

SOME CORRECTIONS AND NOTES IN ASTERACEAE AND MALVACEAE

SULTANUL ABEDIN AND ZAMARRUD TAJUDDIN

*Department of Botany,
University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan.
E-mail: flora@super.net.pk*

Abstract

A new name *Taraxacum khatoonae* S. Abedin is proposed for *Taraxacum laholense* S. Abedin, a later homonym. Some notes on *Eclipta*, *Pterachaenia* and *Hibiscus* are given.

Asteraceae

1. *Taraxacum* Webb. ex Wigg.

Abedin (2007) inadvertently published *Taraxacum laholense* in spite of the preexisting name *Taraxacum lahulense* V. Soest (1966). The negligence was brought to our knowledge by Dr. Surayya Khatoon, Professor of Botany, University of Karachi after whom the following name is proposed:

Taraxacum khatoonae S. Abedin *nom. nov.*

Syn. *Taraxacum laholense* S. Abedin in *Pak. J. Bot.*, 39(5): 1422. f. la-a₁, 2007. not *Taraxacum lahulense* V. Soest in *Neder. Akam. Watens. Series c.* 69. No. 3. 385. f. 13. 1966.

2. *Pterachaenia* (Benth. & Hook.f.) Lipsch. *Fragm. Monogr. Gen. Scorzonera* 2: 31. 1939.

It is a monotypic genus found in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Bremer, 1994, Mabberley, 1997, Lack, 2007). The only species should have been attributed to Lipschitz, the author of the genus. But Rechinger (1977) attributed it to R.R. Stewart (1952) and followed by Lack (2007). The authors have not found the work of R.R. Stewart of 1952 as referred by Rechinger and later followed by Lack. However, in the works of 1958 and 1972, R.R. Stewart has attributed to Lipschitz as given below:

Pterachaenia stewartii (Hook.f.) Lipsch. *Fragm. Monogr. Gen. Scorzonera*, 2: 31. 1939.

3. *Eclipta* L.

It is commonly found in various Floras that *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L., is considered as a distinct species, while *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk., and *Eclipta erecta* L., are accepted as synonyms. Boissier (1875) published *Eclipta marginata* Hochst. & Steud. ex Boiss., characterizing its cypselas winged differing from *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk., which has wingless cypselas. He kept *Eclipta prostrata* (p.p.) under the synonymy of *Eclipta marginata* and *Eclipta alba*. Vassilchenko (1959) has considered *Eclipta prostrata* and *Eclipta alba* as distinct species. He cited *Eclipta marginata* under the synonymy of

Eclipta prostrata and *Eclipta erecta* under *Eclipta alba*. He characterized *Eclipta prostrata* by having cypselas smooth and fringed and *Eclipta alba* with cypselas tuberculate along the ribs or over whole surface. These characters are well represented in the figures (pl. xxxiv. F. 3 and 4). Rechinger (1989) is another author who has considered *Eclipta prostrata* and *Eclipta alba* as two valid species but with some modification in characters different from Vassilczenko. He characterizes *Eclipta prostrata* by having cypselas marginate and tuberculate or smooth and *Eclipta alba* with cypselas not marginate and smooth. *Eclipta marginata* was placed under the synonymy of *Eclipta prostrata* as done by Vassilczenko (1959).

In the present study quite a large number of specimens were examined and found that *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L., is the only distinct species and the various names mentioned above are all synonyms. The confusion arises when the herbarium sheets do not bear all the characters or the specimens are carelessly handled. Actually the cypselas of the ray florets are smooth and winged while of disc florets are tuberculose and winged completely or basally in young condition. It has been observed that some specimens have only cypselas of disc florets and some of ray florets. In few specimens both the cypselas in mature condition are found. It is these incomplete specimens that have resulted in 2-3 different species.

Malvaceae

Hibiscus sabdariffa L. and *Hibiscus cannabinus* L.

Abedin (1979, 1980) reported these species in different names: *Hibiscus cannabinus* L., commonly called “Kenaf” was replaced by *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. (1753; not of 1737, 1747, 1759 and 1763) and typified by the following:

Comm. Hort. 1: 35. T. 18. 1697 (erroneously printed 1701), while *Hibiscus sabariffa* L., of 1737, 1747, 1759 and 1763 not of 1753, generally called “Roselle”, was placed under the synonymy of *Hibiscus gossypifolius* Mill., 1768. But later, Abedin *et al.*, (1999) changed the earlier view and accepted the usually followed names – Kenaf for *Hibiscus cannabinus* L., and Roselle for *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. Both these species are occasionally cultivated in Pakistan. The change was overlooked by Fryxell (2001) and resulted in a long discussion and criticism who then proposed the conservation of the name *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L., and its type. Interestingly the proposal was approved by the Committee on Spermatophyta with 14-0 votes, 1 absent, in *Taxon* 51: 798 (2003), showing that they all overlooked earlier correction.

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