Aerides tenuifolia (L.) Moon, Catal. Pl. Ceylon: 60. 1824.

Luisia tenuifolia (L.) Blume, Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat. 1: 64. 1849.

Sarcochilus tenuifolius (L.) Naves, Noviss. App. 238. 1880.

Saccolabium tenuifolium (L.) Alston, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradeniya 11: 205. 1929.

Sarcanthus tenuifolius (L.) Seidenf., Dan. Bot. Ark. 27, 4: 37. 1971.

Heterotypic synonym: *Sarcochilus tenuifolius* (L.) Naves var. *majus* Naves, Noviss. App. 238. 1880. TYPE: t. 6 of *Kolli-Tsjerou-Mau-Maravara* in Rheede, Hort. Malab. 12: 13. 1692.

Distribution: Sri Lanka; India; Myanmar; Thailand.

We have added *Sarcochilus tenuifolius* var. *majus* to the synonymy. In our opinion, the type illustration depicts a sterile plant of this species. *Epidendrum tenuifolium* has long been confused with a species of *Luisia*, although the original illustration clearly depicts a species of *Cleisostoma*. That species of *Luisia* cannot be known as *L. tenuifolia*. The correct name is *L. birchea* (see below for discussion).

Dendrobium Swartz, Nova Acta Regiae Soc. Sci. Upsal. ser. 2, 6: 82. 1799, *nom. cons.*

Type species: *Dendrobium moniliforme* (L.) Swartz *typ. cons.*

A genus of about 1520–1530 species distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Tahiti. Approximately 124 species are recorded for India (Schuitman et al., 2022). As discussed below, we do not think that *D. versicolor* Cogn. actually came from India, but that it is really a Philippine taxon. We also think that *D. fargesii* Finet does not occur in India due to confusion with *D. tsanganum*.

Dendrobium ionopus Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. n.s., 18: 808. 1882. TYPE: MYANMAR [as “Birmah”]. Without locality, *cult. H. Low & Co. s.n.* (Holotype: W-R [image seen]).

Homotypic synonyms: *Callista ionopus* (Rchb.f.) O.Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 655. 1891 as *ionopus*.

Eurycaulis ionopus (Rchb.f.) M.A. Clem., Telopea 10, 1: 287. 2003.

Heterotypic synonyms: *Dendrobium versicolor* Cogn., J. Orchidees 6: 153. 1895, *syn. nov.* TYPE: INDIA. Assam, introduced by *L'Horticulture Internationale*, fl. first half of July 1895, *cult. in the garden of la Societe Bruxelloise s.n.* (Holotype: [lost]).

Dendrobium epidendropsis Kraenzl., Orchis 2: 79. 1908. TYPE: PHILIPPINES. Without locality, *leg. A. Loher, cult. Bot. Gart. Erlangen s.n.* (Holotype: HBG [500397] [image seen]).

Distribution: Philippines.

We have carefully analyzed the description of *D. versicolor* and believe it matches the characters of

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D. ionopus. Both taxa have had their identities obscured due to erroneous locality data. Among the species of section *Pedilonum* Blume, *D. ionopus* may be recognized by its pendulous inflorescences bearing up to 20 flowers, yellowish (often purple suffused) flowers with sepals 10–13 mm long, a long mentum (ca. 20–25 mm), and long-clawed lip with a subquadrate midlobe.

Dendrobium tsangianum (Ormerod) Schuit. & Peter B. Adams, *Muelleria* 29, 1: 66. 2011.

