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Original Paper

Nomenclatural novelties in *Combretum* (Combretaceae) from Madagascar

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Abstract: In current circumscription, the genus *Calopyxis* Tul. is included under synonymy of the genus *Combretum* Loefl. Two names published in *Calopyxis* are transferred here to *Combretum* resulting in one new combination and a replacement name, i.e., *Combretum ambongense* (H.Perrier) R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar and *C. jongkindii* R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar.

Keywords: *Calopyxis ambongensis*, *Calopyxis decaryana*, *Combretum decaryi*, Endemic, Madagascar

Introduction

The genus *Combretum* Loefl. is represented by about 290 species worldwide in tropics and subtropics regions (Jongkind & Callmander, 2023; POWO, 2024). In Madagascar, the genus is represented by 27 species, viz. *C. albiflorum* (Tul.) Jongkind, *C. boinensis* Jongkind, *C. calopyxis* Jongkind & Callm., *C. capuronii* Jongkind, *C. coccineum* (Sonn.) Lam., *C. coursianum* (H.Perrier) Jongkind, *C. decaryi* Jongkind, *C. eriogynum* (H.Perrier) Jongkind, *C. evisceratum* (H.Perrier) Jongkind, *C. gordonii* Jongkind, *C. grandidieri* Drake, *C. humbertianum* (H.Perrier) Jongkind & Callm., *C. humbertii* H.Perrier ex O.Maurin, *C. longicollum* Jongkind, *C. macrocalyx* (Tul.) Jongkind, *C. malifolium* (Baker) Jongkind & Callm., *C. meridionalis* (H.Perrier) Jongkind, *C. nusbaumeri* Jongkind & L.Gaut., *C. obscurum* Tul., *C. octagonum* (H.Perrier) Jongkind, *C. oxygonium* (Tul.) Jongkind, *C. sakoense* Jongkind & Callm., *C. sphaeroides* (Tul.) Jongkind, *C. subumbellatum* (Baker) Jongkind, *C. trichophyllum* Baker, *C. villosum* (Tul.) Jongkind and *C. violaceum* (Tul.) Jongkind. Except *C. coccineum*, remaining 26 species are endemic to Madagascar. Presently, the genus *Calopyxis* Tul. (earlier considered endemic to Madagascar) is included under the genus *Combretum* as a section by

Jongkind (1995) - *Combretum* subg. *Cacoucia* (Aubl.) Exell & Stace sect. *Calopyxis* (Tul.) Jongkind. Except, *Calopyxis ambongensis* H.Perrier and *C. decaryana* H.Perrier, all the species under *Calopyxis* are transferred to *Combretum*. Recently, Jongkind & Callmander (2023) stated that *Calopyxis ambongensis* and *C. decaryana* might be extreme forms of *Combretum sphaeroides* (Tul.) Jongkind and *C. longicollum* Jongkind, respectively and more research in their area of origin is needed to solve their taxonomic position. After detail study of type specimens, protologue and relevant literature (Perrier de la Bâthie, 1954), we found that *Calopyxis ambongensis* and *C. decaryana* are not extreme forms of *Combretum sphaeroides* and *C. longicollum*, respectively, and the former two species should be transferred to the genus *Combretum*. Therefore, a new combination is made for *Calopyxis ambongensis* H.Perrier under *Combretum* as *C. ambongense* (H.Perrier) R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar and a new name is given for *Calopyxis decaryana* under *Combretum* as *C. jongkindii* R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, because the epithet *decaryana* is not available in *Combretum*, preoccupied as *Combretum decaryi* Jongkind (1995).

Taxonomic treatment

Combretum ambongense (H.Perrier) R. Kr. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, *comb. nov.*

Calopyxis ambongensis H.Perrier, Ann. Mus. Colon. Marseille, sér. 6, 9-10: 15. 1953.

Holotype: Madagascar, Namoroka (Ambongo), December 1926, *H. Perrier de la Bâthie 17815* (P00390078!, Figure 1).

Distribution: Endemic to Madagascar.

Notes: Detail description of this species was given by Perrier de la Bâthie (1954). *Combretum ambongense* differs from *C. sphaeroides* (Figure 2 & 3) in having leaves with dense ferruginous hair, especially abaxially (vs. glabrous on both surfaces or with few hairs on midrib on abaxial side), peduncle absent (vs. present), flowers 6–7 mm long, sessile, brick-red in colour (vs. 10–12 mm long, pedicellate, pale yellowish-green), nectary absent (vs. present), stamens included, up to 1 mm long (vs. shortly exserted, up to 2 mm long), ovary sessile (vs. stipitate).

Combretum jongkindii R. Kr. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, *nom. nov.*

Calopyxis decaryana H.Perrier, Ann. Mus. Colon. Marseille, sér. 6, 9-10: 14. 1953 (*non* ***Combretum decaryi*** Jongkind, Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia Sér. 4, 17: 198. 1995).

Holotype: Madagascar, Namoroka (Ambongo), Soalala district, Reserve n°8, 17 September 1940, *R. Decary 15810* (P00390080!, Figure 4); isotype P00390079!,

Distribution: Endemic to Madagascar.

