

Bauhinia dewitii, a New Bornean Species.

by

KAI LARSEN & SUPEE S. LARSEN

Botanical Institute, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Abstract

A new species of *Bauhinia* from Borneo is described; De Wit was the first to draw attention to this taxon which he called: "*Phanera* spec. nov. A" on the basis of sterile material.

Flowering material is now available; we propose the name *B. dewitii* for this species belonging to the section *Bracteolanthus* (de Wit) Wunderlin.

During revisionary work on Asian *Bauhinia* species we discovered an undescribed species from Sarawak, Borneo. This plant, however, was observed already by de Wit (1956) who described it as "*Phanera* spec. nov. A" belonging to section *Bifoliola* de Wit. Only sterile material was at his disposal, Clemens 20486, collected from Kuching, Gunong Tieng — Sarawak.

In 1970 Paul Chai from the Sarawak Forest Department collected flowering branches of the same taxon which is easily recognized by its unique subbullate leaves, glistening on both surfaces as if varnished and with the nerves deeply impressed on the upper surface, sharply raised on the lower surface.

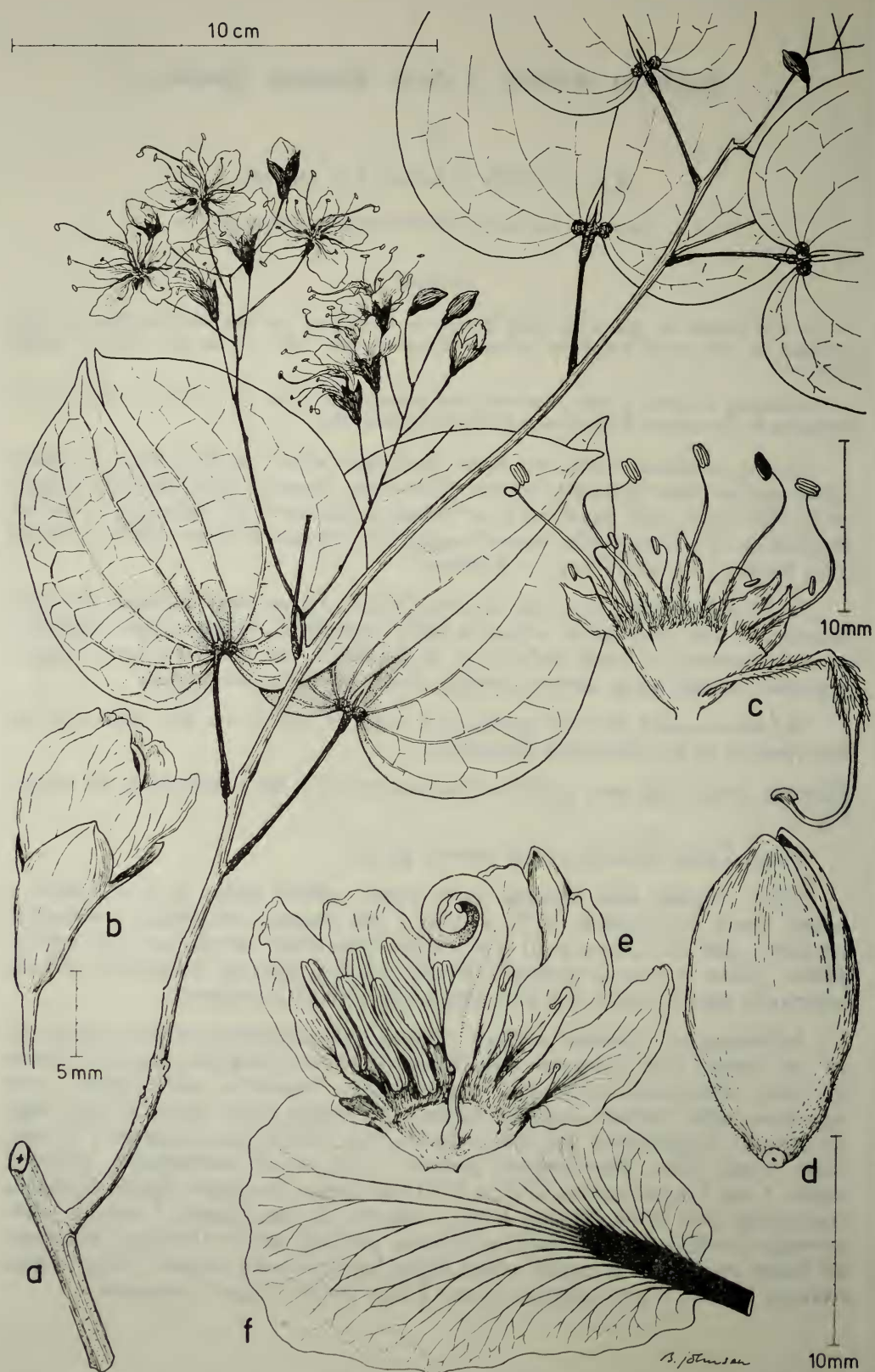
We have named this new species in honour of H.C.D. de Wit, author of the first revision of the Malaysian Bauhinieae.