Basionym: *Epigeneium tsangianum* Ormerod, *Taiwania* 49, 2: 97. 2004. TYPE: CHINA. Guangxi, near Guangdong border, Shap Man Tai Shan, Nam She Village, 19 November 1934, W. T. Tsang 24684 (Holotype: AMES [56278]; Isotypes: AMES [111361]; US [00503293] [not seen]). Fig. 1

Heterotypic synonyms: *Epigeneium chapaense* Gagnep., *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. (Paris)* s. 2, 4: 596. 1932, *syn. nov.* TYPE: VIETNAM. Tonkin, Col de Lo qui Ho, KM 9 near Chapa, 1800 m, 28 July 1926, E. Poilane 12605 (Lectotype [Seidenf. 1980: 70, 1st step] [designated here]; 2nd step: P [00387205] [image seen]; Isolectotype: P [000387204] [image seen]); Col de Lo qui Ho, near Chapa, 28 July 1926, E. Poilane 12607bis (Syntype: P [00387206] [image seen]).

Sarcopodium chapaense (Gagnep.) T. Tang & F.T. Wang, *Acta Phytotax. Sin.* 1, 1: 83. 1951.

Dendrobium brunneum Schuit. & Peter B. Adams, *Muelleria* 29, 1: 65. 2011.

Epigeneium clemensiae Gagnep., *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. (Paris)* s. 2, 4: 595. 1932, *syn. nov.* TYPE: VIETNAM. Annam, Mt. Bani summit, 25 km from Tourane, 17 August 1927, J. Clemens & M. S. Clemens 4327 (Holotype: P [00387199] [image seen]; Isotype: NY [8819] [image seen]).

Sarcopodium clemensiae (Gagnep.) T. Tang & F.T. Wang, *Acta Phytotax. Sin.* 1, 1: 83. 1951.

Dendrobium mariae Schuit. & Peter B. Adams, *Muelleria* 29, 1: 66. 2011.

Epigeneium delacourii Gagnep., *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. (Paris)* s. 2, 4: 595. 1932. TYPE: LAOS. Environs of Nape, M. Delacour s.n. (Holotype: P [00387200] [image seen]).

Epigeneium arunachalense A.N. Rao, *Bull. Arunachal For. Res.* 25, 1–2: 3. 2010. TYPE: INDIA. Arunachal Pradesh, Lower Subansiri District, Hakhetari to Rizampak, 1200 m, April 1965, A. R. K. Sastry 44804 (Holotype: ASSAM [not seen]).

Dendrobium subansiriense D. Verma & Barbhuiya, *Phytotaxa* 167, 1: 150. 5 May 2014.

Dendrobium deuterorunachalense J.M.H. Shaw, *Orch. Review* 122 (1306, Suppl.): 38. June 2014, *nom. illeg.*

Dendrobium nageswarayanum Chowlu, *Natl. Acad. Sci. Lett.* 43, 7: 659. 2020. TYPE: INDIA. Arunachal

Pradesh, Kurung Kumey District, Koloriang Hill, 823 m, 11 November 2016, K. Chowlu 40066 (Holotype: CAL [not seen]).

Epigeneium nageswarayanum (Chowlu) Agrawala, C. Deori, Aazhiv. & Chowlu, *Fl. Pl. India Annot. Checkl. Monocot.*: 50. 2020, *nom. inval.*

Usage synonym: *Epigeneium fargesii* auct. non (Finet) Gagnep., N.P. Balakr. & Sud. Chowdhury, *Bull. Bot. Surv. India* 8, 3–4: 313, Pl. 1. 1966.

Not *Dendrobium arunachalense* C. Deori, S.K. Sarma, Phukan & A.A. Mao 2006 (Section *Formosae*).

Not *Dendrobium chapaense* Aver. 2006 (Section *Formosae*).

Not *Dendrobium clemensiae* Ames 1912 (Section *Diplocaulobium*).

Not *Dendrobium delacourii* Guill. 1924 (Section *Stachyobium*).

Distribution: India; Bhutan; China; Laos; Vietnam.

Additional specimens examined: INDIA. Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri Division, SW corner of Apu Tani Valley, 1615 m, 13 April 1965, P. A. Cox & P. Hutchison 370 (K). VIETNAM. Ha Giang Province, Yen Minh District, Lao Va Chai Municipality, to W of Ngan Chai Village, 1380–1450 m, 25 November 2004, S. K. Wu et al. WP 617 (A).

