

Identity of *Porotrichum perplexans* (Neckeraceae, Musci) from China

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Abstract. *Porotrichum perplexans* Dix. from Central China is reduced to synonymy with *Homaliodendron papillosum* Broth.

Dixon (1933) regarded the habit of the “puzzling” *Porotrichum perplexans* Dix. as a mixture of the genera *Porotrichum* (Brid.) Hampe, *Pinnatella* Fleisch. and *Homaliodendron* Fleisch. *Porotrichum perplexans* is only known from the type specimen, which I borrowed for examination from BM. The absence of a central strand in the stem, closely appressed stipe leaves, coarsely dentate leaves and leaf areolation clearly indicate that this species belongs to *Homaliodendron* sect. *Homaliodendron*. The characters which indicate that *Porotrichum perplexans* is conspecific with *Homaliodendron papillosum* Broth. include the shortly and narrowly decurrent leaves, leaf shape, mostly narrowly recurved leaf margins and strong costa which ends rather near the leaf apex. The type of *Porotrichum perplexans* does not have papillose leaf cells, which is not quite congruent with Ninh’s (1984) statement that “in Chinese specimens [of *Homaliodendron papillosum*] the papillae are stout, distinct and abundant.” According to him, however, *Homaliodendron papillosum* does not always produce papillae on the leaf cells, and the lack of papillae is thus not crucial. It may be mentioned that the broad leaf illustrated by Dixon (1933) is not quite typical of the type specimen, since most of the leaves are clearly narrower.

Homaliodendron papillosum Broth., Sitzungsber. Akad. Wiss. Wien Math. Nat. Kl. Abt. 1, 131: 216. 1923. - Type: China. Hunan Province, “Prov. Hunan austro-occ.: In monte Yün-schan prope Wukang, in silva elata frondosa umbrosa ad rupes humedas”, ca. 1 150 m, 25 VI. 1918, *Handel-Mazzetti* 2527 (holotype and isotype H-BR! “Nr. 12.219”).

Porotrichum perplexans Dix., Hong Kong Naturalist Suppl. 2:21. 2. f. 12. 1933, *syn. nov.* - Type: China. Gansu Province, “Cheu-menn, South-eastern Kansu”, 10. V. 1919, *Licent s.n.* (holotype BM-herb. Dixon! ref. no. 314).

According to Ninh (1984), the genus *Homaliodendron* in China is restricted to the southern parts of the country. Quite recently, however, Cao & Jia (1989) reported *H. scalpelliforme* (Mitt.) Fleisch. from the Liaoning Province in northeastern China; that is the northernmost locality known for the genus. [*H. scalpelliforme* was synonymized with *H. flabellatum* (Sm.) Fleisch. by Enroth (1989)]. The type locality of *Porotrichum perplexans* in the Gansu Province is situated in central inland China.

Literature Cited

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