

***Stigmaphyllon bannisterioides*, the correct name for a well-known neotropical species of *Stigmaphyllon* (Malpighiaceae)**

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Summary

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Because the widely distributed, atypical species known as *Stigmaphyllon ovatum* (Cav.) Niedenzu was discovered to include the type of *Malpighia bannisterioides* L., a name long-ignored, the new combination *Stigmaphyllon bannisterioides* is proposed.

In one of his last publications Linnaeus (1775) described a new species of *Malpighiaceae*, *Malpighia bannisterioides*, no. 33, based on material collected by Dahlberg, which he described as having “Folia suprema obtusa. Calyx interior 5-valvis. Petala lutea. Baccae trifidae, quod singulare, submuricatae.” This name has never been taken up for any species of *Malpighia* or any other member of the *Malpighiaceae*, and the identity of the type has been in doubt. Neither of the monographers of the family assigned the name to any of the species he treated. Jussieu (1843) did not cite it at all in his *Monographie*, and Niedenzu (1928), in *Das Pflanzenreich*, listed it in his treatment of *Malpighia* under “Species incertae, mihi invisae”, without comment.

During a recent visit to the Linnean Herbarium (LINN), William R. Anderson examined the type of *Malpighia bannisterioides* and discovered that it is a representative of a widespread species known as *Stigmaphyllon ovatum* (Cav.) Niedenzu. Additional type material is included in the Linnaean herbarium housed at S. The specimen consists of a branchlet bearing two pairs of leaves and terminated by a small pair of broadly elliptical leaves subtending an umbel (only two flowers retained). That it is authentic material is indicated by the notes in Dahl’s hand on the reverse of the sheet, “*Malpighia bannisterioides*,” “Plant. Sur. n33,” “Dahl a Linne P,” and “Surinam Dahlberg.” I consider the specimen at LINN the holotype and that at S an isotype.

This is an easily recognized, atypical species of seashores, beaches, mangrove swamps, and salt marshes, found along the Atlantic coast from southern Mexico to northern Brazil and in the West Indies (Anderson, 1987); it has also been collected along the West Coast of Africa (Guinea Bissau, Guinea, and Sierra Leone). Most species of *Stigmaphyllon* have long-petiolate cordate leaves, a heteromorphic androecium, styles bearing terminal folioles (appendages for which the genus is named), and samaras with a large dorsal wing. In this distinctive species, the leaves are short-petiolate and usually have lanceolate or narrowly elliptical laminas (never cordate), the androecium is composed of subequal stamens, and the styles are hooked instead of foliolate. The highly modified samara consists of an enlarged, laterally ribbed nut (8-11 mm in diameter) bearing an apical crest. Typically, each umbel of (3-)4(-6) flowers is subtended by a pair of abruptly smaller leaves with the laminas

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broadly elliptical to broadly ovate to orbicular. Jussieu emphasized the unusual fruit and assigned this species and *S. paralias* Adr. Juss., also with lanceolate-elliptical laminas and crested rather than dorsally winged samaras, to a separate genus, *Brachypterys*, which Niedenzu (1900, 1928) reduced to a section of *Stigmaphyllon*.

Because I assign the type of *Malpighia bannisterioides* to *Stigmaphyllon*, I propose the following new combination.

***Stigmaphyllon bannisterioides* (L.) C. Anderson, comb. nov.**

- ≡ *Malpighia bannisterioides* L., Pl. Surin.: 9. 1775. – Type: Suriname, *Dahlberg s.n.* (holotype: Herb. Linn. 588.13, LINN, photo: MICH!, microfiche!; isotype: Herb. Linn., S, microfiche!).
- = *Banisteria ovata* Cav., Diss. 9: 429. 1790.
- ≡ *Brachypterys borealis* Adr. Juss., Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., ser. 2, 13: 291. 1840, nom. superfl.
- ≡ *Stigmaphyllon ovatum* (Cav.) Niedenzu, Stigmatoph. 2: 31. 1900.
- ≡ *Brachypterys ovata* (Cav.) Small in Britton & al., N. Amer. Fl. 25: 138. 1910.
- = *Banisteria maritima* Rich., Actes Soc. Hist. Nat. Paris 1: 109. 1792.
- = *Banisteria picta* Kunth in Humboldt & al., Nov. Gen. Sp. 5, ed 4^o: 160. 1822.
- = *Banisteria brachyptera* DC., Prodr. 1: 591. 1824.
- = *Banisteria calcitrapa* Ham., Prodr. Pl. Ind. Occid.: 40. 1825.
- = *Stigmaphyllon heringerianum* Paula & Alves, Rodriguésia 46: 165. 1978.

Acknowledgments

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