

ON DECALOBANTHUS, A NEW GENUS OF CONVULVULACEAE
FROM SUMATRA

by

S. J. VAN OOSTSTROOM

(Leiden).

Being occupied with studies on the *Convolvulaceae* of Netherlands India I met with a remarkable specimen in the Buitenzorg Herbarium, collected by Dr. O. POSTHUMUS during the expedition in Djambi (Sumatra) in the year 1925. At first sight this plant seemed to be a *Merremia*. A closer examination, however, soon showed some important differences with that genus, especially in respect to the corolla, which has a long, narrow and rather fleshy tube and a limb with 5 short, reflexed (or patent?) lobes. Each lobe is deeply bifid, so that the limb appears 10-lobed. The middle part of the lobes is fleshy just as the tube; it corresponds with a midpetaline field of the corolla of most genera of *Convolvulaceae*, the lateral parts of the lobes (lobules) are much thinner, membranaceous and nerved. They represent the interpetaline fields of the Convolvulaceous corolla. In general there is a resemblance with the essential corolla construction of many species of *Erycibe*, where the lobes are also bifid and possess a thick middle part and two membranaceous lobules. The lobules in the new genus are not fully equal in size, those on the right of each lobe, as seen from the inside of the corolla being always slightly larger. The corolla is fully glabrous or bears some papillae at the base of the filaments. The pistil has a two-celled ovary, each cell with 2 ovules and bears a long, filiform style with two globular, papillose stigmas, exactly as in *Merremia*. I suppose this plant to be closely related to that genus, but as the corolla with its fleshy tube and remarkable lobes is so different from all other species, it is impossible to incorporate it in *Merremia* without important alteration of the generic limits. I, therefore, propose to establish a new genus, under the name of *Decalobanthus* (derived from δεκα, ten, λοβος, lobe and άνθος, flower).

Decalobanthus, nov. gen.

Planta herbacea, glaberrima, *caulibus* procumbentibus, gracilibus. *Folia* ovata, apicem versus attenuata, basi truncata vel subretusa. *Inflorescentiae* axillares, pedunculatae, 1- vel 2-florae, pedicelli subangulati, apice paullo incrassati. *Sepala* majora, subaequalia vel exteriora paullo breviora, ovata vel elliptica, obtusa vel subemarginata. *Corolla* hypocrateriformis, tubo crasso, longe anguste obconico vel cylindrico, basi attenuato, enervoso, limbo 5-lobato, lobis reflexis (vel patentibus?), parvis, bifidis, medio crassioribus, lobulis oblongis, obtusis, membranaceis. *Stamina* in tubum corollae inserta, *antheris* oblongis vel ovatis basi sagittatis, *filamentis* applanatis, basin versus sensim dilatatis. *Pollen* inermis. *Ovarium* 2-loculare, glabrum, loculis 2-ovulatis, *stylo* filiforme, indiviso, *stigmatibus* 2, globosis, papillosis. *Discus* cylindricus, obscure lobatus. *Fructus* ignotus.

Typus generis: *Decalobanthus sumatranus* n. sp.

Decalobanthus sumatranus, nov. spec.

Planta herbacea, glaberrima, *caulibus* procumbentibus, teretibus, fistulosis, 1—2 mm crassis. *Folia* petiolata, petiolis laminis brevioribus, 10—17 mm longis, ovata vel anguste ovata, apicem versus sensim attenuata, acumine obtuso, mucronulato, basi truncato vel paullo retuso, 4—6 cm longa, 2—4 cm lata, supra subnitida, subtus pallidiora, nervo mediano nervisque primariis 6—7 utrinque prominentibus, nervis secundariis subparallelis, nervis tertiis reticulatis. *Inflorescentiae* axillares, 1—2-florae, pedunculi striati vel angulati, 1.5—3.5 cm longi; pedicelli subangulati, apice incrassati, 10—15 mm longi. *Sepala* ad 19 mm longa, subaequalia vel exteriora paullo breviora, valde concava, exteriora 2 ovata, subemarginata, obsolete mucronulata, coriacea, interiora 3 elliptica, subemarginata vel obtusa, obsolete mucronulata, coriacea, margine scariosa. *Corolla* flava, hypocrateriformis, tubo longe et anguste obconico vel cylindrico, basi attenuato, subcarnoso, ad 2.5 cm longo, limbo 5-lobato, lobis parvis, reflexis (vel patentibus?), bifidis, medio crassioribus, lobulis membranaceis, oblongis, obtusis, subinaequalibus, circiter 5—5.5 mm longis, striatis. *Filamenta* circiter 6.5 mm supra basin corollae inserta, applanata, basin versus sensim dilatata, glabra vel basi papillosa, circ. 5 mm longa; *antherae* oblongae vel ovatae, 6 mm longae, basi breviter sagittatae. *Ovarium* 2-loculare, conicum, glabrum, loculis 2-ovulatis, *stylo* filiforme, ad 16 mm longo, *stigmatibus* 2, globosis, papillosis. *Discus* cylindricus, 1.25 mm altus, obscure lobatus.

