

Nomenclatural novelties in Commelinaceae

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Abstract: Replacement names *Commelina durandii* R. Kr. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar and *C. wildemanii* R. Kr. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar are proposed for the illegitimate names *C. clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand and *C. pallida* De Wild. respectively. A new combination is made for *Aneilema discretum* Craib under the genus *Murdannia* Royle as *M. discreta* (Craib) R. Kr. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar. In addition, lectotypes are designated for the names *Aneilema discretum* Craib, *Commelina clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand and *C. pallida* De Wild. to fix the identity.

Keywords: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Illegitimate, Later homonym, Lectotype, New combination, Replacement name, Thailand

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus *Commelina* Plum. ex L. (Commelinaceae) is represented by about 206 species (POWO, 2024). In Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), the genus is represented by 36 taxa, namely *Commelina acutispatha* De Wild., *C. africana* L., *C. aspera* G.Don ex Benth., *C. benghalensis* L., *C. bracteosa* Hassk. subsp. *bracteosa*, *C. bracteosa* subsp. *rhizomifera* Faden, *C. capitata* Benth., *C. clarkeana* De Wild. & T.Durand, *C. congesta* C.B.Clarke, *C. diffusa* Burm.f., *C. eckloniana* Kunth subsp. *claessensii* (De Wild.) Faden, *C. eckloniana* subsp. *critica* (De Wild.) Faden, *C. eckloniana* subsp. *echinosperma* (K.Schum.) Faden, *C. erecta* L. subsp. *erecta*, *C. erecta* subsp. *livingstonii* (C.B.Clarke) J.K.Morton, *C. fluviatilis* Brenan, *C. foliacea* Chiov., *C. hockii* De Wild., *C. imberbis* Ehrenb. ex Hassk., *C. latifolia* Hochst. ex A.Rich., *C. longicapsa* C.B.Clarke, *C. neurophylla* C.B. Clarke, *C. nigrifolia* Benth. subsp. *aggregata* Faden, *C. nigrifolia* Benth. subsp. *nigrifolia*, *C. nyanensis* C.B. Clarke, *C. petersii* Hassk., *C. purpurea* C.B.Clarke, *C. pycnospatha* Brenan, *C. saxosa* De Wild., *C. scandens* Welw. ex C.B.Clarke, *C. scaposa* C.B.Clarke ex De Wild. & T.Durand, *C. schweinfurthii* C.B.Clarke subsp. *carsonii* (C.B.Clarke) Faden, *C. schweinfurthii* subsp. *ceciliae* (C.B.Clarke) Faden,

C. schweinfurthii C.B. Clarke subsp. *schweinfurthii*, *C. triangulispatha* Mildbr. and *C. zambesica* C.B. Clarke (Faden, 2012; POWO, 2024). However, the names *C. clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand and *C. pallida* De Wild. are illegitimate, because these names are later homonyms of *C. clarkeana* K. Schum. and *C. pallida* Willd. respectively in accordance with Article 53.1 of the ICN (Turland et al., 2018). Therefore, a new, replacement name is proposed here for each illegitimate name. Lectotypes are designated for the names *C. clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand and *C. pallida* De Wild. as per the guidelines and recommendations of Article 9 of ICN (Turland et al., 2018) to fix the identity. *C. acutispatha* De Wild. and *C. thomasii* Hutch. are treated as a synonym of *C. clarkeana* K. Schum.

The genus *Murdannia* Royle (Commelinaceae) consists of about 62 species, distributed in tropical and subtropical Old World and Guyana to Paraguay (POWO, 2024). In Thailand, the genus is represented by 15 taxa, namely *Murdannia bracteata* (C.B. Clarke) J.K. Morton ex D.Y. Hong, *M. clandestina* (Ridl.) Faden, *M. divergens* (C.B. Clarke) G. Brückn., *M. edulis* (Stokes) Faden, *M. esculenta* (Wall. ex C.B. Clarke) Abeyw., *M. gigantea* (Vahl) G. Brückn., *M. japonica* (Thunb.) Faden, *M. loriformis* (Hassk.) R.S. Rao & Kammathy, *M. medica* (Lour.) D.Y. Hong, *M. nudiflora* (L.) Brenan, *M. simplex* (Vahl) Brenan, *M. spectabilis* (Kurz) Faden, *M. spirata* (L.) G. Brückn., *M. triquetra* (Wall. ex C.B. Clarke) G. Brückn. and *M. vaginata* (L.) G. Brückn. (Craib, 1912; POWO, 2024). Craib (1912) described *Aneilema discretum* based on specimens collected by A.F.G. Kerr from the jungle of Doi Suthep, Thailand, but as per the current generic circumscription of the genus *Aneilema* R.Br. this species does not fit under it. This species must be treated under the genus *Murdannia* and therefore, a new combination is made here. In addition, lectotype is designated for the name *Aneilema discretum* Craib in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of Article 9 of the Shenzhen Code (Turland et al., 2018).

