



Staurogyne nitida, a new combination among Brazilian Acanthaceae

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Staurogyne carvalhoi is a later heterotypic synonym of *Ebermaiera nitida*. The new combination *Staurogyne nitida*, based on the older name, is herewith proposed.

Staurogyne carvalhoi é um sinônimo heterotípico posterior de *Ebermaiera nitida*. A nova combinação, *Staurogyne nitida*, é aqui proposta com base no nome anterior.

Keywords: Nelsonioideae, *Staurogyne carvalhoi*, synonym, nomenclature

Introduction

Staurogyne Wallich (1831: 80) (Nelsonioideae, Acanthaceae) comprises 145 species distributed in Asia, Africa and the Americas (Champluvier 1991, Daniel & McDade 2014). In the Neotropics the genus is represented by 28 species (Braz & Monteiro 2017), most of which have been described in the genus *Ebermaiera* Nees von Esenbeck (1832: 75), which was treated as a synonym of *Staurogyne* by Kuntze (1891).

Staurogyne carvalhoi Profice (2000: 203) was described based on specimens collected in the Brazilian states of Bahia and Espírito Santo. While examining historical collections of Acanthaceae from Brazil, we discovered that the type of *Ebermaiera nitida* Moore (1879: 812) (Fig. 1), represents the same species that was described as *S. carvalhoi* Profice (2000: 203) (Fig. 1).

Described earlier, *Ebermaiera nitida* has priority for the species name and *S. carvalhoi* is a heterotypic synonym. There being no impediment to the use of the epithet of the basionym, the new combination for *E. nitida* in *Staurogyne* is proposed below.

Although the collector and number were not cited in the protologue, the specimen in the Kew Herbarium cited below conforms to information in the protologue, bears the scientific name and author in Moore's handwriting, and indicates "Type specimen!". The authorship of *Ebermaiera nitida* was mistakenly attributed to Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach (as "Reich. f.") in Index Kewensis (Hooker & Jackson 1895) and (as "Rchb. f.") in the International Plant Names Index (IPNI 2018). Spencer Moore, resident at Kew in 1879, is clearly listed as the author in the protologue and on the type specimen (Fig. 1), and the plants studied by him were grown and studied at Kew from materials originating at William Bull's garden.

This species shows some morphological differences with other species of the genus, as noted by annotations on the type of *Ebermaiera nitida* (Fig. 1) and by Braz & Monteiro (2017). Several of the annotations indicate that the plant does not pertain to *Staurogyne*. Molecular phylogenetic studies are currently underway to assess the generic affinities of this species.

Taxonomic treatment

Staurogyne nitida (Moore 1879: 812) Braz & T.F. Daniel, comb. nov. Basionym: *Ebermaiera nitida* Moore (1879: 812). Type: Cultivated at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from materials obtained from William Bull's garden that originated in Brazil, June 1879, s.coll. s.n. (holotype: K001096528!).

Staurogyne carvalhoi Profice (2000: 203). Type: BRAZIL. Bahia. Ubaitaba, 4 September 1970, T.S.Santos 1085 (holotype: CEPEC; isotype RB!).



FIGURE 1. Types of (A) *Staurogyne nitida* (S. Moore) Braz & T.F. Daniel, the new combination, and (B) *S. carvalhoi* Profice, the synonymized name.

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