

A new combination in *Dendrobenthamia* (Cornaceae)

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Received 9 Jan. 2006, revised version received 13 Mar. 2006, accepted 14 Mar. 2006

Yu, H. 2006: A new combination in *Dendrobenthamia* (Cornaceae). — *Ann. Bot. Fennici* 43: 315–316.

The name *Dendrobenthamia angustata* (Chun) W.P. Fang is invalid since the validly published synonym *Cynoxylon elliptica* Pojark. predates it, thus the correct name is *Dendrobenthamia elliptica* (Pojark.) H. Yu, *comb. nova*.

Key words: *Cynoxylon elliptica*, *Dendrobenthamia angustata*, new combination, nomenclature

Dendrobenthamia, a genus of evergreen or deciduous trees and shrubs in the Himalayas and East Asia, belongs in the Cornaceae (Fang & Hu 1990). *Dendrobenthamia* was proposed by Hutchinson (1942) and it was separated from *Cynoxylon* in America, which was originally under the genus *Cornus*. Fang (1953) accepted the genus *Dendrobenthamia* based on a combination of characters: a globose capitulum subtended by two pairs of petal-like bracts and fruits perfectly united into a fleshy, globose syncarp. Later a narrow definition of *Dendrobenthamia* was adopted in numerous Chinese floras (Deng 2003), though it was not accepted by some authors in China (Xiang 1987, Xiang & Boufford 2005).

According to Art. 52 of the Saint Louis Code (Greuter *et al.* 2000), the name *Dendrobenthamia angustata* (Chun) W.P. Fang is superfluous because its synonym *Cynoxylon elliptica* Pojark. was published earlier. *Dendrobenthamia angustata* was originally established by Chun (1934) as *Cornus kousa* Hance var. *angustata* Chun. After examining the type specimens of both taxa, it became clear that they represent the same taxon

as *Cynoxylon elliptica*. Since the name *D. angustata* is widely used, Deng (2003) put forward a proposal to reject the name *Cynoxylon elliptica* to avoid any disadvantageous nomenclatural change. However, the committee for Spermatophyta did not accept the proposal, because they considered that the case for rejection was not strong. So at the rank of species the epithet *elliptica* must be used according to Art. 11.4 in Greuter *et al.* (2000), and a new combination is necessary to replace the illegitimate name *Dendrobenthamia angustata*.

Dendrobenthamia elliptica* (Pojark.) H. Yu, *comb. nova

Cynoxylon elliptica Pojark., Notul. Syst. Inst. Bot. Nom. Kom. Acad. Sci. URSS. 12: 188. 1950. — *Cornus elliptica* (Pojark.) Q.Y. Xiang & Boufford, Flora of China 14: 216. 2005. — TYPE: China. Hubei Province, *Wilson 811* (holotype LE; isotype A!).

Cornus kousa Hance var. *angustata* Chun, Sunyats. 1: 185. 1934. — *Dendrobenthamia angustata* (Chun) W.P. Fang, Act. Phytotax. Sin. 2, 2: 95. Pl. II. 1953. — *Benthamidia japonica* (Sieb. & Zucc.) Hara var. *angustata* (Chun)

Hara, J. *Arnold Arbor.* 29, 1: 114. 1948. — TYPE: China. Guangdong Province, Ruyuan County, 18.VI.1933 S. P. Ko 52942 (holotype IBSC!).

Dendrobenthamia hupehensis W.P. Fang, *Act. Phytotax. Sin.* 2, 2: 98. Pl. 12. fig. 1–4. 1953. — TYPE: China. Hubei Province, Badong County, *H. C. Chow 606* (holotype WHU; isotype SZ).

Dendrobenthamia elliptica is a Chinese endemic, known from Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi and Sichuan.

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