The above taxa have been distinguished on leaf length, lateral sepal width, labellum hypochile and epichile width, and the type of calli on the hypochile. A renewed investigation into these features was sparked by material excellently photographed by Ba Vuong Truong in Vietnam. Our review of the differentiating features previously used shows that leaf length is essentially continuous, lateral sepal width is not different among any of the taxa (depending on where one measures width), labellum hypochile and epichile width is variable, but the epichile is always slightly wider than the hypochile. The epichile shape is also variable, and the calli shape is often misinterpreted in herbarium material due to artefacts arising from the drying process. Thus, the calli in some cases may appear as well-separated narrow lamellae due to the inner parts failing to rehydrating. The calli are broad, cuneiform in cross-section (outer margin thickest) in fresh flowers and gently convergent apically.

We have not been able to verify any records of *D. fargesii* Finet from India. It differs from *D. tsangianum* in its flowers having a longer mentum (20–24 versus 12–15 mm), broader, ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate (versus ligulate to ligulate-lanceolate) petals, and a white (versus brown) labellum epichile that is distinctly wider than long (versus slightly wider than long to longer than broad, i.e., broadly obovate to trapeziform).

We illustrate here a north Vietnamese specimen collected just northwest of the type locality of *Epigeneium chapaense*. This shows the well-separated lamellae artifact discussed above, a feature also evident in the protologue figure of *E. arunachalense*.

The earliest available epithet in *Dendrobium* is *Epigeneium tsangianum*, since all of the others are already in use.

