

THE AFRICAN DICHAPETALACEAE I

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present paper is the first of a series of publications dealing with African *Dichapetalaceae*, which finally will lead to a complete revision of the family as represented in Africa including Madagascar. For several local or regional floras revisions already have been made, but a critical revision covering the total area has never been undertaken. The Asiatic, Australian, and Melanesian species have been revised by LEENHOUTS (1956) and a revision of the American species is in preparation by G. T. Prance at the New York Botanical Garden.

2. THE TAXONOMIC POSITION OF FALYA DESC.

In 1957 DESCOINGS described the monotypic genus *Falya*, based on *Falya leandriana* Desc., and placed it in the *Dichapetalaceae*. The characters of this genus as described are so aberrant, however, if compared with *Dichapetalaceae* in general, that its systematic position raised doubt. This doubt was submitted to the Paris Herbarium in a letter (Oct. 7, 1966), and the loan of type material was asked. It is a pleasure to say that our request was immediately met, and it could be shown that doubt regarding the correct classification of *Falya* was fully justified. Support was also found in a foot-note added to a paper by HALLÉ & HEINE (1967).

As it was necessary to decide whether *Falya* could be admitted to *Dichapetalaceae* the characters of *Falya* were studied closer and it appeared that they belong in *Polygalaceae* and particularly in *Carpolobia* G. Don. A comparison of the main characters of *Falya* with those of *Dichapetalaceae* and *Carpolobia* follows.

	<i>Dichapetalaceae</i>	<i>Falya</i>	<i>Carpolobia</i>
Leaf	glanduliferous	glandless	glandless
Stipules	present, normal	glandlike	glandlike (when present)
Pedicle	jointed	not jointed	not jointed
Petals	united or not	united, tube split down at one side	united, tube split down at one side
Filaments	free or united with corolla, never forming a sheath	forming a sheath which unites the petals	forming a sheath which unites the petals
Connective	dorsally thickened	not thickened	not thickened
Dehiscence of anthers	splitting lengthwise	by two valves, apically	by two valves, apically

Ovary	2-3-locular 2 pendulous ovules per cel	3-locular 1 pendulous ovule per cel	3-locular 1 pendulous ovule per cel
Seed	glabrous, without endosperm	hairy, with abundant endosperm	hairy (except <i>C. delvauxii</i> Pet.), with abundant endosperm

To judge from this list it is evident that the genus *Falya* does not belong in *Dichapetalaceae* but in *Polygalaceae* and has to be reduced to a synonym of *Carpolobia* G. Don. Moreover, the pollen of *Falya leandriana* has been investigated by Punt and he confirms that, without any doubt, *Falya* belongs in *Polygalaceae*.

Carpolobia is a tropical African genus of 7 species, all confined to the continent. From Madagascar only *Polygala* is known to occur (PERRIER DE LA BATHIE 1955). The characters of *Falya leandriana* do not fit any of the presently known species of *Carpolobia*. The small coriaceous leaves with typical indumentum beneath, the conical, truncate, glanduliferous stipules and the rather equal corolla lobes of *Falya leandriana* make it possible to distinguish an eighth species of *Carpolobia*, the first record for the genus in Madagascar.

***Carpolobia leandriana* (Desc.) Bret., comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Falya leandriana* Descoings, Nat. Malgache, 9, 2, 1957.

Type: *Perrier de la Bâthie 18746* (P, holotype!; TAN, isotype).

Distribution: (only known from type locality) Madagascar, Sambirano, Nosy-Faly.

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