MALAY ARCHIPELAGO: Sumatra, Djambi, near Bangko, along road

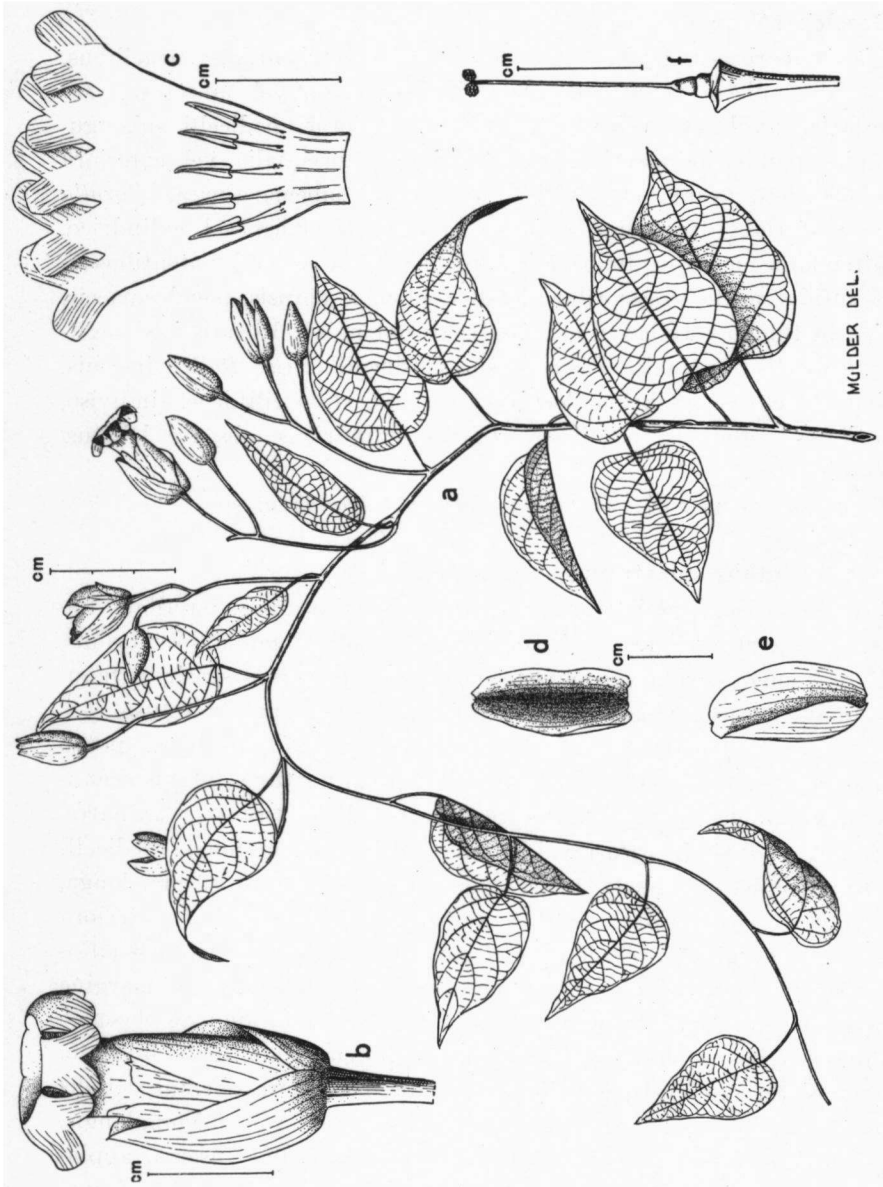


Fig. 1. — *Decalobanthus sumatranus* v. *Oostvree*, n. sp., a: branch of the type-specimen, *POSTHUMUS* 571; b: flower (I am not sure whether the corolla lobes are spreading or reflexed); c: corolla, laid open, schematically; d: sepal 1, inside; e: sepal 3, inside; f: pistil.

to Korintji, 60 m alt., open sunny place on weathered tuff, creeping; fls. yellow, stamens white; July 18, 1925, leg. Dr. O. *POSTHUMUS* 571 (type in the Buitenzorg Herbarium).

Vernacular name: Akar tanah (akar = root, tanah = soil).