

THE STATUS OF BERENDTIA A. GRAY

John W. Thieret

FEW GENERIC NAMES of extant plants are known to be later homonyms of genera of fossil plants. A good example of this problem is seen in the case of *Berendtia* A. Gray and *Berendtia* Goepp.

Berendtia A. Gray (1868) was described as a genus of the Cheloneae (Scrophulariaceae). Antedating Gray's *Berendtia* by 23 years is *Berendtia* Goepp. (in Goeppert & Berendt, *Der Bernstein und die in ihm Befindlichen Pflanzenreste der Vorwelt* 80. Berlin, 1845), a genus based on one corolla with epipetalous stamens found in Baltic amber. The type species of *Berendtia* Goepp. is *B. primuloides* Goepp. An additional species, *B. rotata*, was described by Conwentz (in Goeppert & Menge, *Die Flora des Bernsteins* 2 [Die Angiospermen des Bernsteins]. 120. Danzig, 1886). The affinities of *Berendtia* Goepp. are uncertain, although Goeppert suggested that it approaches the Primulaceae by virtue of the position of the stamens opposite the corolla lobes. Pax, in *Die Natürlichen Pflanzfamilien*, treated the genus as a fossil taxon referable to the Myrsinaceae; however, he pointed out the presence of similar corollas in the Diospyrineae and indicated that, without knowledge of the gynoecium, the systematic position of *Berendtia* Goepp. remained unsettled.

After discovering that the name *Berendtia* appears in two families in the *Pflanzfamilien*, Wettstein and Harms (in Engler & Prantl. *Pflanzenf. Register* 459. 1899) proposed the name *Berendtiella* for the Chelonean taxon, but did not make the necessary new combinations. Their proposal was accepted by Dalla Torre and Harms who placed *Berendtia* A. Gray in synonymy under *Berendtiella* in *Genera Siphonogamarum*.

Nevertheless the name *Berendtia* A. Gray is still employed for the genus of Mexican and Central American Scrophulariaceae, although it has been clearly shown to be a later homonym of *Berendtia* Goepp. The name *Berendtiella* must replace *Berendtia* A. Gray. Since the new combinations have not been made they are presented here.

Berendtiella Wettst. & Harms in Engl. & Prantl, Pflanzenf. Gesamt Register 459. 1899.

Berendtia A. Gray in Proc. Am. Acad. 7: 379. 1868, non Goeppert, 1845.

The genus contains the following species:

Berendtiella rugosa (Benth.) Thieret, *comb. nov.*

Diplacus rugosus Benth. in DC. Prodr. 10: 368. 1846.

Berendtia Ghiesbrechtii A. Gray in Proc. Am. Acad. 7: 380. 1868.

Berendtia rugosa A. Gray, 1.c.

Berendtiella Coulteri (A. Gray) Thieret, *comb. nov.*

Berendtia Coulteri A. Gray, 1. c.

Berendtiella spinulosa (S. Wats.) Thieret, *comb.*

nov.

Berendtia spinulosa S. Wats. in Proc. Am. Acad. 25: 159. 1890.

Berendtiella levigata (Rob. & Greenm.) Thieret, *comb. nov.*

Berendtia levigata Rob. & Greenm. in Proc. Am. Acad. 32: 39. 1896.

A key to the species of this genus will be found in Standley's Trees and Shrubs of Mexico under *Berendtia*.

LITERATURE

FLORE DE LA GUYANE FRANÇAISE, vols. II (398 pages) and III (655 pages), Brest 1952-1953 (1954), by Albert Lemée. — The present work is a descriptive flora of French Guiana and is intended, when complete, to cover the flowering plants of the colony. The families, genera and species are described, with some exceptions. Keys are given to the families in volume II while a conspectus is provided for those in volume III. Generic keys are usually given, but keys to the species within genera are not provided. The work is printed on paper of poor quality. The two volumes which have been completed may be secured from Librairie Lechevalier, 12 rue de Tournon, Paris (6) for about \$ 42.00 (dollars!) unbound. Volume one (containing, among others, the difficult families Orchidaceae and Palmae) is said to be expected in due course. — *L. Wms.*

INFORME AL GOBIERNO DE GUATEMALA SOBRE LA ENTOMOLOGÍA FORESTAL DE GUATEMALA, VOL. I. LOS PINOS DE GUATEMALA. INFORME FAO/ETAP N° 202. PP. 57, FF. 139. 1953. (ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN, ROMA), by Fritz Schwerdtfeger. — The mimeographed work presented is essentially a systematic and economic study of the pines of Guatemala, giving a considerable amount of data obtained in the field on the species considered to occur in the country. The author states that he did this systematic work to get a firm basis for the investigations in forest entomology which he had started. It is perhaps unfortunate that an entomologist found it necessary to "monograph" one of the most difficult genera of plants in tropical America in order that he might complete his study of the insect borne diseases of the genus.

