

THE CORRECT BINOMIAL FOR RUMPH'S
"FOLIUM TINCTORUM"

BY

C. E. B. BREMEKAMP

*(Botanical Museum, Utrecht)**(received September 26th, 1955)*

In my "Notes on the Acanthaceae of Java" (in Verh. Kon. Ned. Akad. v. Wetensch., Afd. Natuurk. 2nd Sect. 45, 2: 29, 1948) I discussed the three epithets that had been applied to Rumph's "Folium tinctorum" after the latter had been transferred to the genus *Peristrophe*, which, as is well known, was based on this species. Nees, the author of the genus, has used the name *P. tinctoria*, because he regarded *Justicia tinctoria* Roxb. as the oldest binomial that had been applied to it. This was contested both by Merrill and by Hochreutiner. Merrill was of opinion that *Justicia bivalvis* L (1759) was its oldest name, but as I pointed out l.c. this binomial must be regarded as a "nomen confusum"; the description indicates a *Dicliptera* species, whereas the plate in the "Hortus Malabaricus" and the specimina in Burman's herbarium to which Linné referred, represent respectively *Adhatoda vasica* Nees and indeed "Folium tinctorum". Hochreutiner, on the other hand, thought, that *Justicia purpurea* L (1753) was identical with Rumph's plant, but this too proved to be a mistake. *J. purpurea* belongs, as R. Brown already had recognized, to *Hypoestes*. As the binomials proposed by Merrill and Hochreutiner therefore had to be rejected, I accepted l.c. *Peristrophe tinctoria* (Roxb.) Nees as the correct name. This, however, is also erroneous, for *Justicia tinctoria* Roxb. itself is an illegitimate name, for which already long ago a legitimate one had been substituted. *J. tinctoria* Roxb. (1820) is a later homonym of *J. tinctoria* Lour. (1790). This was recognized already by Schultes (Mantissa 1: 140, 1822), who replaced Roxburgh's epithet by *roxburghiana* quoting "*J. tinctoria* Roxb., Fl. Ind. ed. Car. et Wall. I p. 124, n. 13 et hoc teste: Folium tinctorum Rumph. Amb. VI 51. t. XXII. f.1" adding "nomen mutandum erat ob tinctoriam antiquissimam Lour". As Loureiro expressly stated that the plant described by him as *J. tinctoria* was not the same as "Folium tinctorum" of Rumph, it is clear that *J. roxburghiana* Schult. must be accepted as the oldest legitimate binomial for the latter. The correct name therefore becomes ***Peristrophe roxburghiana*** (Schult.) Brem. n. comb.