SHORT COMMUNICATION

Rhaphidospora platyphylla (S.Moore) Bremek. ex A.R.Bean (Acanthaceae), a new combination for a species from Australia and New Guinea

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Rhaphidospora Nees (Acanthaceae) is represented in Australia by three species, although only two (R. bonneyana (F.Muell.) R.M.Barker and R. cavernarum (F.Muell.) R.M.Barker) were recognised by Barker (1986). Two species occur on Cape York Peninsula, Queensland (R. cavernarum and a second newly recognised here). One specimen of this second species (Hann 336) was identified as R. cavernarum (Barker 1986), but it is now clear that this and other material from Cape York Peninsula matches the type of Justicia platyphylla S.Moore, described from Papua New Guinea.

In a paper describing new species of Acanthaceae from New Guinea, Bremekamp (1957) mentioned that Justicia platyphylla S.Moore rightfully belonged in Rhaphidospora, and he coined the name Rhaphidospora platyphylla (S.Moore) Bremek. at that time. This name has been used in various plant name databases (e.g. IPNI 2017; The Plant List 2017) in recent years. However, the combination was not validly made, because Bremekamp failed to give the full bibliographic reference for the place of publication of the basionym. This is a requirement for all combinations made after the 1st January 1953 (McNeill et al. 2012, Art. 41.5). The combination is here validated.


Acknowledgements

I thank David Halford for bringing this matter to my attention.

References