Mr. Schwerdtfeger credits nine species of *Pinus* to Guatemala of which one, *P. tecumumani* (actually a *nomen nudum*) is said to be a new species. The trees involved are quite likely hybrids of *Pinus oocarpa* and *P. pseudostrobus* which are to be found in most places where the two species overlap in altitudinal range.

The name *Pinus hondurensis* Loock, is accepted as distinct from *P. caribaea*, but the plant is most probably one of the multitude of forms of *P. caribaea*.

The remaining seven species, *Pinus ayacahuite*, *P. strobus* (var.) *chiapensis*, *P. tenuifolia*, *P. pseudostrobus*, *P. montezumae*, *P. rudis* and *P. oocarpa*, are usually recognized as valid species. — L. Wms.

SOIL EROSION SURVEY OF LATIN AMERICA. — Mark Baldwin, editor. Published by Conservation Foundation and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a reprint from three issues of the 1954 Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 31 pages, 3 maps. 1954. — A readable and informative account of soil erosion in Latin America. It is, of course, not possible in 31 pages to cover the subject exhaustively but a useful survey is presented which takes into account soils, peoples and food. The problem facing not only Mexico but most all of "Middle America" is well stated in the first paragraph on Mexico and is well worth quoting:

"Mexico among the larger countries of Latin America, is perhaps the most troubled by soil erosion and its effects. Along with soil erosion there has been a progressive deterior-

ation of the soil of many areas due to leaching, depletion of fertility due to cropping, and other causes. At the same time the increasing population pressure is making it ever more difficult to provide an adequate level of nutrition for all the people and to introduce long-range conservation measures that would involve the initial withdrawal of marginal lands from row-crop cultivation”.

Copies of this reprint may be obtained from The Conservation Foundation, 30 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York. — *L. Wms.*

CAMPANULACEAE-LOBELIOIDEAE, part 2. By F. E. Wimmer in *Pflanzenr.* IV. 276D (107 Heft) 261-814. 1953. About \$ 17.00. — This is the last of the Lobelioideae and terminates Dr. Wimmer's work on the subfamily. The last line of the forward says “Es ist die Arbeit von 25 Jahren”. — *Siphocampylus* (207 species) and *Lobelia* (365 species) are the two large genera covered in this part of the work. The manuscript was apparently completed in 1950. Dr. Wimmer seems to have had access to little of the material collected in America during the last 25 years. The volume like many recent German publications is expensive. — *L. Wms.*

TWO VOLUMES of more than ordinary interest have been received in the library of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana recently:

A CRUISING VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD: FIRST TO THE SOUTH-SEA, THENCE TO THE EAST INDIES, AND HOMEWARDS BY CAPE OF GOOD HOPE: — by Captain Woodes Rogers. Second Edition, corrected. London 1726. — This volume contains a large amount of information about the west coast of the Americas gathered in the years 1708-1710 by Captain Rogers and written down in his log. The description of the finding of Alexander Selkirk on the Juan Fernández Islands is of especial interest for it is possibly the incident which Defoe used as a basis of his “The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe”. Defoe and Selkirk met and the latter perhaps gave his papers to Defoe.

HISTORIA DE LA CONQUISTA DE MÉXICO, POBLACIÓN, PROGRESOS DE LA AMÉRICA SEPTENTRIONAL CONOCIDA POR EL NOMBRE DE NUEVA ESPAÑA. Written by don Antonio de Solís. Brussels 1704. — A beautifully done edition of this work which contains many fine plates. — *L. Wms.*

THE COMBRETUM SPECIES OF THE NEW WORLD. A. W. Exell in Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. 55: 103-141. 1953. — An account of the American species of the genus started, and nearly completed, before the second world war. Mr. Exell did not have the time to bring the work to date nor to see the mass of material collected and inserted in herbaria since 1939. — He did not see the material of the Chicago Natural History Museum, perhaps the largest collection of tropical American plants to be found in any herbarium. — *L. Wms.*