Nomenclature

Commelina clarkeana K. Schum., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 24: 343. 1897.

Holotype: Gabonese Republic, Lambaréné, May 1885, *Buchholz s.n.* (B100165422!, Figure 1).

= *Commelina acutispatha* De Wild., Pl. Bequaert. 5: 164. 1931, *syn. nov.*

Lectotype (designated by Faden, 2007): Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mambasa, 1913, *F. Requaert 538* (BR0000008643179!, Figure 2).

Remaining syntypes: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Yambuya, 30 November 1913, *J. Bequaert 1337* [BR0000006498849! (Figure 3), BR0000006499174! (Figure 4)].

= *Commelina thomasii* Hutch., Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1939: 243. 1939, *syn. nov.*

Holotype: Republic of Sierra Leone, Tonkolili District, Yonibana, 320 ft., 11 November 1914, *N.W. Thomas 5205* (K000345529!, Figure 5).

Distribution: Federal Republic of Nigeria, Gabonese Republic, Republic of Benin, Republic of

Cameroon, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Sierra Leone, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Zaire and Togolese Republic.

Notes: *Commelina clarkeana* K.Schum. is the oldest available name for the species, earlier known as *C. acutispatha* De Wild. (Faden, 2007 & 2012; Sosef et al., 2020; POWO, 2024).

Commelina durandii R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, *nom. nov.*

≡ *Commelina clarkeana* De Wild. & T.Durand, Ann. Mus. Congo Belge, Bot., sér. 3, 1: 245. 1901, *nom. illeg., non* K.Schum., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 24: 343. 1897.

Lectotype (designated here): Democratic Republic of the Congo, Katala, 19 July 1895, A. Dewevre 183 (BR0000008643278!, Figure 6); isolectotype BR0000008643285! (Figure 7).

Distribution: Endemic to Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Etymology: The new name is named after Théophile Alexis Durand (1855–1912), Belgian Botanist.

Notes: Two syntypes specimens were traced for the name *Commelina clarkeana* De Wild. & T.Durand at BR (BR0000008643278 and BR0000008643285). Of these, the better-preserved specimen BR0000008643278, is designated here as the lectotype as it agrees well with the protologue.

Commelina wildemanii R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, *nom. nov.*

≡ *Commelina pallida* De Wild., Contr. Fl. Katanga, Suppl. 3: 74. 1930, *nom. illeg., non* Willd., Hort. Berol. 2: t. 87. 1809 *et* Schltldl., Linnaea 26: 454. 1855.

Lectotype (designated here): Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bianco plateau, February 1913, H. Homble 1273 (BR0000008643612!, Figure 8); isolectotype BR0000008643605! (Figure 9).

Distribution: Endemic to Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Etymology: The new name is named after Émile Auguste Joseph De Wildeman (1866–1947), Belgian Botanist.

Notes: Two original specimens were traced for the name *Commelina pallida* De Wild. at BR (BR0000008643605 and BR0000008643612). Of these, the better preserved specimen BR0000008643612, is designated here as the lectotype as it agrees well with the protologue.

Murdannia discreta (Craib) R.Kr.Singh & Sanjeet Kumar, *comb. nov.*

Aneilema discretum Craib, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1912(10): 414. 1912.

Lectotype (designated here): Thailand, Doi Suthep, mixed jungle, 330 m, 18 July 1911, A.F.G. Kerr 1909 (E00386704!, Figure 10); isolectotypes K000291944!, K000291945!.

Distribution: Thailand.



