NEW TAXA AND COMBINATION FOR THE RUBIACEAE OF SRI LANKA

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SUMMARY

In the family Rubiaceae four new taxa in *Hedyotis* and three new taxa in *Lasianthus* are described; ten other combinations are also made.

This short paper validates nomenclature changes and new taxa in the Rubiaceae for the account of the family for the Flora of Ceylon Project.

**Hedyotis gartmorensis** Ridsdale, *spec. nov.*

*Hedyotis quinquervis* Thwaites affinis foliis supra scabridis infra pubescentibus differt. —

Typus: *Weerasooriya, Jayasekera & Ridsdale 2060 PDA* (holo K; iso L), Sri Lanka.

Shrub. Stems densely pubescent. Stipules distinctly sheathing, persistent, on the flowering shoots the basal part of the stipules 3–5 mm long, outside pubescent, apical rim fimbriate, fimbriae 9–13, short, 0.5–2(–3) mm long. Leaves broadly ovate, 1–3.5 × 0.8–2 cm, above scabrid, particularly on the nerves, below pubescent, densely so on the nerves, margins revolute, apex acute, base subcordate, lateral nerves 3 pairs, appearing 5-nerved at the base. Petiole 1–3 mm, densely pubescent. Inflorescence terminal, subcapitate, 1–2 cm long, axis up to 3 cm. Flowers unknown. Hypanthium 1–2 mm long, pubescent, calyx tube short, lobes narrowly triangular 2–3 × 0.5–1 mm, margins ciliate. Corolla unknown. Capsule ellipsoidal, 2–4 × 1.5–2 mm, surmounted with calyx remnants, seeds 4–6 per placenta, angled to planoconvex, brownish black.

Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District. Only known from the type collected above Gartmore Estate

Ecology — Upper montane shrubberies.

Note — Closely related to *H. quinquervia* Thwaites. Further collection required, particularly flowering material.

1) c/o Rijksherbarium / Hortus Botanicus, P.O. Box 9514, 2300 RA Leiden. The Netherlands.


Hedyotis neolessertiana Ridsdale, spec. nov.


Hedyotis lessertianae Arn. affinis caulibus gracilibus, stipulis separatis internodiis longioribus, inflorescentiis laxis pedicellis 3–5 mm longis differt. — Typus: Thwaites CP 99 (holo PDA; iso K), Sri Lanka.

Shrub or small tree up to 3 m, stems slender. Stipules connate, distinctly sheathing, persistent, and becoming scarious, widely separated from each other by the inter-nodes, the basal part of the stipules 0.7–1.2 cm long, outside glabrous, apical rim fimbriate, fimbriae 9–13, short, 1–6 mm long, densely floccose at the apex. Leaves lanceolate to elliptic, (4)–7–10–(12) x (1)–1.5–(2–2.5) cm, above glabrous or sparsely hairy on the midrib, below sparsely pellidly hairy particularly on the nerves, apex acute to acuminate, base acute, sometimes decurrent, lateral nerves 4–6 pairs. Petiole up to 1.5 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescence a terminal cyme, axis up to 10 cm long, lateral axes up to 8 cm. Flowers heterostylos. Hypanthium 0.8–1.5 mm long, glabrous or pubescent, pedicels 3–5 mm, calyx tube short, lobes deltoid to narrowly triangular, 0.7–1.5 x 0.5–0.8 mm. Corolla infundibular, tube 4–5 mm long, outside glabrous, inside densely pubescent particularly at the throat, lobes ovate to oblone, 2–3 mm long, incurved at the apex, outside glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, inside densely pubescent. Filaments short, 0.1–0.3 mm, or long, 2–4 mm, anthers linear, 0.5 mm long, thin. Style 3–4 mm or 6–8 mm, stigma bilobed. Capsule ellipsoidal, 2–3 x 1–2 mm, surmounted with calyx remnants, seeds 6–12 per placenta, angled to planoconvex, blackish.

Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (5 coll.), Ratnapura District (1 coll.).