Bauhinia dewitii sp. nov. sectionis *Bracteolanthi* (De Wit) Wunderlin (in sched.) Fig. 1.

Planta lignea scandens: rami juvenes glabri.

Folia: stipulae mox caducae (non visae); petioli glabri, 3–6 cm longi; 2 foliola libera semicordata, 8–13 x 3.5–6.5 cm magna, marginibus interioribus subrectis; apex in acumen 5–10 mm longum contractus; lamina utrinque omnino glabra, nitida, 4 nervis utrinque elevatis percursa nervulis transversis elevatis numerosis; mucro validus 3–5 mm longus inter foliola prominens.

Inflorescentia: racemus axillaris simplex vel compositus omnino glaber ad 16 cm longus; axis primarius satis tenuis; bracteae triangulae, minutae. Flores pedicellis filiformibus 1.5–2 cm longis portati; bracteolae minutissimae, suboppositae, infra medium insertae. Gemma obovoides apice acuta, 8 mm longa receptaculo campanulato 2–3 mm longo incluso. Calyx inter anthesin i 5 lobos fissus. Petala alba, intra maculis perlaete roseis ornata, subaequalia, oblonga; unguis 1 mm longus; lamina 10–12 x 8–10 mm magna. 5 stamina fertilia filamentis lanuginosis, basi hirtis, 15 mm longis, antheris 1.5 mm longis; 5 stamina rudimentaria fertilibus circiter dimidio breviora, antheris parvis. Ovarium stipitatum, ad basem receptaculi insertum; stipes hirtus, inter anthesin circiter 7 mm longus; ovarium hirtum, 5 mm longum; stylus 12 mm longus; stigma capitatum.



Bauhinia dewittii, a. flowering twig; b. bud; c. opened receptacle, petals removed; — *Bauhinia diptera*, d. bud; e. opened bud 4 anthers removed; f. fully developed petal.

Legumen ignotum.

Holotypus die 24 Junii anni 1970 in planitie humida prope rivum ad pedes montis Doya vicinitatis oppidi Bau regionis Sarawak Forest Department 29920 insulae Borneo a Paul Chai lectus, in Herbario Kewensi (K) depositus, isotypus in SING (!)

Bauhinia dewitii is a very remarkable species. It does not at all belong to the *Phanera*-group, regarded by de Wit as a separate genus. It is a member of the *Bracteolanthus*-group. De Wit established *Bracteolanthus* a new, monotypic genus endemic to Borneo. He based it on *Bauhinia diptera* Blume ex Miq. We do not share de Wit's point of view in splitting up the genus *Bauhinia* in a number of smaller genera of which some, in any case, are not natural groups (See Larsen, S. S. 1975). We regard, however, *Bauhinia diptera* and *B. dewitii* as forming a distinctive group which deserve to be treated as a section. R. P. Wunderlin (written communication) has proposed the section *Bracteolanthus* (de Wit) Wunderlin (mss. in print).

The name *Bracteolanthus* was given by de Wit with reference to the large bracteoles inserted near the top of the pedicel enclosing the bud. The new species described by us makes it necessary to emend the description of the section. Furthermore de Wit describes *B. diptera* as having 6-8 antheriferous stamens. We have dissected flowers of this species and in all cases found 10 antheriferous stamens, 5 long ones belong to the outer whorl, the inner whorl being represented by 5 short. The same arrangement of the androecium is found in *B. dewitii*.

Emended description of section *Bracteolanthus*:

Giant lianas with tendrils. Leaves of the flowering shoots consist of two free leaflets. Intrastipular trichomes absent. Stipules small, early caducous. Flowers in slender racemes. Receptacle turbinate. Antheriferous stamens 10, 5 long representing the outer whorl, 5 short representing the inner whorl. Anthers opening lengthwise. Ovarial stipe free from the receptacle, insertion slightly excentric. So far the section is known from Borneo only.

KEY TO THE SPECIES

- 1. Inflorescence woolly tomentose; bracts and bracteoles persistent, subrotundate, 7-10 mm, bracteoles inserted on top of pedicel; buds floccose, petals tomentose outside *B. diptera*
- 1. Inflorescence glabrous, bracts and bracteoles caducous, minute; bracteoles inserted near the middle of the pedicel; buds glabrous; petals glabrous *B. dewitii*

The best distinctive characters for the section are the combination of 5 long + 5 short stamens with free ovarial stipe excentrically inserted in the turbinate receptacle and the 2 free leaflets on the flowering shoots.

LITERATURE

Larsen, S. S., 1975: Pollen morphology of Thai species of *Bauhinia* (Caesalpinia-ceae). — *Grana* 14: 114-131.

De Wit, H. C. D., 1956: A revision of Malaysian *Bauhinieae*. — *Reinwardtia* 3: 381-539.