

NOMENCLATORIAL NOTE ON THE GENUS *BUCKLANDIA*
R.Br. (HAMAM.)

BY

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The generic name *Bucklandia* R.Br. has mostly been cited ex WALL. Cat. (1830) no 7414. However, this is a nomen nudum which was validated ex GRIFF. (in As. Res. 19, 1, 1836, p. 94, t. 13—14).

However, the same name had been given in honour of the same person (William Buckland, an eminent British geologist) already in 1825 by PRESL in STERNBERG's folio book "Versuch einer geognostisch-botanischen Darstellung der Flora der Vorwelt" which (acc. to the title page) consists of four parts, with a principally German text. The Leyden copy contains next to that a Latin-paged part covering xlii pages + index in which many new genera and species of fossil plants have been described manifestly edited separately and bearing the title "Tentamen florae primordialis". This part is mentioned by PRITZEL (p. 306a) to belong to this work. In palaeobotanical literature it is apparently ascribed to PRESL, and the appertaining novelties are provided with the author's name "Presl in Sternb." The introduction of this Latin descriptive part is dated "Pragae 27. Aprilis 1825", and it is generally accepted to have appeared in 1825. This is corroborated by a note in Flora (Bot. Zeit.) 1825, Bd II, Beil. 3, p. 33—35.

In this work a fossil genus *Bucklandia* Presl in Sternb. is described belonging to the Tertiary Cycadaceae, typified by *Clat(h)raria anomala* Mantell as *Bucklandia anomala* (Mantell) Pr. in Sternb. This genus is recognized in reference works up to the present day and several other species have been referred to it.

In 1828 BRONGNIART had apparently a different opinion about the identity of *Bucklandia anomala*, and reduced it again (Prod. Hist. Vég. Foss.) to *Clathraria* (as *Cl. lyellii* Mantell), at the same time erecting another genus *Bucklandia* (apparently a superfluous name) based on *Conites bucklandi* Sternb. This procedure is of course illegitimate as *Bucklandia* Brongn. is a clear homonym of *Bucklandia* Pr. in Sternb. It is likely that they are synonyms, but this is irrelevant. For the present the main point is that according to the Rules of Botanic Nomenclature it appears that the generic name *Bucklandia* was pre-occupied at the time it was published for the living genus of the Hamamelidaceae. As the latter has no synonyms there seems no other way out than giving it a new name. For this I propose

Symingtonia, in honour of Mr C. F. SYMINGTON, late Forest Botanist in the Forest Research Station, Kuala Lumpur, whose lamented death deprived Malaysian botany of one of its prominent students.

The allied genera are, according to CHANG (*Sunyatsenia* 7, 1948, p. 63 seq.) *Mytilaria* and *Chunia*; the latter seems closest allied to *Symingtonia*.

SYMINGTONIA, nom. nov.

Bucklandia R. Br. ex GRIFF. in *As. Res.* 19, 1 (1836) p. 94, t. 13—14; non PRESL, in STERNB. *Tent. Florae Primordialis* (1825) p. xxxiii; nec BRONGN. *Prod. Hist. Vég. Foss.* (1828) p. 128.

Symingtonia populnea (R. Br. ex GRIFF.) comb. nov. — *Bucklandia populnea* R. Br. ex Griff. l.c. — *B. populifolia* Hk. f. & Th. *J. Linn. Soc.* 2 (1858) 86. — *Liquidambar tricuspis* Miq. *Fl. Ind. Bat.* 1 (1858) 1097. — *B. tricuspis* Hall. f. *Med. Herb. Leiden* no. 37 (1918) 14.

The Malaysian specimens differ a little from those of continental Asia in having generally somewhat smaller leaves and narrower, more hairy stipules. However, I cannot find a sharp distinction.

Both in Malaysia and continental SE. Asia *Symingtonia* is growing under the cool hill conditions of the montane zone, 1000—2400 m altitude, from India and Tonkin down to the Malay Peninsula and throughout Sumatra.

Symingtonia tonkinensis (LECOMTE) comb. nov. — *Bucklandia tonkinensis* Lecomte, *Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris* 30 (1924) 392.

Apparently differing only by the markedly larger fruit and seed. I am not wholly convinced that it deserves specific status.