Ecology — Upper montane shrubberies, often in open and secondary area.

Note — Thwaites, Hooker, and Trimen did not examine Arnott’s type specimen which represents the taxon known to Trimen as H. confertiflorum. The taxon thought to represent H. lessertiana by previous authors has remained undescribed.

Hedyotis tridentata Ridsdale, spec. nov.


?Hedyotis obscura var. minor Thwaites ex Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3 (1880) 52, non Trimen (1894).

— Type: Sri Lanka, not indicated.


Hedyotis obscura Thwaites affinis stipulis partibus apicalibus 3 fimbriis differt. — Typus: Sri Laka, Weerasonooya, Jayasekera & Ridsdale 2064 (holo PDA; iso K, L).

Stragling trailing shrub up to 3 m. Lateral branches distinctly supra-axillary in origin. Stipules distinctly sheathing, on the flowering shoots the basal part of the stipules 1–2 mm long, hoop-like, apical part fimbriate, 2–5 mm long, fimbriae 1 with 2 lateral fimbriae, on the vegetative orthotropic shoots the basal part 2–4 mm long, apical part 5–8 mm long. Leaves ovate to broadly elliptic, 3–5 x 1–3 cm, those of the orthotropic vegetative shoots larger up to 6 x 4 cm, above glabrous, below glabrous,
apex acute, base acute, often decurrent, lateral nerves 3–4 pairs. Petiole up to 1 cm long. Inflorescence lateral, axis distinctly supra-axillary, up to 4 cm long, the lateral branches short, up to 1 cm, few-flowered. Flowers heterostylous, subsessile or with a pedicel up to 2 mm long. Hypanthium 0.7–1.2 mm long, glabrous, calyx tube short, lobes deltoid to narrowly triangular (0.6–)1–2 x 0.5–1 mm, glabrous. Corolla infundibular, tube 4–5 mm long, outside glabrous, inside densely pubescent at the throat, lobes ovate to oblong, 3–4 mm long, incurved at the apex, outside sparsely pubescent, inside densely pubescent. Filaments short, 0.1–0.5 mm, or long, 1–2 mm, anthers linear-oblong, 1–2 mm long. Style 3–4 mm or 6–8 mm, stigma bilobed. Capsule ovoidal, 4–6 x 3–4 mm, apex domed but surrounded with incurved calyx remnants, seeds 1(–few?) per placenta, angled, blackish.

 Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (6 coll.).
 Ecology — Open montane shrubberies and forest edges.
 Note — There is some confusion around ‘var. minor’. Hooker’s description probably applies to this species. No Peradeniya specimens bear a label ‘H. ovata var. minor’.

**Hedyotis trimenii** var. orbicularifolia Ridsdale, *var. nov.*


Leaves orbicular, apex obtuse, base obtuse, margins revolute, lateral nerves indistinct, not visible.

 Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (3 coll.).
 Ecology — Open montane forest in Adam’s Peak area.

The taxon can be distinguished from var. *trimenii* as follows:

- Leaves ovate to elliptic, apex acute, base acute to cuneate, margins usually not revolute, lateral nerves obscure but usually visible ................. var. *trimenii*
- Leaves orbicular, apex obtuse, base obtuse, margins revolute, lateral nerves indistinct, not visible ........................................... var. orbicularifolia

**Knoxia spicata** (Thwaites ex Trimen) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


 Distribution — Sri Lanka: Matale District (1 coll.), Kandy District (1 coll.), Badulla District (2 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (29 coll.).
 Ecology — Upper montane areas, in forest and open sites.

