



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*.

Teramnus labialis (L.f.) Spreng., Syst. Veg. 3: 235. 1826; Baker in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 184. 1876; Prain, Bengal Pl. 1: 393. 1903; Sanjappa, Legumes India: 261. 1992. *Glycine labialis* L.f., Suppl. Pl.: 325. 1782.

Lectotype: Sweden, Uppsala, *s. coll.* s.n. (LINN-HL901.15, image!; designated by Verdcourt, 1970).

Teramnus hookerianus A. Sen, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 73: 187. 1976, **syn. nov.**

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

Fig. 1a

Distribution: Throughout India.

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- Sanjappa, M. 1992. *Legumes of India*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun.

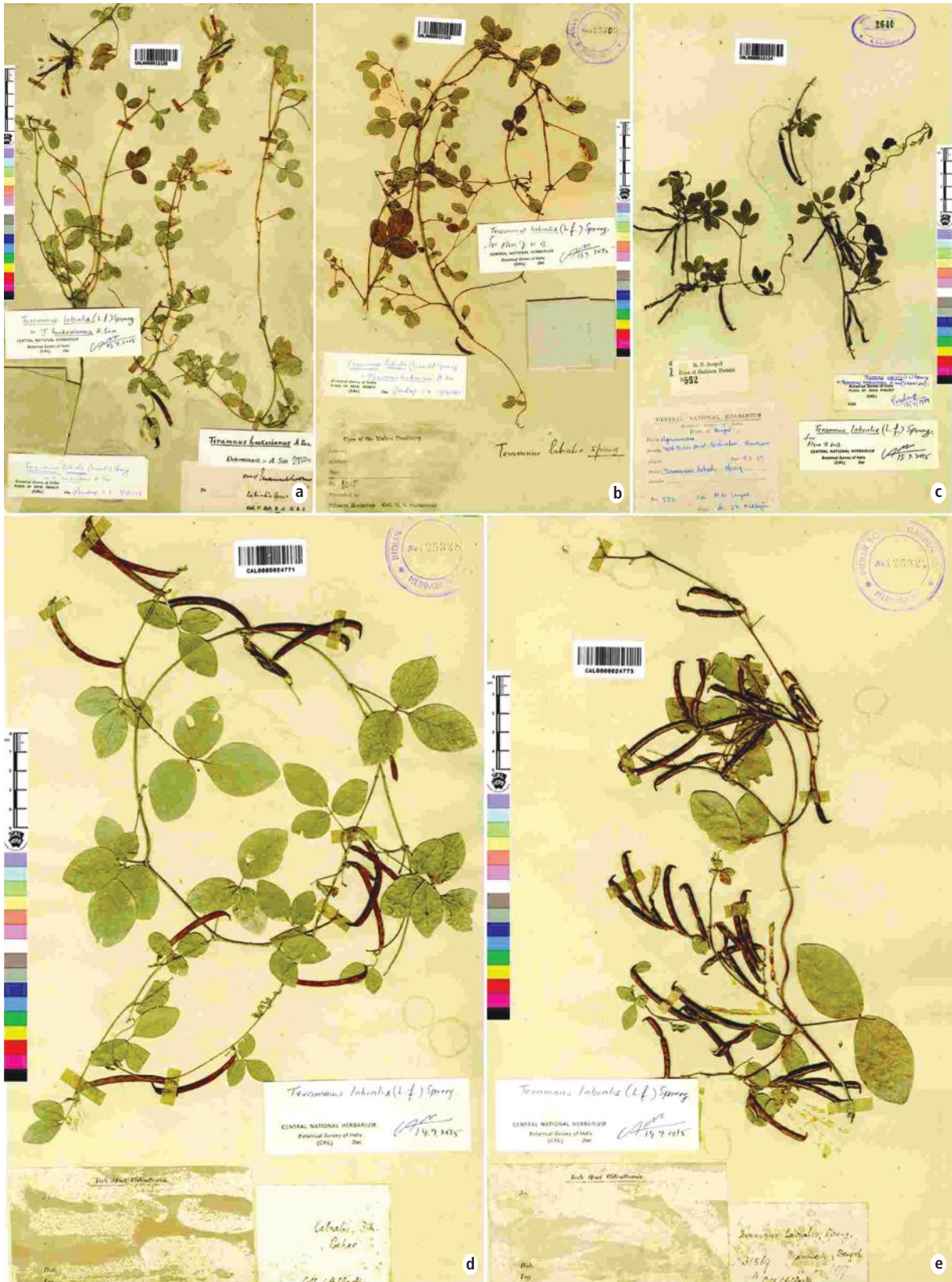


Fig. 1. *Teramnus hookerianus* A. Sen: a. Holotype (V. Ball s.n., CAL0000012126); b & c. Paratypes (M.S. Ramaswami 1015, CAL0000012123 & M.N. Sanyal 532, CAL0000012124); d & e. Specimens of *T. labialis* (L.f.) Spreng. (C.B. Clarke 31813C & C.B. Clarke 31869A, CAL).

Sen, A. 1976. A new species of *Teramnus* Sw. (Fabaceae) from Manbhum (India). *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* **73**: 187–188.

Verdcourt, B. 1970. Studies in the Leguminosae–Papilionoideae for the ‘Flora of Tropical East Africa’: II. *Kew Bull.* **24**: 235–307.

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).

Teramnus labialis: INDIA, **Andhra Pradesh**, East Godavari, 16.2.1947, *V. Narayanaswami* 375 (CAL); Kurnool, 11.12.1976, *L.J.G. van der Maesen* 3955. **Assam**, *s. loc.*, *S.N. Bal* 836

(CAL). **Goa**, Angidev, 24.4.1966, *John Cherian* 109104 (CAL). **Gujarat**, Baroda district, *s. loc.*, 6.11.1982, *M. Sanjappa* 9525 (CAL). **Jharkhand**, Santhal Pargana, Trikut hill, 22.9.1992, *J.K. Das* 22301; Rajgir WLS, 12.9.2003, *P. Pillai* 32813 (CAL). **Kerala**, Travancore, *M.A. Lawson* 185; Palakkad district, Perambicolum, 3–4000 ft, November 1910, *A. Meebold* 12461 (CAL). **Maharashtra**, Thane, 25.10.1967, *K.V. Billore* 113241; Poona-Sanswad, 2.10.1957, *S.P. Mahajan* 26905 (CAL). **Odisha**, Puri, 2.12.1965, *T.A. Rao* s.n. (CAL). **West Bengal**, Malda, 18.11.1965, *R.M. Dutta* 27; Howrah, IBG, 22.11.1965, *V.S. Sharma* S-38; 24-Parganas, 28.3.1966, *R.L. Mitra* 525 (CAL).

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