

Lepidagathis kameyamana, a new name for *L. diffusa* (Nees) Lindau (Acanthaceae)

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Abstract

Lepidagathis kameyamana is proposed here as a replacement name for *L. diffusa* (Nees) Lindau (basionym: *Teliostachya diffusa* Nees) as it is a later homonym of *L. diffusa* C.B. Clarke.

Introduction

During the present study of the systematics of *Lepidagathis* Willd. (Acanthaceae) in India, we found that the name of a Brazilian endemic species, *Lepidagathis diffusa* (Nees) Lindau (Lindau 1903; Profice et al. 2015) is a later homonym of an Indian endemic species, *Lepidagathis diffusa* C.B. Clarke (Clarke 1885; Gamble 1924; Vajravelu 1990) according to article 53.1 of ICN (McNeill et al. 2012). A replacement name is proposed here as *L. kameyamana* for the Brazilian species as per articles 41.1 and 41.2(c) of ICN (McNeill et al. 2012).

Nomenclature

Lepidagathis kameyamana Gnanasek. & Arisdason, **nom. nov.**

Replaced synonym: *Lepidagathis diffusa* (Nees) Lindau, *Bulletin de l'Herbier Boissier* Series II, 3: 631 (1903), *nom. illeg., non L. diffusa* C.B. Clarke, in Hook.f., *The Flora of the British India* 4: 518 (1885).

Basionym: *Teliostachya diffusa* Nees, *Flora Brasiliensis* 9: 72 (1847).

Type: Brazil: In the provincial Minarum, Minas Generaes, *Ackermann s.n.* (GZU000250445, image!).

Etymology: The specific epithet honours Dr. C. Kameyama, Instituto de Botanica (SP), Brazil, for her valuable contribution to the taxonomy of Neotropical *Lepidagathis*.

Notes: *Lepidagathis diffusa* (Nees) Lindau (here renamed as *Lepidagathis kameyamana*) is an herbaceous endemic species confined to the tropical rain forests of northeastern (Bahia), southeastern (Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Southeast Paulo) and southern (Paraná, Santa Catarina) states of Brazil (Profice et al. 2015), whereas, the Indian endemic is confined to very few localities in the states of Karnataka (Ballari and Mysore districts) and Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore district) and it was assessed as 'Indeterminate' by Vajravelu (1990). Furthermore, these two species are quite distinct from each other morphologically. The Brazilian plant differs from the Indian plant by having ovate- or oblong-elliptic, petiolate leaves, and pedunculate elongated spikes.

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