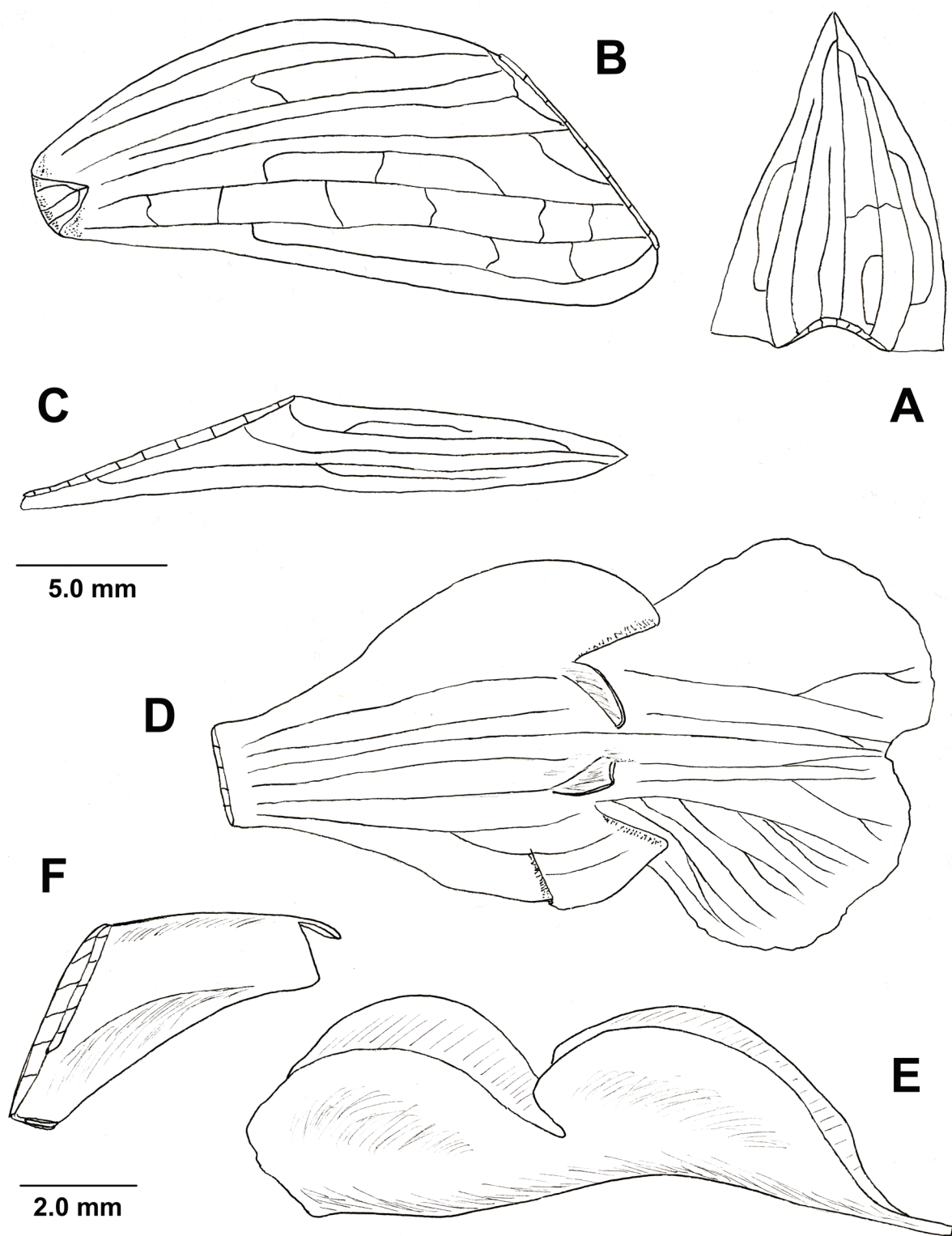


FIGURE 1. *Dendrobium tsangianum* (Ormerod) Schuit. & Peter B. Adams. **A**, dorsal sepal; **B**, lateral sepal; **C**, petal; **D**, labellum from above; **E**, labellum from side; **F**, column. Drawn from *S. K. Wu et al. WP 617 (A)*.

Habenaria Willd., Sp. Pl. ed. 4: 5, 44. 1805.

Type species: *Habenaria macroceratitis* Willd. (= *Orchis habenaria* L.).

About 900 species of mostly terrestrial herbs distributed worldwide. They have terminal racemes of flowers that are usually in shades of white or green. About 67 species (Schuiteman et al. 2022) have been recorded from India.

Habenaria modesta Dalzell, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 2: 262. 1850. TYPE: INDIA. Mumbai District, Salsette Island, fl. August, *N. A. Dalzell s.n.* (Holotype: [not found]).

Heterotypic synonyms: *Habenaria ovalifolia* Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 5, 1: 13, t. 1708. 1851. TYPE: INDIA. Malabar and Anamally Hills, fl. July to August, *R. Wight s.n.* (Holotype: K [00247464] [image seen]).

Habenaria platantheropsis Kraenzl., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 28: 172. 1900. TYPE: INDIA. Nilgiri and Coorg Hills, 25. *Platanthera*, *G. Thomson s.n.* (Holotype: B: [destroyed]; Lectotype: P [0043654] [designated here] [image seen]).

Distribution: India.

Schuiteman et al. (2022) listed this taxon as *H. ovalifolia* with the older *H. modesta* in synonymy. Naturally, the older name has priority and should be utilized. There is no apparent surviving type material of *H. modesta*, but we are aware that other Indian researchers have discovered drawings of the species by Nicholas Dalzell that may be used in a future typification proposal.

No type material of *H. platantheropsis* can be found at Kew (Schuiteman, pers. comm.) or HBG, so we have chosen a collection located in P as the lectotype.

Luisia Gaud., Voy. Uranie, Bot.: 426. 1829.

Type species: *Luisia teretifolia* Gaud.

A genus of Aeridinae with about 50 species, 22 of which are reported for India (Schuiteman et al., 2022). The genus is distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Fiji and Samoa. The plants are outwardly recognized by their monopodial stems bearing terete leaves, very short inflorescences, and one to few relatively fleshy flowers. The flowers often have yellow sepals and petals contrasted by a labellum with dark purple to maroon coloring. Unlike many Aeridinae, *Luisia* has a rather simple labellum that is divided into a shallow, unspurred hypophyll and an often larger epichile.