Etymology: Named after Carel Christiaan Hugo Jongkind, Dutch botanist.

Figure 1: Holotype of *Calopyxis ambongensis* H.Perrier (P00390078, © Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)

Figure 2: Lectotype of *Calopyxis sphaeroides* Tul. ≡ *Combretum sphaeroides* (Tul.) Jongkind (P00048129, © Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)

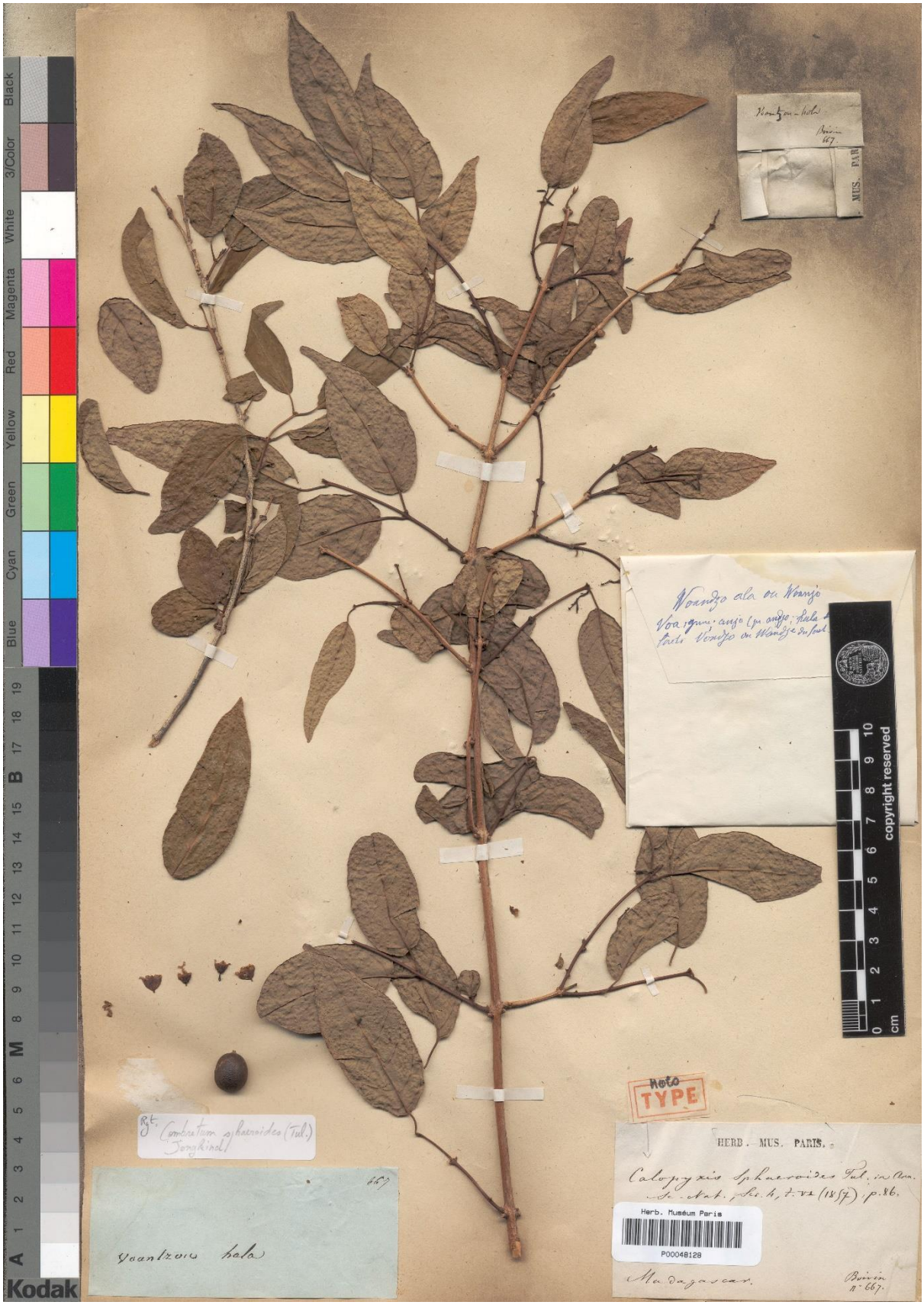

Figure 3: Isolectotype of *Calopyxis sphaeroides* Tul. ≡ *Combretum sphaeroides* (Tul.) Jongkind (P00048128, © Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)

Figure 4: Holotype of *Calopyxis decaryana* H.Perrier (P00390080, © Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)

Figure 5: Holotype of *Combretum longicollum* Jongkind (K000413869, © The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

Notes: Detail description and illustration of this species was given by Perrier de la Bâthie (1954). *Combretum jongkindii* differs from *C. longicollum* (Figure 5) in having glabrous young twigs and leaves (vs. densely ferruginous hairy), inflorescences with 1.5–3.5 cm long, slender peduncles (vs. 0.5–1 cm, stout), lower receptacle glabrous (vs. densely ferruginous hairy), upper receptacle 7.5–8.5 mm long (vs. 5–6 mm), nectary absent (vs. present), style not reaching up to the middle of the receptacle (vs. sparsely exserted).

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