



Lectotypification of *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* (Loranthaceae) and its placement in *Struthanthus*

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The species *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* Chamisso & Schlechtendal (1828) was based on an unnumbered specimen collected by Friedrich Sellow from an unknown Brazilian locality. Its protologue, unfortunately, does not adequately distinguish the species from most other, presently known, Brazilian entities in *Struthanthus*, its current generic position. The original material forming the basis of the species was destroyed in Berlin during World War II. The name *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* has not been typified.

A possible syntype of *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* exists in the Paris Museum (P 00210889). It represents three flowering branches bearing slender, narrow leaves as well as inflorescences that are nearly as long, or longer than, the leaf blades, the number of triad pairs being three or four. A standard “Ex Museo botanico Berolinensis” label is present. Curiously, it bears the notation “*Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* Cham. et Schlecht.” in A. W. Eichler’s hand writing, even though it was received by the Paris Museum in 1875, seven years after Eichler’s publication (1868), where it was placed in synonymy under *Struthanthus syringifolius* (Martius) Martius. It was collected in “Brasilia” by Sellow. In Paris, it was also identified as *S. syringifolius*.

To my knowledge, the epithet “*thyrsoiflorus*” has surfaced in botanical writings only twice since its original publication. The species was placed in *Psittacanthus* (*P. thyrsoiflorus* (Chamisso & Schlechtendal) G. Don in 1834, an erroneous allocation. In Eichler’s (1868) superb treatment of Brazilian mistletoes (Eichler 1868), as mentioned *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* was listed as a synonym of *Struthanthus syringifolius*. The holotype of the latter species exists in Munich (M 0210968; Field Museum Neg. # 19043). A comparison of this image with that of the above Paris plant demonstrates that the two specimens, both of which are mature and bear inflorescences, are clearly specifically distinct. The holotype of *S. syringifolius* has leaf blades about twice as long as the subtended inflorescences, and are broadly ovate with a caudate apex and nearly truncate base; additionally, the midrib is conspicuously distinct and runs to the apex. All of these features contrast strongly with those of the Paris specimen that, therefore, has to be removed from *S. syringifolius*. As far as I know, the epithet “*thyrsoiflorus*” has not again emerged in botanical writing in the genus since 1868. Especially because it represents one of the earliest published epithets in South America east of the Andes, it needs to be placed in the genus *Struthanthus* and lectotypified.

Struthanthus thyrsoiflorus (Chamisso & Schlechtendal) Kujit, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Loranthus thyrsoiflorus* Chamisso & Schlechtendal (1828: 214).

Type: “In Brasilia aequinoctiali”, n.d., *F. Sellow s.n.* (lectotype, designated here: P00210889).

Homotypic synonym: *Psittacanthus thyrsoiflorus* (Chamisso & Schlechtendal) G. Don (1834: 417).

Acknowledgements

I am indebted for nomenclatural advice from K. Gandhi (GH), for help in locating the Paris image to B. Stannard (K), and for the identification of A. W. Eichler’s hand writing to H.-J. Esser (M).

Literature cited

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