**Teramnus hookerianus**, a heterotypic synonym of *T. labialis* (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae)

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**Abstract**  
*Teramnus hookerianus* A. Sen is relegated here to a heterotypic synonym of *T. labialis* (L.f.) Spreng.

**Keywords**: Heterotypic Synonym, Papilionoideae, *Teramnus hookerianus*, *T. labialis*

**Introduction**  
The genus *Teramnus* P. Browne (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae) is represented by nine species and is distributed in tropical regions of the world (Lewis *et al.*, 2005). In India, the genus is represented by four species and one subspecies (Sanjappa, 1992). During the taxonomic study of *Teramnus* for flora of West Bengal, it was observed that the species *T. hookerianus* A. Sen is represented only by the type specimens and its diagnostic characters are overlapping with another widespread species, *T. labialis* (L.f.) Spreng.

Sen (1976) described *T. hookerianus* based on the collections from Manbhum in West Bengal and Madras Presidency (without precise locality). He distinguished his new species from *T. labialis* in leaves being glabrous versus adpressed-hairy above and glabrous beneath, leaflets smaller (1–1.9 cm long) versus larger (1–5 cm long), stipules smaller (c. 4.5 mm long) versus larger (4–6 mm long) and fruits smaller (35–40 × c. 2.5 mm) versus larger (32–65 × 2.3–4 mm). However, an examination of type specimens shows that these diagnostic characters are not stable and are very variable even in the holotype (*V. Ball* s.n.) and paratypes (*M.S. Ramaswami* 1015 and *M.N. Sanyal* 532) housed at CAL (Fig. 1b & c). Therefore, to support the observation, specimens of *T. labialis* at CAL (Fig. 1d & e; Appendix 1) have been studied critically in addition to the lectotype specimen (LINN-HL901.15). The result of this study shows explicitly that the diagnostic characters of *T. hookerianus* fall very well within the circumscription of a widespread species, *T. labialis* and also corroborates the views of Verdcourt (1970). Therefore, *T. hookerianus* is reduced here to a heterotypic synonym of *T. labialis*.


Type: INDIA, West Bengal, Purulia district, Manbhum, *V. Ball* s.n. (Holotype, CAL0000012126!).  
Fig. 1a  

**Distribution**: Throughout India.

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**Literature Cited**  
Fig. 1. *Teramnus hookerianus* A. Sen: a. Holotype (V. Ball s.n., CAL0000012126); b & c. Paratypes (M.S. Ramaswami 1015, CAL0000012123 & M.N. Sanyal 532, CAL0000012124); d & e. Specimens of *T. labialis* (L.f.) Spreng. (C.B. Clarke 31813C & C.B. Clarke 31869A, CAL).


Appendix 1: Specimens examined

Teramnus hookerianus: INDIA, Madras Presidency, s.loc., s.d., M.S. Ramaswami 1015 (CAL). West Bengal, Manbhum, 1866–67, V. Ball s.n. (CAL); Bankura district, s.loc., 9.2.1965, M.N. Sanyal 532 (CAL).


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