Lectotypification of *Timonius pachyphyllus* Merr. (Rubiaceae, Guettardeae)

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ABSTRACT
An earlier type designation for a Philippine taxon of the tribe Guettardeae to *Timonius pachyphyllus* Merr. is found to be erroneous, because the specimen designated is inconsistent with the original material as it clearly represent a different species. To clarify the application of the name *T. pachyphyllus*, it is thus lectotypified here with a specimen housed in the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Herbier national de Paris (P).

RÉSUMÉ
Lectotypification de *Timonius pachyphyllus* (Rubiaceae, Guettardeae).
La précédente attribution du type d’un taxon de la tribu des Guettardeae à *Timonius pachyphyllus* Merr. a été reconnue erronée, car le spécimen désigné correspond clairement à une espèce différente et n’est pas conforme au matériel original. Afin de clarifier l’application du nom *T. pachyphyllus*, un lectotype est désigné ici parmi les spécimens hébergés à l’Herbier national de Paris (P), au Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle.

KEY WORDS
Rubiaceae, Philippines, Elmer Merrill, Yoshio Kondo, Maximo Ramos, lectotypification.

MOTS CLÉS
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INTRODUCTION

Timonius DC. is the most speciose genus in the tribe Guettardae of the Rubiaceae (Manns et al. 2012) and one of the largest in the family (Davis et al. 2009). It is comprised of approximately 200 species that are strictly distributed in the Paleotropics (excluding Africa), extending to tropical Australia and the Pacific Islands (Darwin 2010). Currently, Timonius is characterized from other Guettardae genera with its dioecious woody habit (rarely epiphytic); cymose and axillary inflorescences that bear few to many flowers in staminate plants, and reduced to single or few in pistillate plants; infundibular to salverform corollas with valvate lobes; inserted stamens that are equal to the number of corolla lobes; multi-locular ovary; drupaceous fruits with several to many pyrenes; and solitary, pendulous ovule in each pyrene. The increased understanding on this genus is based from the seminal works of Valeton (1909), Wong (1988) and Darwin (1993, 1994, 2010), wherein the latter has established clearcut subgeneric classifications.

Within this genus, twenty-six specific names were established for the Philippines (Merrill 1923; Govaerts et al. 2017) making it one of its centers of diversity. However, only two are classified at subgeneric level namely: Timonius appendiculatus Merr. and T. pachyphyllus Merr., both belonging to the subgenus Abbottia (F.Muell.) S.P. Darwin (Darwin 1994). Timonius pachyphyllus, which is the focus of this paper, has not received great attention in taxonomic literature. It is one of the endemic species that is only found on the forested slopes of two mountain tops in Rizal province (Merrill 1925). In the course of an undergoing revision of Philippine Timonius, we noticed that T. pachyphyllus was inadequately typified. This paper clarifies this ambiguity and proposes the designation of a lectotype for T. pachyphyllus according to ICN art. 9.2 and recommendation 9A (McNeill et al. 2012) to provide stability in the usage of the name.

LECTOTYPIFICATION

Merrill (1925) based his description of Timonius pachyphyllus on two collections from Rizal Province by Maximo Ramos for the Herbarium of the Philippine Bureau of Science (currently PNH), viz. Ramos sub BS 40794 (Mt. Angilog, IV.1922) and Ramos sub BS 42277 (Mt. Irid = Mt. Irid, IV.1923), and cited the number 40794 as the type. In the protologue of Merrill (1925)./(Vide S. Darwin in Syst. Bot. Monogr. 42: 61 (1994))”. In our examination, this specimen was collected by Yoshio Kondo in Ticao Island, Masbate on March 31 during the Philippine-Hawaii Expedition in 1957 (van Steenis-Kruseman 1973: 56), and would therefore be unlikely encountered when Merrill described T. pachyphyllus in 1925. We also traced a duplicate of this material in L, which bears the field label from PNH indicating that this specimen belongs to Kondo’s field collection number 118, and that 40794 is the herbarium number. It is important to note that duplicate collection numbers are widespread in plant specimen repositories, but collector and locality are unique. We postulate that the annotation label was erroneously placed on this sheet not by S. P. Darwin himself but by a staff from NO who may have overlooked the collector and locality. Furthermore, the specimen bears obovate leaves that are in whorls of threes, with evident lateral veins and solitary inflorescences, which does not conform to the concept of T. pachyphyllus. Hence, this specimen cannot belong to the original material and is to be ignored for typification purposes. Despite of this, we are uncertain whether this material which is identified as T. philippinensis Merr. was used in the updated morphological description of the species by Darwin (1994).

The second sheet of BS 40794 in A has the label of the Herbarium of the Philippine Bureau of Science only, and lacks the annotation from NO. This material can be clearly identified as T. pachyphyllus, and it is labelled as collected by M. Ramos in Mt. Angilog, Rizal Province on April 1922. We were also able to trace duplicates of this material in P and K, which were obviously not known to Darwin (1994). These specimens which bear fruits, exhibit characters that clearly correspond to the description and diagnostic features in the protologue of Merrill (1925). Therefore, there is no doubt that these are part of the original type material Ramos BS 40794.

Timonius pachyphyllus Merr.

(Fig. 1)


FIG. 1. — Lectotype of *Timonius pachyphyllus* Merr., Ramos sub BS 40794 (P03906974).
REMARK
The search for the holotype of *T. pachyphyllus* in PNH was futile, and it must have been destroyed during the Second World War (see Madulid 2000). All the three identified original type specimens from Mt. Angilog (*Ramos BS 40794*) in A, P and K are well-preserved. Of these, we selected the herbarium sheet in P to serve as the lectotype because this material is most represented with regards to reproductive structures including flower buds and fruits.

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