Luisia birchea Blume, Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat. 1: 64. 1849.

Basionym: *Birchea teretifolia* A. Rich., Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., ser. 2, 15: 67. 1841. TYPE: INDIA. Nilgiri Hills, near Avalanchy, *G. Perrottet s.n.* (Holotype: P [00324112] [image seen]).

Homotypic synonyms: *Birchea nilgherrensis* D. Dietr., Syn. Pl. 5: 118. 1852, *nom. illeg.*

Luisia laurifolia M.R. Almeida, Fl. Maharashtra 5A: 66. 2009, *nom. illeg.*

Usage synonyms: *Cymbidium tenuifolium auct. non* (L.) Willd., Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orch. Pl.: 167. 1833.

Luisia tenuifolia auct. non (L.) Blume, Blume, Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat. 1: 64. 1849.

Distribution: India; Sri Lanka.

Schuiteman et al. (2022) used the name *Luisia tenuifolia* Blume for this species. The nomenclatural situation regarding the name *Luisia tenuifolia* was clearly explained by Seidenfaden (1971): this binomial must be treated as a homotypic synonym of *Cleisostoma tenuifolium* (L.) Garay. The recently proposed *Luisia laurifolia* had a non-existent *Cymbidium laurifolium* Lindl. as its basis, but the authors also cited *Luisia birchea* in synonymy. *Luisia laurifolia* is, therefore, a superfluous and illegitimate name for *L. birchea*.

Nephelaphyllum Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 8: 372. 1825.

Type species: *Nephelaphyllum pulchrum* Blume

A genus of about twelve species distributed from India to Indonesia. They are sympodial plants with creeping rhizomes bearing unifoliate pseudobulbs, the latter topped with a single cordate to deltate, often maculated leaf. The flowers have a spurred, entire to trilobed labellum, that is usually adorned with various keels and processes. India has three species of *Nephelaphyllum*, two of which have an intertwined history which we discuss below.

Nephelaphyllum cordifolium (Lindl.) Rchb.f., Xenia Orch. 1: 216. 1856.

Basionym: *Cytheris cordifolia* Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orch. Pl.: 129. 1831. TYPE: INDIA. Mountains of Sylhet [Bangladesh], August 1822, *leg. F. De Silva 1135*, in *N. Wallich Catal. No. 3750* (Holotype: K-L [image seen]; Isotype: K-W [not seen]).

Homotypic synonym: *Tainia cordifolia* (Lindl.) Gagnep., Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Mus. (Paris) ser. 2, 4: 706. 1932, *nom. illeg.* (*non* J.D. Hook. 1889).

Distribution: India; Bangladesh?; Myanmar.

The transfer of this taxon to *Nephelaphyllum* is often attributed to Lindley (1858) or Blume (1858), but we found that Reichenbach was the first in 1856 (now updated in IPNI). The holotype of the species was illustrated by Pearce and Cribb (2002). The illustration shows the labellum to have three keels with forward-pointing, extended apices.

Nephelaphyllum nudum J.D. Hook., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 192. 1890. TYPE: INDIA. Sikkim, without precise locality, 1874-1875, *G. King 500* (Lectotype: CAL [0000000307] [designated here] [inflorescence only]).

Usage synonym: *Nephelaphyllum cordifolium auct. non* (Lindl.) Rchb.f., Blume, Fl. Jav. Ins. Adj. n.s. 1: 145-146, t. 61, f. 3. 1858; Coll. Orch. Arch. Ind.: 172, t. 61, f. 3. 1858.

Distribution: India.

Specimens examined: INDIA. Meghalaya, Churra, 14 October 1835, *W. Griffith s.n.* (CAL [454006]); Khasia Hills, "1844," *W. Griffith s.n.* (L [0940466] [image seen]).

