



# *Trillesanthus*, a validly published name to replace the African genus *Marquesia* (*Dipterocarpaceae*)

M.S.M. Sosef<sup>1</sup>

## Key words

E. Delpy  
*Dipterocarpaceae*  
Gabon  
*Marquesia*  
nomenclature  
Louis Pierre  
*Trillesanthus*

**Abstract** The name *Trillesanthus excelsus* occurs on a set of drawings prepared by E. Delpy and shows the African Dipterocarpaceous species known as *Marquesia excelsa*, a near endemic of Gabon. It turns out to be an overlooked but effectively and validly published name. Therefore, the genus name *Trillesanthus* has priority over *Marquesia*. The necessary new combinations are made.

**Published on** 16 April 2010

## INTRODUCTION

The French botanist Louis Pierre (1833–1905), most renowned for his 'Flore forestière de la Cochinchine', had his personal artist E. Delpy prepare large series of detailed botanical drawings. These were multiplied by means of a lithographic process and distributed to the main European herbaria such as B, BR, G, K, L and P (Chevalier 1906: 8). As such, these drawings were effectively published (McNeill et al. 2006: Art. 29). They generally carry a name not in printed format but in Delpy's neat handwriting, which, however, according to Art. 30.1 of the same Code still renders the publication effective. As shown by the fine article of Breteler (2005), copies of the drawings were generally distributed very soon after their completion (often in the same month). Since the Code says that (Art. 42.3) "Prior to 1 January 1908 an illustration with analysis ... is acceptable ... in place of a written description or diagnosis" (see Art. 44.4 for the definition of 'an analysis'), we conclude, in agreement with Breteler (2005), that the names present on the drawings were validly published.

As also noted by Breteler (2005), many authors have overlooked the fact that Pierre's drawings represent effectively and validly published material that should be taken into account in nomenclatorial decisions.

## THE CASE OF MARQUESIA

The genus *Marquesia* was created by Gilg in 1908, as a new genus in the family *Flacourtiaceae* to accommodate the new species *M. macroura* Gilg. A few years later, Fries (1914) rightfully places the genus in *Dipterocarpaceae* and adds two more species, *M. excelsa* (Pierre) R.E.Fr. and *M. acuminata* (Gilg) R.E.Fr. While the latter is based on *Monotes acuminatus* Gilg, for the first species Fries clearly refers to one of Pierre's 'unpublished' (sic) drawings he saw in the Berlin herbarium and which according to him carried the name *Schoutenia excelsa*

Pierre. Fries called that a 'nomen nudum' where we think this rather should be called a 'manuscript name' (see below). He mentions two specimens belonging to *M. excelsa*: *G. Tessmann B. 199* from Equatorial Guinea and *Rev. Père H. Trilles 43* from Gabon.

While preparing the *Dipterocarpaceae* treatment for the newly revitalized Flore du Gabon (Sosef & Florence 2007), the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (P) in Paris send me two herbarium sheets of the collection *Trilles 43*, the type material of *Marquesia excelsa* a near endemic species from Gabon (Sosef et al. 2006). Pierre's drawing is glued onto one of these sheets (Fig. 1). In its upper right corner it is stated that the drawing was prepared after this collection. Moreover, the name *Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre is written above the plant drawing and comprises a clear element of the printed material. Regarding what has been said in the introduction, it is now clear that, although never mentioned before in literature, this material represents the effectively and validly publication of the generic name *Trillesanthus* Pierre and the species name *T. excelsus* Pierre.

Unfortunately, the Berlin copy of the drawing, cited by Fries (1914), could not be traced, and was most likely lost during the 1943 bombing. However, apart from Paris, the herbaria in Kew and Geneva also hold a copy and kindly send me a scanned image of them. No copies could be traced in BR and L.

After the multiplication of the original drawing, Pierre added on each printed specimen above the name *Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre "*Schoutenia ? excelsa* Pierre" in handwriting and with a different type of ink (Fig. 1). (The writing on the Paris, Kew and Geneva copies all deviate slightly from each other.) Therefore, this name is not an element of the effective publication, but a mere manuscript name. From the original label and accompanying handwritten plant descriptions and analyses accompanying the Paris material, it is obvious that Pierre doubted whether the species should be placed in the genus *Schoutenia* or *Actinophora* or was better accommodated in a new genus *Trillesanthus*. Unfortunately, the specimens were scanned and databased in Paris for the African Plant Initiative project coordinated by Aluka under the name *Actinophora excelsa* Pierre and now figure as such on the Aluka website

<sup>1</sup> Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis (section NHN), Biosystematics Group, Wageningen University, Generaal Foulkesweg 37, 6703 BL Wageningen, The Netherlands;  
corresponding author e-mail: Marc.Sosef@wur.nl.

H.L.P.N°

*Schinus*? *excelsa* Hier  
*Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre.

Hab. Gabon: Monts de Cristal.

Coll. R-P Trilles N° 43 1/99

Fig. 1 Drawing of *Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre by E. Delpy, based on Trilles 43; copy present in P.



(<http://www.aluka.org/page/content/plants.jsp>, August 2009), although this name never appeared in literature and should be considered a mere manuscript name as well.