**Lasianthus chrysocaulis** Ridsdale, *spec. nov.*

*Lasianthus neolanceolato* Ridsdale maxime similis. Ramulis glbris vel sparse pubescentibus saepe siccitate flavo-brunneis, stipulis anguste triangulatis, floribus subsessilibus, calyicum lobis 0–1 mm longis, corollae tubo 3–4 mm longis extus glabro, fructibus ovoideis 5–8 mm. — Typus: *Alston 1428* (PDA), Sri Lanka.
Shrub. Branchlets glabrous, rarely sparsely hairy and rapidly becoming glabrous, often drying yellow-brown. Stipules narrowly triangular, 1–2 × 0.5 mm, sparsely hairy. Leaves lanceolate, (3–)4–8–(12) × (0.7–) 1.3 cm, above glabrous, below glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, apex long-acuminate, base acute, lateral nerves 3–4(–6) pairs, prominently raised below, distinct from the tertiary nerves. Petiole up to 0.7 cm long, glabrous to sparsely hairy. Flowers 1–3. Hypanthium ovoid, 0.7–1.5 mm long, glabrous. Calyx campanulate, tube short, 0.2–0.5 mm, outside glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, lobes triangular, 0.5–0.7 mm long, margins with a few scattered hairs. Corolla tube 3–4 mm, outside glabrous, lobes 1.3–2 mm long, outside with a few scattered hairs. Fruits 5–8 mm.

Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (3 coll.), Ratnapura District (3 coll.), Galle District (1 coll.).

Ecology — Montane shrubbery.

Note — This element with glabrous stems, often drying yellowish, was mixed by Thwaites and Trimen in their concept of 'L. walkerianus'. Further collections are required to evaluate the relationship to L. neolanceolatus.

Lasianthus foetulentus Ridsdale, spec. nov.


Lasianthus variantis (Thwaites) Thwaites emend Hook. f. affinis plantis foetidis, glabratis, stipulis lanceolatis, floribus subsessilibus non pedunculis, calycium lobis 1–1.3 mm longis, corollis glabris, fructibus ovoideis 3–5 mm, nigris differt. — Typus: Weeasooriya, Jayasekera & Ridsdale 1973 (holo PDA; iso K, L), Sri Lanka.

Shrub. Branchlets glabrous, crushed plants foetid. Stipules lanceolate, 3–5 × 0.5 mm, glabrous or with a few russet hairs at the top. Leaves elliptic to obovate 3–8 × 1–3 cm, above and below glabrous, lateral and tertiary nerves prominently raised above and below, apex shallowly acute and abruptly apiculate, base acute, lateral nerves 3–5(–8) pairs, scarcely distinct from the prominent, reticulate, tertiary nerves. Petiole up to 1.5 cm long, densely hairy. Flowers 2–6 per axil. Hypanthium ovoid, 0.8–1 mm long, glabrous. Calyx campanulate, tube c. 1 mm, outside glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, lobes triangular, 1–1.3 mm long, margins with a few scattered hairs. Corolla infundibular, tube 3 mm, outside glabrous, lobes ovate, 2 mm long, reflexed, above hairy, hairs curly. Style 5 mm exserted. Fruits ovoid, 3–5 mm, black.

Distribution — Sri Lanka.

Ecology — Montane shruberies.

Notes — The whole complex, L. varians–walkerianus–stigosus, has been continually confused in the past. I have, therefore, taken the choice of lectotypifying L. walkerianthus by the right hand element which clearly is identical to L. strigosus, and describing the common widespread plant of Horton Plains as a new species based on a modern collection.

The third element 'c' is treated as a separate variety.

Lasianthus walkerianianus Wight is clearly based on mixed elements, two sheets at Kew are marked "Type" in black ink. Sheet 1, Herb. Wight Ceylon 1836, consists
of two elements, the right hand element having an additional label with a description in pencil. Left 'a' has a glabrous stem, corolla (immature) with a few scattered hairs; right 'b' the stem is adpressed hairy, strigose, corolla immature, with a few scattered hairs.

Sheet 2, Walker s.n., consists of left + right specimen marked 'c'. Stem, sparsely adpressed hairy, stipules 3–4 × 0.5 mm, adpressed russet hairy, leaves variable 3–7 by 1.5–3 cm, midrib below sparsely pubescent, petiole up to 6 mm, sparsely hairy. Flowers 4–7 per leaf axil, corolla tube 3 mm, sparsely hairy, lobes 1.5 mm, with a few scattered hairs outside at top, anthers 1 mm.