The type of this species consists of an inflorescence mounted on top of a three-leaved stem belonging to a species of Goodyerinae (possibly a *Goodyera* or *Zeuxine*). This mixture led to Hooker's misleading diagnosis that mentions a stout four inch stem. We have, therefore, selected the

inflorescence as the lectotype. The species is very similar to *N. cordifolium* but differs in the labellum having a single high-lamellate keel (versus three raised, acute, forward-pointing keels) on the midlobe.

Pinalia Lindl., Orch. Scelet.: 14, 21, 23, t. 71. 1826.

Lectotype species: *Pinalia alba* Buch.-Ham. ex Lindl.

A genus of Eriinae with about 210 species distributed from India and Sri Lanka to Tahiti. Most of the species are found in Indonesia, but other tropical Asian countries such as Malaysia and the Philippines also have a significant number of taxa. About 22 species are found in India.

Pinalia rimannii (Rchb.f.) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 679. 1891.

Basionym: *Eria rimannii* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. n.s., 24: 712. 1885. TYPE: MYANMAR [as “Burmah”]. Without locality, *E. Rimann s.n.* (Holotype: W-R).

Heterotypic synonym: *Eria clarkei* J. Fraser, Gard. World 11: 758. 27 July 1895 as *clarkii*; H.J. Veitch, Gard. Chron. ser. 3, 18: 49. 13 July 1895 as *clarkei*, *nom. inval.*; Hort., The Garden (1871-1927) 48: 30. 13 July 1895 as *clarki*, *nom. inval.*, *syn. nov.* TYPE: WITHOUT ORIGIN. Exhibited at the R.H.S. 9 July 1895, *cult. W. Lewis & Co. s.n.* (Holotype: [lost]).

Distribution: Myanmar.

We decided to investigate the overlooked name *Eria clarkei* on the presumption that it could be named after C. B. Clarke, who did so much work for the flora of India and made extensive collections there. The description of this taxon provided by Fraser in *The Gardening World Illustrated* mentions the dark brown, apically two- to three-leaved, ovoid pseudobulbs, leathery leaves, and the dense arching raceme of straw-colored flowers with a trilobed, clear yellow lip. Our analysis of this description leaves us in no doubt this taxon is a synonym of the Myanmar endemic *Pinalia rimannii*.

We have adopted Veitch’s spelling of “*clarkei*” since he first used the epithet, although he gave no clue to who Clarke was. Veitch’s description is wholly inadequate for valid publication since he only says “... with small greenish-white flowers”. The description in *The Garden* is equally inadequate, giving only “... dull yellow species with dense spikes of blooms”.

Vanda W. Jones ex R. Br., Bot. Reg. 6: t. 506. 1820.

Type species: *Vanda roxburghii* R. Br.

A genus of Aeridiinae with about 85 species distributed from Sri Lanka and India to the Solomon Islands. The plants are monopodial epiphytes (occasionally lithophytes) that are quite popular in the horticultural trade, so many are endangered from over-collection. The genus was recently the subject of a popular monograph by Motes (2021). About 15 or 16 species, and perhaps two natural hybrids, are found in India.

Vanda peetersiana (Cogn.) Andre, Rev. Hort. (Paris) 70: 50. 1898.

Basionym: *Vanda coerulea* Griff. ex Lindl. var. *peetersiana* Cogn., Gard. Chron. s. 3, 22: 394. 1897. TYPE: INDIA. Khasia Mountains, November 1896, *imp. & cult. A. A. Peeters s.n.* (Holotype: [lost]).

Distribution: India.

Additional specimens examined: INDIA. Nagaland, Kohima, Naga Hills, 1525 m, 22 September 1950, *W. Koelz 26250* (K); Kohima, Naga Hills, 1525 m, 20 September 1950, *W. Koelz 26205* (K). WITHOUT ORIGIN. January 1899, *cult. J. W. Moore s.n.* (K).

