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Lectotypifications in *Ditassa* R.Br. (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae)

TATIANA U.P. KONNO[1,2] and MARIA DAS GRAÇAS L. WANDERLEY[1]

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ABSTRACT – (Lectotypifications in *Ditassa* R. Br. (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae)). As results of a revision of the Brazilian species of *Ditassa*, lectotypes for *D. endoleuca* Schltr., *D. pauciflora* Decne. and *D. ramosa* E. Fourn. (= *D. blanchetii* Decne.) are designated.

Key words - *Ditassa*, lectotypes, Neotropics, nomenclature

RESUMO – (Lectotipificações em *Ditassa* R. Br. (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae)). Como resultados da revisão das espécies brasileiras de *Ditassa*, lectótipos para *D. endoleuca* Schltr., *D. pauciflora* Decne. e *D. ramosa* E. Fourn. (=*D. blanchetii* Decne.) são designados.

Palavras-chave - *Ditassa*, lectótipos, Neotrópicos, nomenclatura

Introduction

Ditassa R. Br. is a neotropical genus of Asclepiadoideae (Apocynaceae) with approximately 115 species and one of the richest genera of Asclepiadoideae in Brazil. Since Brown (1810) described *Ditassa*, the genus has never received a formal revision. Most of the names had been established before 1950. Since then, the nomenclature and taxonomy of *Ditassa* have been treated in diverse papers, especially by Fontella-Pereira (1965, 1979a, 1979b, 1989, 1993), Fontella-Pereira *et al.* (1995), Fontella-Pereira & Schwarz (1981) among others and, more recently by Rapini *et al*. (2001), Fontella-Pereira & Konno (2002) and Rapini (2002).

The genus is usually recognized by subaxillary umbelliform cymes and flowers with a corona compound of two segments, in which outer segments are united to each other at least at the base. Based on molecular evidences, *Ditassa* is clearly a polyphyletic group (Rapini *et al.* 2003), demanding new realignments.

Apart from a phylogenetic discussion, the genus is still in need of some basic nomenclature work. In order to complete the ongoing monograph of *Ditassa*, the types of Brazilian and non-Brazilian species were examined. Some of these species are being lectotypified in this work.

Material and methods

Type collections of the following herbaria were examined: BM, BR, C, F, G, HB, K, MBM, MO, NY, P, R, RB, SP, SPF, W, UPS and US (acronyms according to Holmgren & Holmgren 2003). Additional information on the types not presented in the original publication are added.

Results and Discussion

1. *Ditassa ramosa* E. Fourn. *in* Mart., Fl. bras. 6(4):246. 1885. Lectotype, designated here: BRAZIL, "ad Bahia", s.d., *J.S. Blanchet s.n.* (P 00140190!; isolectotypes G, MO, W!). Other syntypes: BRAZIL, "ad Ilheos, prov. Bahia", *Luschnath 1314* (BR!); "Rio de Janeiro", *Glaziou 11202* (P!, K!).

Ditassa ramosa is known only by the type collection. It was described based on three specimens, two from Bahia State (*Luschnath 1314* and *Blanchet s.n.*) and one from State of Rio de Janeiro (*Glaziou 11202*). The material collected by *Blanchet* (P) agrees perfectly with the protologue and was selected as the lectotype of *D. ramosa*.

The similarities between *Ditassa ramosa* and *D. blanchetii* are numerous and *D. ramosa* is a synonym of *D. blanchetii*. *Ditassa hispida* is the most similar species to *D. blanchetii* but differs in having hispid indument covering entirely the stem (vs. bilateral indument in *D. blanchetii*).

2. *Ditassa endoleuca* Schltr., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 37:612. 1906. Lectotype, designated here: "Ecuador, in fruticetis prope Loya [Loja]", 2,000-2,300 m.s.m., s.d., *F.C. Lehmann 7886* (K!; isolectotype US!; original syntype at B destroyed). Other syntype: "Columbia, in fruticetis prope Popayan", 1,800-2,000 m.s.m., s.d., *F.C. Lehmann 4843* (B destroyed, F!, K!).

Ditassa endoleuca occurs in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, on high elevations (1,600-2,500 m.s.m.) and

1. Instituto de Botânica de São Paulo, Av. Miguel Estéfano 3687, 04301-012 São Paulo, Brazil.
2. Corresponding author: tkonno@uol.com.br

xerophytic habitats. The stem is densely tomentose and glaucous. The oblong leaves are also indumented and have strongly revolute margins. Examination of other *Ditassa* collections from Colombia highlighted the relation of *D. endoleuca* with *D. caucana* Pittier. However, further comments could only be made when the whole diversity of *Ditassa* in Neotropics has been evaluated.

3. *Ditassa pauciflora* Decne. *in* A. DC., Prodr. 8:577. 1844. Lectotype, designated here: "In Guiana Angl., Piraro", s.d., *Schomburgk 359* (K!; isolectotypes BM!, G, LE, P!). Other syntype: *Ibidem*, *Schomburgk 770* (BM!, G, K!, LE, P!).
= *Ditassa divaricata* Turcz., Bull. Soc. Imp. Naturalistes Moscou 25(2):317. 1852. Type: "Guiana Britannica, 1837, *Schomburgk 770* (LE), *nom. superfl.*

The syntypes *Schomburgk 770* and *359* at K, BM and P are in conformation with the original description. However, Turczaninow (1852) placed *Schomburgk 770* (LE) under a new species *D. divaricata* Turcz. with the allegation that this material was totally different from what Decaisne (1844) named as *D. pauciflora*. On the other hand, Turczaninow (1852) confirmed the identity of *Schomburgk 359* as *D. pauciflora*. In spite of being a richer material, *Schomburgk 770* is a dubious collection, hence it is conclusive that *Schomburgk 359* should be assigned as the lectotype of *D. pauciflora*.

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