The *Trillesanthus* drawing was finished by Delpy in May 1901 (Fig. 1, lower left corner), and most likely multiplied and deposited at least in the Paris herbarium soon after that (see above). The label in the lower right corner of the herbarium sheet states

the material was donated by Pierre to P on 25 March 1904. This concurs with the date found in a booklet in the Paris herbarium which states that on 25 March 1904 Pierre donated 2 000 sheets of material from 'Congo' (Gabon belonged to French Congo in those days) including collections from Klaine (who collected in Gabon). Both the G and K copy of the drawing carry a stamp saying "Ex Herbario Musei Parisiensis". This implies

that these copies were distributed by P, rather than by Pierre himself, most likely after the donation of the African part of the Pierre collection to the Paris Museum in March 1904 (see also Breteler 2005: 327). Since for the date of publication we should take the date of distribution (through sale, exchange or gift) to 'a botanical institution' (McNeill et al. 2006, Art. 29.1) of the printed material, the publication year is most likely 1901, or 1904 at the latest. This implies that the genus name *Trillesanthus* Pierre (1901, 1904?) has priority over *Marquesia* Gilg (1908).

The above findings necessitate the transfer of the three existing species from *Marquesia* to *Trillesanthus*, which is effected below.

#### ***Trillesanthus* Pierre — Fig. 1**

*Trillesanthus* Pierre, t. Herb. L. Pierre, del. E. Delpy 5/1901 (see Fig. 1, copies in G, K and P). — Type species: *Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre.

#### ***Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre — Fig. 1**

*Trillesanthus excelsus* Pierre, t. Herb. L. Pierre, del. E. Delpy 5/1901 (see Fig. 1, copies in G, K and P). — *Schoutenia excelsa* Pierre, msc. name. — *Actinophora excelsa* Pierre, msc. name. — *Marquesia excelsa* R.E.Fries 51 (1914) 351. — Type: *Trilles* 43 (holo P; iso K, P), Gabon, ab montes Cristal, Jan. 1899.

#### ***Trillesanthus acuminatus* (Gilg) Sosef, comb. nov.**

*Monotes acuminatus* Gilg, Notizbl. Königl. Bot. Gart. Berlin 1 (1896) 153. — *Marquesia acuminata* R.E.Fries (1914) 351. — Type: *Buchner* 525 (holo B destroyed?), Angola, am Flusse Ruida, Oct. 1880.

*Marquesia noldeae* Mildbr. (1939) 379. — Type: *Nolde* 717 (holo B destroyed?; iso LISC), Angola, Ngola, Hochland von Quela, Apr. 1938.

#### ***Trillesanthus macrourus* (Gilg) Sosef, comb. nov.**

*Marquesia macroura* Gilg, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 40 (1908) 485. — Type: *L. Marques* 172 (holo B destroyed?; iso COI), Angola, Malange, in silvis Machinge, June 1885.

**Acknowledgements** First of all, Frans Breteler (WAG) is sincerely thanked for guiding me through the information concerning Pierre's collections and the associated Delpy drawings. Robert Vogt (B), Elmar Robbrecht (BR), Martin Cheek & Laura Pearce (K) and Laurent Gautier & Venera Fonjallaz (G) are all acknowledged for assisting in locating relevant material in their respective institutes. Jan-Frits Veldkamp (L) is acknowledged for the same and for his comments on an earlier version of the manuscript. Finally, Yoke Ferwerda (Atelier Ferwerda, Ede) is kindly thanked for her assessment of the process used to print the drawings.

## REFERENCES

- Breteler FJ. 2005. Novitates Gabonenses 55. Manuscript names and drawings of the French botanist Louis Pierre (1833–1905): a discussion about their validity with some examples of nomenclatural consequences for the Gabonese flora in particular. *Adansonia*, sér. 3, 27: 325–335.
- Chevalier A. 1906. J.B.-Louis Pierre, 1833–1905, botaniste français. *L'Agriculture Pratique des Pays Chauds* 6: 1–15.
- Fries RE. 1914. Die Gattung *Marquesia* und ihre systematische Stellung. *Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie* 51: 349–355.
- Gilg E. 1896. VIII. Diagnosen neuer Arten – *Monotes acuminatus* Gilg n. sp. *Notizblatt des Königlichen botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin* 1, 4: 153–154.
- Gilg E. 1908. Flacourtiaceae africanae. In: Engler A (ed), *Beiträge zur Flora von Afrika*. XXXII. *Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie* 40: 444–518.
- McNeill J, Barrie FR, Burdet HM, Demoulin V, Hawksworth DL, Marhold K, Nicolson DH, Prado J, Silva PC, Skog JE, Wiersema JH, Turland NJ. 2006. *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (Vienna Code)*. *Regnum Vegetabile* 146. Gantner Verlag KG, Ruggell.
- Mildbraed J. 1939. Eine neue *Marquesia* aus Angola. *Notizblatt des Königlichen botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin* 14: 379–380.
- Sosef MSM, Florence J. 2007. The Flore du Gabon revitalized with a checklist and database. In: Achoundong G (ed), XVIIth AETFAT Congress, 26 February – 2 March 2007: 130. *Herbier National du Cameroun*, Yaoundé.
- Sosef MSM, Wieringa JJ, Jongkind CCH, Achoundong G, Azizet Issembé Y, Bedigian D, Van den Berg RG, Breteler FJ, Cheek M, Degreef J, Faden RB, Goldblatt P, Van der Maesen LJG, Ngok Banak L, Niangadouma R, Nzabi T, Nziengui B, Rogers ZS, Stévarit T, Van Valkenburg JLCH, Walters G, De Wilde JJFE. 2006. Check-list des plantes vasculaires du Gabon / Checklist of Gabonese vascular plants. *Scripta Botanica Belgica* 35. *Jardin Botanique National de Belgique / National Botanic Garden of Belgium*, Meise.