Vanda peetersiana seems to be a natural hybrid between *V. coerulea* Griff. ex Lindl. and *V. coerulescens* Griff. A color painting of the original plant can be found in Cogniaux (1897), depicting its basically white flowers that are tinted lilac-pink, especially towards the tips of the tepals. The two Indian specimens cited above have darker flowers, and were said by the collector to be lavender-violet, darkest on the lip and spur.

Vanda tessellata (Roxb.) Lodd. ex G. Don, Hort. Brit. (London): 372. 1830.

Basionym: *Epidendrum tessellatum* Roxb., Pl. Coromandel 1, 2: 34. 1795. TYPE: INDIA. Circar Mountains, *W. Roxburgh s.n.* (Holotype: [lost]); Lectotype: [designated here]: t. 42 in Roxb., Pl. Coromandel 1, 2. 1795.

Homotypic synonyms: *Cymbidium tessellatum* (Roxb.) Sw., Nova Acta Regiae Soc. Sci. Upsal. 6: 75. 1799.

Aerides tessellata (Roxb.) Wight ex Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orch. Pl.: 240. 1833.

Heterotypic synonyms: *Vanda roxburghii* R. Br., Bot. Reg. 6: t. 506. 1820. TYPE: INDIA. Bengal, *W. Roxburgh s.n.* (Lectotype: BM [000538864] [designated here] [image seen]); Bengal, *imp. J. Banks, cult. D. Banks s.n.* (Syntype: [lost]). Represented by t. 506 in Bot. Reg. 6, 1820; description of *Vanda* W. Jones, Asiat. Res. 4: 311–312. 1799.

Cymbidium tesselloides Roxb., Fl. Indica ed. 2, 3: 463. 1832, *nom. illeg.*

Vanda tesselloides (Roxb.) Rchb.f., Ann. Bot. Syst. 6, 6: 864. 1864, *nom. illeg.*

Vanda tessellata (Roxb.) Lodd. ex G. Don subsp. *tesselloides* Motes, Natural Gen. *Vanda*: 42. 2021.

Vanda roxburghii R. Br. var. *wrightiana* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron. n.s., 20: 262. 1883. TYPE: WITHOUT ORIGIN. *Cult. J. Hodges s.n.* (Holotype: W-R [not seen]).

Vanda roxburghii R. Br. var. *rubra* Rodigas, Illustr. Hortic. (Belge) 32: 185, t. 579. 1885. TYPE: WITHOUT ORIGIN. *Imp. Compagnie Continentale Horticulture [Messrs. Linden] s.n.* (Holotype: [lost]).

Vanda suavis Lindl. var. *rubra* (Rodigas) B.S. Williams, Orch. Grow. Man. ed. 7: 749. 1894.

Vanda roxburghii R. Br. var. *coerulea* Hort. ex Stein, Orchideenb.: 585. 1892. TYPE: Not cited.

Vanda roxburghii R. Br. var. *spooneri* Gammie, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 19: 625. 1909. TYPE: INDIA.

Southern Mahratta Country, common between Londa and Tinai Ghat, fl. October to January, *T. J. Spooner s.n.* (Syntype: [not found]); Wynaad, *R. L. Proudlock s.n.* (Syntype: [not found]).

Distribution: Sri Lanka; India; Nepal; Bangladesh; Myanmar.

Motes (2021) divided this species into two subspecies based on distribution and flower size. We have not been able to discern any distinct taxa based on these parameters. Distribution appears continuous, as does flower size. The

variety *spooneri* was distinguished by its smaller plant size (stems 20 cm versus 60 cm long) and white (versus violet) labellum. Despite our efforts, it has not been possible to locate type material of this variety. Plant size and labellum color are quite variable, and we agree with Schuiteman et al. (2022), who reduced this variety to synonymy. However, it is possible that var. *spooneri* is a mixed concept because white-lipped plants in the Wynaad region could be *V. sathishii* Motes, which is found here and has a predominantly white labellum (see Ratheesh Narayanan et al., 2013).

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