A third specimen, lower centre, 'd', stem glabrous, young buds, corolla not observed.

**KEY TO THE VARIETIES**

- Corolla glabrous .................................. var. foetulentus
- Corolla outside pubescent ...................... var. pseudovarians

**var. foetulentus**


**var. pseudovarians** Ridsdale, var. nov.

A var. foetulento Ridsdale corollis extus pubescentibus differt. — Typus: Walker s.n. 'c' (K), Sri Lanka.

Distribution — Sri Lanka, locality unknown, only known from the type.

Note — Differs only in the pubescent corolla.

**Lasianthus neolanceolatus** Ridsdale, nom. nov.


Shrub. Branchlets sparsely hairy. Stipules lanceolate, 3–5 × 0.5 mm, russet hairy. Leaves lanceolate, 4–15 × 1–3 cm, above glabrous, below very sparsely hairy, lateral nerves prominently raised above and below, apex long-acuminate, base acute, lateral nerves 3–4(–6) pairs, distinct from the tertiary nerves. Petiole up to 0.5 cm long, hairy. Flowers 3 or 4, only known from immature stage. Hypanthium ovoid, 0.5–1 mm long, glabrous. Calyx campanulate, tube 0.7–1 mm, outside glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, lobes triangular, 0.5–0.7 mm long, margins with a few scattered hairs. Corolla tube 2–3 mm, outside very sparsely hairy, lobes c. 2 mm long, outside with a few scattered hairs. Fruits c. 5 mm.

Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (8 coll.), Badulla District (2 coll.), Ratnapura District (1 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (7 coll.).

Ecology — Montane shrubbery.
Metabolus decipiens (Thwaites) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Matale District (1 coll.), Kandy District (2 coll.), Badulla District (1 coll.), Ratnapura District (1 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (21 coll.).


Note — Vegetatively very variable, var. flavescens with its subsessile ovate to rotundate leaves at first sight appears to be distinct, but a whole range of intermediates exist.

Oldenlandia erecta (Manilal & Sivar.) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Erect annual herbs. Stems angular, ridges prominent, glabrous to scabrous. Stipules 2–3 mm long, pectinate, bristles 2–5. Leaves suberect, linear-lanceolate, 10–40 × 4–6 mm, margins often recurved, above glabrous, below scabrous particularly on the midrib, apex and base acute, lateral nerves inconspicuous. Inflorescence axillary cyme, peduncles 0.5–2 cm long, usually at right angles to the stem. Flowers (1 or) 2 or 3, pedicel 2–5 mm long. Hypanthium ovoid, 0.7–1 mm long, calyx tube short, lobes triangular, 0.7–2 mm long. Corolla tube 1.5–2 mm long, outside glabrous, inside with a ring of hairs in the throat, lobes triangular, 1–1.2 mm long. Stamens inserted just below the corolla throat, filaments short, anthers 0.3–0.5 mm. Style 0.5–0.7 mm, stigma bifid. Capsule globose, 2.5–3 × 1.5–2 mm.

Distribution — Sri Lanka (exact locality unknown), continental Southeast Asia, Java.

Ecology — Weedy species of dry grasslands and waste places.

Note — Sivarajan & Biju (l.c.) maintain that the Indian materials they have examined are distinct from the African materials of *Oldenlandia corymbosa var. linearis* (DC.) Verdc. whilst Deb & Dutta (l.c.) consider them to be conspecific. As there is no widespread revision of the group throughout Southeast Asia and Malesia I have nominally recognised *O. erecta*.

Ophiorrhiza rugosa Wall.

