



***Barleria gandhii*, a new name for *Barleria pauciflora* (Acanthaceae)**

RAMALINGAM KOTTAIMUTHU

Department of Botany, Saraswathi Narayanan College, Madurai-625 022, Tamil Nadu, India.

Emails: kottaimuthu@yahoo.co.in; rkmlegumes@gmail.com

Barleria Linnaeus (1753: 636) is a pantropical genus comprising about 250–300 species (Balkwill & Balkwill 1998, Darbyshire *et al.* 2012), with its greatest centre of species diversity in tropical Africa, followed by South Africa and Asia (Balkwill & Balkwill 1998, Darbyshire 2010). It can be easily distinguished from other genera of Acanthaceae by a combination of three characters: a 4-partite calyx with 2 large outer (anterior and posterior) segments and 2 smaller inner (lateral) ones, spheroidal, pollen grains with coarsely reticulate exine and the predominance of double cystoliths (calcium oxalate crystals) in the epidermal cells (Balkwill & Balkwill 1997, Champluvier 2011, Darbyshire 2010).

During the revision of the Acanthaceae in preparation for the 'Flore d'Afrique Centrale,' Champluvier (2011) has described eight new species in *Barleria*. Of these, *Barleria pauciflora* Champluvier (2011: 91), is an invalid name because it is a later homonym of *Barleria pauciflora* Schweinf. ex Lindau (1895: 315). Hence a new name is proposed here.

Barleria gandhii R.Kottaimuthu, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Barleria pauciflora* Champluvier (2011: 91), *nom. illeg.*, non *Barleria pauciflora* Schweinf. ex Lindau (1895: 315).

TYPE: D. R. CONGO. District du Haut-Katanga, chutes Dikolongo, près de Lubudi, 1230 m, April 1985, *Malaisse & Goetghebeur* 283 (holotype BR, isotypes B, CAS, K!, MO, P, WAG).

Etymology:—Named in honor of Dr. Kanchi N. Gandhi, Senior Nomenclatural Registrar, Harvard University, U.S.A., for his outstanding contributions in the field of angiosperm taxonomy.

Distribution:—Democratic Republic of Congo-Endemic.

References

- Balkwill, M.J. & Balkwill, K. (1997) Delimitation and infrageneric classification of *Barleria* (Acanthaceae). *Kew Bulletin* 52: 535–573.
- Balkwill, M.J. & Balkwill, K. (1998) A preliminary analysis of distribution pattern in a large, pantropical genus, *Barleria* L. (Acanthaceae). *Journal of Biogeography* 25: 95–110.
- Champluvier, D. (2011) New and overlooked Acanthaceae taxa from D.R.Congo, Rwanda and Burundi: (1) the genus *Barleria*. *Plant Ecology and Evolution* 144: 82–95.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5091/plecevo.2011.388>
- Darbyshire, I. (2010) *Barleria*. In: Beentje, H. (Ed.) *Flora of Tropical East Africa. Acanthaceae (Part 2)*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, pp. 325–442.
- Darbyshire, I., Tripp, E.A. & Dexter, K.G. (2012) A new species and a revised record in Namibian *Barleria* (Acanthaceae). *Kew Bulletin* 67: 759–766.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s12225-012-9393-1>
- Lindau, G. (1895) Acanthaceae. In: Engler, A. & Prantl, K. (Eds.) *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, vol. 4 (3b), Engelmann, Leipzig, pp. 274–353.
- Linnaeus, C. (1753) *Species Plantarum*. Vol. 2. Salvius, Stockholm, pp. 636–637.