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Transfer of West Indian *Marsdenia* to *Ruehssia* (Apocynaceae–Asclepiadoideae)

PEDRO ACEVEDO-RODRÍGUEZ

Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, PO Box 37012, MRC-166, Washington, DC 20013-7012

✉ acevedop@si.edu; <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0946-8668>

In a recent paper by Espirito Santo *et al.* (2019), strong support was presented for the recognition of the American species of *Marsdenia* Brown (1810: 460) as a clade not closely related to *Marsdenia tinctoria* Brown (1811: 30) the type of the genus. They opted to recognize this American clade as a separate genus instead of lumping several genera into a morphologically diverse and un-diagnosable *Marsdenia*. *Ruehssia* Karsten (1849: 304) being the oldest available name applicable to this taxon, was resurrected in order to accommodate the American species of *Marsdenia* (ca. 127 spp.). Although the focus of their paper was on the Brazilian species of the genus, they analyzed a total of 93 species distributed in the Americas, where two well-supported clades were recovered, one with the South American species and another with the Mesoamerican and West Indian species. The monophyly of the American *Marsdenia*, *i.e.*, *Ruehssia*, was confirmed by Keller *et al.* (2020) who analyzed additional species including representatives from the West Indies and Central America. In 2019, Espirito Santo *et al.* only provided new combinations for the Brazilian species of *Marsdenia*. During the same year, Liede, S. Reuss & Meve (Reuss *et al.* 2019), transferred all species of *Marsdenia* occurring in Cuba into the genus *Ruehssia*, and Goyder (Bárrios *et al.* 2020) transferred the Puerto Rican Bank endemic *Marsdenia woodburyana* Acevedo-Rodríguez (1999: 167) into *Ruehssia*.

A total of 24 species belonging to this clade are recognized for the West Indies (Klings and Endress 2012) but currently are classified under two different genera. Thirteen species are recognized as *Ruehssia* (Reuss *et al.* 2019; Bárrios *et al.* 2020) while 11 are still classified as *Marsdenia* (Klings and Endress 2012). The transfer of these 11 names from *Marsdenia* into *Ruehssia* is necessary in order to treat these closely related taxa as belonging to the same genus in the online version of *Catalogue of the seed plants of the West Indies*, posted on the Smithsonian Institution webpage (Acevedo-Rodríguez and Strong 2005 onwards). In order to provide the most up-to-date nomenclature for this diverse floristic region, the 11 combinations are here proposed.

Ruehssia dictyophylla (Urban) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia dictyophylla* Urban (1922: 194).

Type:—HAITI. Sud-Est: Furcy, Mt. Trauchant, open area, 1300 m, 26 May–15 June 1920, *E.C. Leonard 4378* (holotype: B⁺; lectotype US! [US00112428] here designated; isotype: NY [NY00111048]!).

Because the holotype was destroyed or lost, the isotype at US is selected as the lectotype since it is a representative collection and also the home herbarium of the collector.

Ruehssia dussii (Schlechter) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia dussii* Schlechter (1899: 275).

Type:—MARTINIQUE. Without locality, *Duss s.n.* “Based on a single collection sent by Duss to Theodore Bernhardt” [lost].

Although the holotype is presumably lost, I refrain from designating a neotype because the collections assigned to this taxon need further study.

Ruehssia ekmanii (Alain) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia ekmanii* Alain (Liogier: 1968: 149).

Type:—HAITI. Nord-Ouest: Montagnes Terre-Neuve, Dumirail, limestone cliffs, in thickets, 1000 m, 9 October 1925, *Ekman H-5038* (holotype: US! [US00112432]; isotype: S (herb. no. S03-2280) [digital image!]).

Ruehssia elliptica (Decaisne) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia elliptica* Decne. in A. de Candolle (1844: 616).

Type:—PUERTO RICO. Without locality, 1827, *Wydler 308* (holotype: G-DC [digital image 00136902!]).

Ruehssia haitiensis (Urban & Ekman) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia haitiensis* Urb. & Ekman in Urban (1926: 40).

Type:—HAITI. Quest: Montagne de Trou d'Eau, Morne a Cabrits, on limestone, 250 m, 14 July 1924, *Ekman H-891* (holotype: S (herb. no. S03-2280) [digital image!]; isotype: US! [US00112432]).

Ruehssia macfadyenii (Rendle) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia macfadyenii* Rendle (1937: 349).

Type:—JAMAICA. Without locality, without date, *Macfadyen s.n.* (holotype: K [K000438650!]).

Ruehssia macroglossa (Schlechter) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia macroglossa* Schlechter (1899: 276).

Type:—GUADELOUPE. Without locality, *Duss 3774* (holotype: B†; lectotype: US! [US00112441], here designated; isolectotypes: F [digital image!], HUH [HUH00076468!], MO, NY-2 [NY00111049 & NY00111050!]).

Because the holotype was destroyed or lost, the isotype at US, being one of the most representative collections, is here selected as the lectotype.

Ruehssia nitida (Poiret) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Ceropegia nitida* Poiret (1811: 178).

Marsdenia nitida (Poir.) Decaisne (1838: 275).

Type:—HAITI [“*Saint-Domingue*”]. Without locality, without date.

According to Poiret (1811), the holotype of this name was at the Desfontaine herbarium (now at FI) which I have not seen, and because there are two additional collections at P [P00645956 & P04055876] that could be duplicates of the type, I refrain from designating a lectotype until these collections are thoroughly studied. One of the collections at P, i.e., *Nectoux s.n.* [P00645956] was annotated by Dr. Gilberto Morillo (specialist in Asclepiadoideae) as the lectotype, but such lectotypification was never published.

Ruehssia nubicola (Alain) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia nubicola* Alain (Liogier: 1987: 66).

Type:—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. La Vega: Alto Casabito, Bonao, cloud forest, 1300 m, 13 April 1969, *Liogier 14763* (holotype NY! [NY00111051]).

Ruehssia suffruticosa (Alain) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia suffruticosa* Alain (Liogier: 1976: 36).

Type:—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Peravia: Baní, along Baní River, El Recodo, 250 m, September 1974, *Liogier 21820* (holotype: JBSD).

Ruehssia troyana (Urban) Acevedo-Rodríguez, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Marsdenia troyana* Urban (1919: 36).

Type:—JAMAICA. Manchester: Vic. of Troy, ca. 2000 feet elevation, 17 September 1906; *Harris 9515* (holotype: UCWI).

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