

The Taxonomic Position of *Dendrolobium cumingianum* Benth. (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae: Desmodieae)

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ABSTRACT: *Dendrolobium cumingianum* Benth. is a distinct species, although it has been treated as a synonym of *Dendr. umbellatum* (L.) Benth. Key to both species, and nomenclature and description of *Dendr. cumingianum* are presented.

KEY WORDS: *Dendrolobium cumingianum*, Leguminosae, Philippines.

INTRODUCTION

When Bentham (1852) described *Dendrolobium cumingianum* Benth., four species were recognized as members of this genus. Other three are *Dendr. umbellatum*, *Dendr. cephalotes* and *Dendr. australe*, but the second species is now regarded as a synonym of *Dendr. triangulare* and the last one is also synonym of *Dendr. umbellatum*. Accordingly, when it was described, *Dendr. cumingianum* was actually compared by Bentham with *Dendr. triangulare* and *Dendr. umbellatum*. In the original description, the species is described on the basis of the specimen, *Cuming 1454*, as follows: "*fruticosum, sericeo-pubescentis v. glabrescens, ramulis tenuibus, foliolis (raro 9 lin. longis) ovalibus obtusissimis, pedicellis calyce brevioribus, alis carina paullo brevioribus, leguminis villosi articulis latitudine sua vix longioribus*".

Merrill (1910) regarded *Dendrolobium* as a section of *Desmodium*. He noted that *Desmodium cumingianum* is "manifestly allied to *D. umbellatum*", because, according to the key to these species on page 78, "umbels axillary and leaflets broad at the apex, round, obtuse or very obscurely and broadly acuminate", but distinguished both by the size of leaflets, *i. e.*, 1-1.8 cm long in *D. cumingianum* against 5-10 cm long in *D. umbellatum*.

Van Meeuwen (1962), however, treated *Desmodium cumingianum* (Benth.) Benth. as a synonym of *D. umbellatum* (L.) DC. She considered that the smaller leaflets of *D. cumingianum* is "perhaps due to the fact that it does not grow on the seashore". Ohashi (1973), treated them under *Dendrolobium*, followed her circumscription and regarded *D. cumingianum* as a synonym of *D. umbellatum*, although suggested a doubt about the treatment by van Meeuwen.

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