Figure 2: Lectotype of *Commelina acutispatha* De Wild. (BR000008643179, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 3: Remaining syntype of *Commelina acutispatha* De Wild. (BR000006498849, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 4: Remaining syntype of *Commelina acutispatha* De Wild. (BR0000006499174, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 5: Holotype of *Commelina thomasi* Hutch. (K000345529, © The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

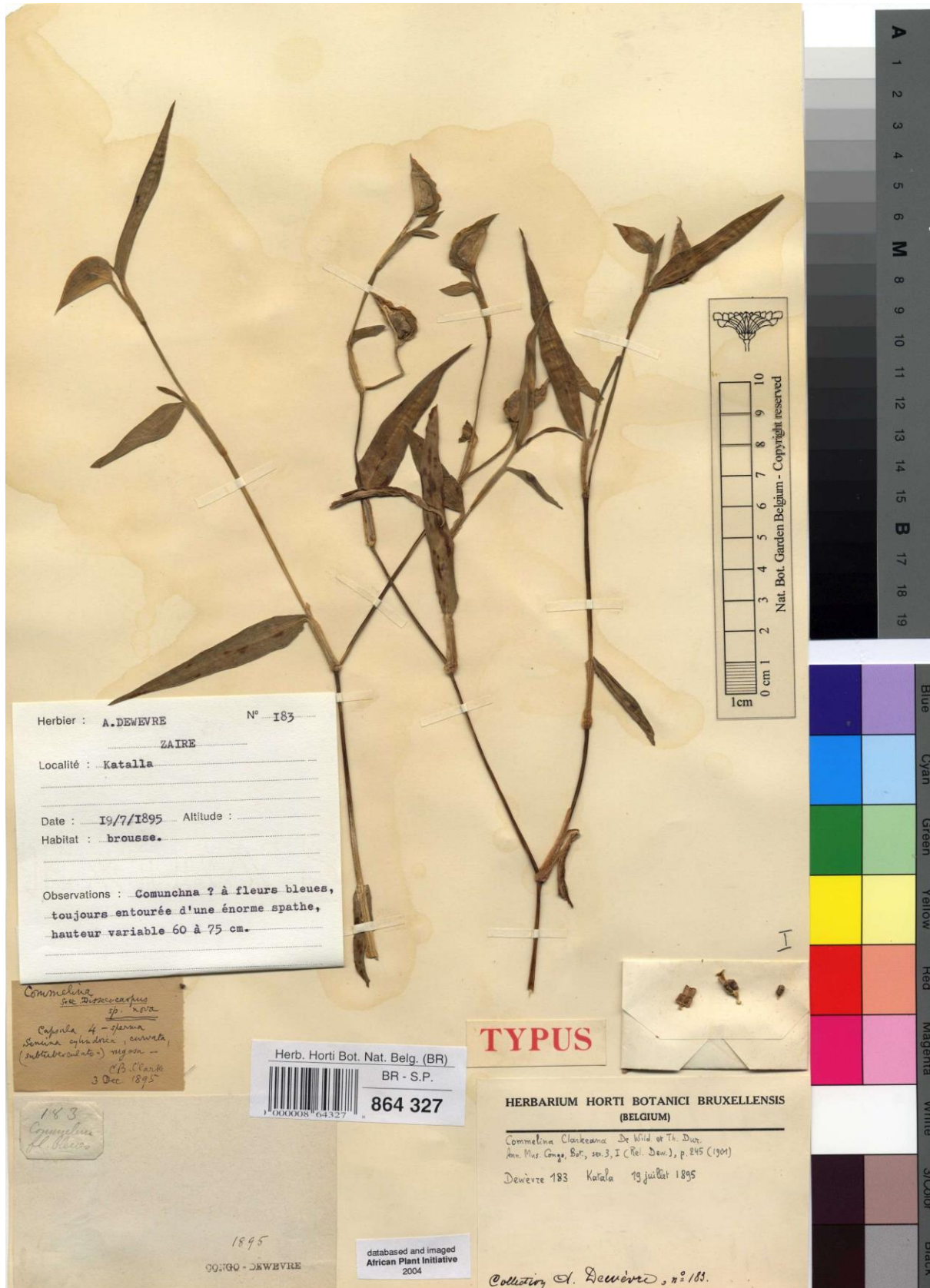


Figure 6: Lectotype of *Commelina clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand (BR0000008643278, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)