KEY TO THE VARIETIES

1a. Stem succulent below, procumbent, rooting at nodes .......... var. prostrata
   b. Stem woody below .................................................. 2

2a. Leaves broadly elliptic to obovate, generally less than 4 cm long ................................................................. var. decumbens
   b. Leaves elliptic, generally over 4 cm long ....................... 3

3a. Leaves drying brownish below .................................... var. angustifolia
   b. Leaves drying silvery below .................................... var. argentea

var. angustifolia (Thwaites) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (10 coll.), Badulla District (1 coll.), Kalutara District (1 coll.), Ratnapura District (3 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (1 coll.). ?Peninsular India.

Ecology — Primary and secondary forest and damp places in the wet zone of Sri Lanka.

**Pavetta badullensis** Ridsdale, *nom. nov.*


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Badulla District (3 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (1 collection).

Ecology — Primary and secondary montane forest.

Notes — Hooker based var. *montana* on a *Thwaites* collection noting and adopting a manuscript name; *CP 2512* is the only sheet with such an annotation and must be considered as the type.

Bremerkamp attempted to create a new species for this taxon and chose *CP 2456* as the type of his *P. blanda*. I believe that the collections with a short corolla tube are separate from *P. blanda*. The epithet *P. montana* already exists, hence the new name. Fruiting material is difficult to separate from *P. blanda*.

**Psydrax dicoccos** Gaertn. var. *lanceolatum* (Arn.) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (3 coll.); possibly also Peninsular India.

Ecology — Rupiculous, sometimes rheophytic.
Psydrax grandifolia (Thwaites) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Distribution — Endemic, only known with certainty from two unlocalized historical collections.

Ecology — Unknown.

Psydrax montanum (Thwaites) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Kandy District (3 coll.), Badulla District (1 coll.), Nuwara Eliya District (3 coll.), Ratnapura District (1 coll.).

Ecology — Upper montane forest.

Psydrax pergracile (Bourd.) Ridsdale, *comb. nov.*

*Canthium pergracile* Bourd., J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. 12 (1899) 352, t. 5. — Type: not indicated (Bourdillon [K]).


Distribution — Sri Lanka: Ratnapura District (2 coll.); Peninsular India.

Ecology — Evergreen forest.

INDEX
(Synonyms in italics)

| Allaeophania arnottii | 460 | decipiens | 460 |
| var. flavescens | 460 |
| Canthium didymum | 462 |
| var. grandifolium | 462 |
| var. lanceolatum | 461 |
| var. rostrata | 462 |
| lanceolatum | 461 |
| montanum | 462 |
| pergracile | 462 |
| Hedyotis coprosmoides | 456 |
| corymbosa | 456 |
| var. linearis | auct. 460 |
| erecta | 460 |
| gartmorensis | 455 |
| lessertiana | auct. 456 |
| neolessertiana | 456 |
| obscura | var. B 456 |
| var. minor | 456 |
| (Hedyotis) tridentata | 456 |
| trimenii | 457 |
| var. orbicularifolia | 457 |
| var. trimenii | 457 |
| Knoxia platycarpa | 457 |
| var. spicata | 457 |
| spicata | 457 |
| Lasianthus chrysocaulis | 457 |
| foetulentus | 458 |
| var. foetulentus | 459 |
| var. pseudovarians | 459 |
| neolanceolatus | 459 |
| variants | 458 |
| walkerianus | auct. 458 |
| walkerianus | var. lanceolata | 459 |
| Metabolus decipiens | 460 |
| rugosa | var. decipiens | 460 |
| var. flavescens | 460 |
| Oldenlandia erecta | 460 |
| lessertiana | 456 |
| Ophiorrhiza angustifolia | 461 |
| mungos | var. angustifolia | 461 |
| rugosa | 460 |
| var. angustifolia | 461 |
| var. argentea | 461 |
| var. prostrata | 461 |
| var. decumbens | 461 |
| Pavetta badullensis | 461 |
| indica var. montana | 461 |
| Plectronia montana | 462 |
| Psychrdrac dicoccoc | var. lanceolatum | 461 |
| grandifolia | 462 |
| montanum | 462 |
| pergracile | 462 |
| Webera lanceolatum | 461 |