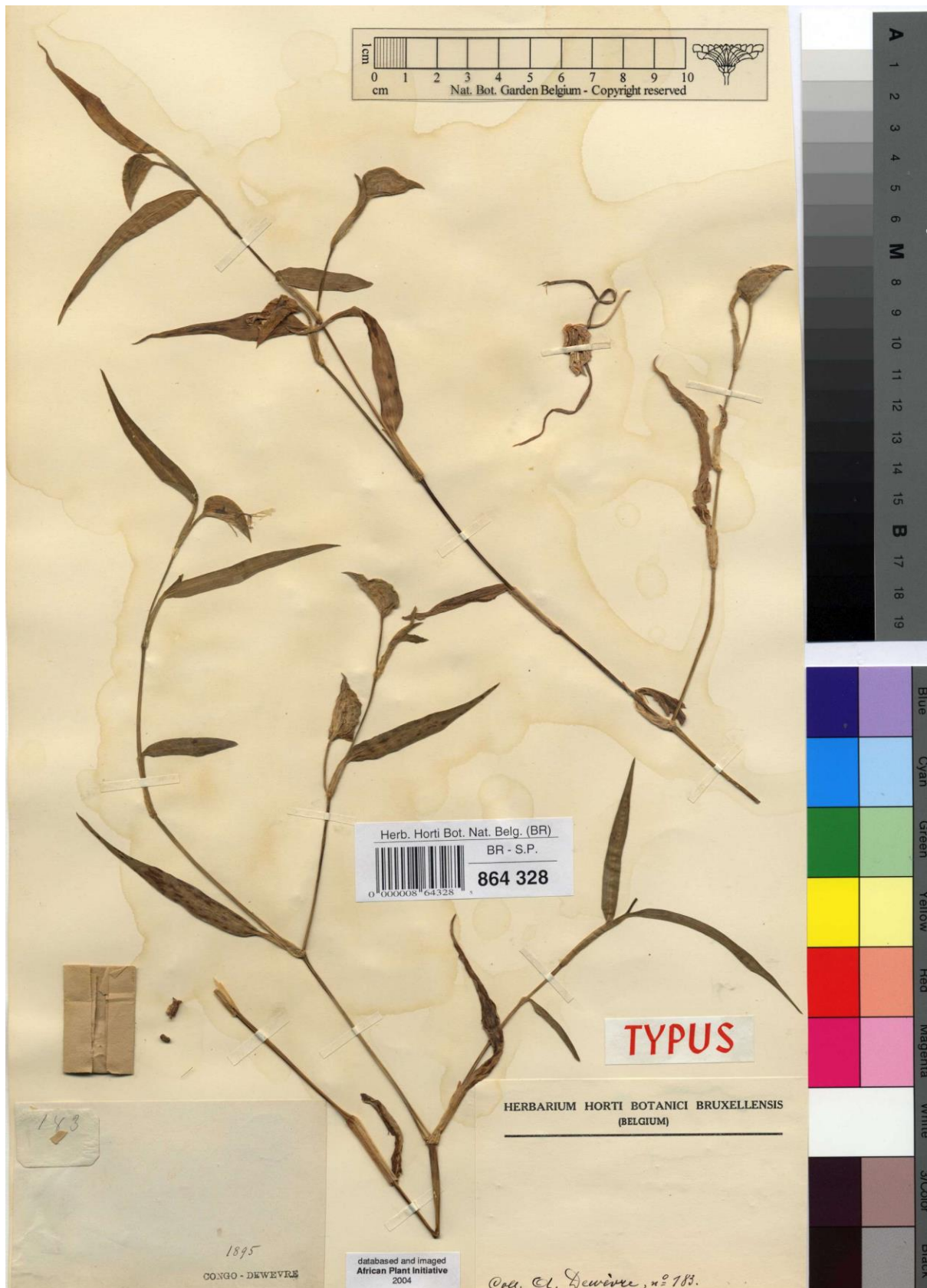


Figure 7: Isolectotype of *Commelina clarkeana* De Wild. & T. Durand (BR000008643285, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 8: Lectotype of *Commelina pallida* De Wild. (BR000008643612, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 9: Isolectotype of *Commelina pallida* De Wild. (BR000008643605, © Herbarium of Meise Botanic Garden, Meise)



Figure 10: Lectotype of *Aneilema discretum* Craib (E00386704, © Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh)

Notes: Craib (1912) mentioned type information for *Aneilema discretum* as “Chiengmai, Doi Sootep, in mixed jungle, 330 m., Kerr, 1909”. Two specimens for the name *Aneilema discretum* Craib of collection number A.F.G. Kerr 1909 from Doi Suthep, Thailand were traced at K (K000291944 and K000291945) and one at E (E00386704). The best-preserved specimen E00386704, is designated here as the lectotype as it agrees well with the protologue.

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