

## **Two New Combinations in Memecylon L. (Melastomataceae) of Madagascar**

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## 15. STONE, R. Douglas & Martin W. CALLMANDER: Two new combinations in *Memecylon* L. (Melastomataceae) of Madagascar

### Introduction

*Memecylon* L. (Melastomataceae) is widely distributed in the Old World tropics and consists of more than 300 species of generally small trees or shrubs, most of them occurring in the understory of evergreen forest (RENNER & al., 2007-2011). For Madagascar, the most recent treatment of the genus recognized 78 species (JACQUES-FÉLIX, 1985a, 1985b), and much of the recently collected material appears to represent species new to science (STONE, 2006). Pending completion of a comprehensive taxonomic revision of Malagasy *Memecylon*, the purpose of this note is to propose new combinations at species rank for the taxa originally described as *M. pedunculatum* var. *centrale* Jacq.-Fél. and *M. eglandulosum* var. *bezavonense* Jacq.-Fél. A lectotype is also designated for the latter. Each species is provided with observations and conservation status using the current IUCN Red List Criteria (2001).

### Taxonomy and nomenclature

*Memecylon centrale* (Jacq.-Fél.) R. D. Stone, stat. nov.

≡ *Memecylon pedunculatum* var. *centrale* Jacq.-Fél. in Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia 6: 451. 1985.

**Typus:** MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antananarivo: massif d'Anorimbato, à l'Ouest d'Ambaravarana (Tsiranoanomandidy), aux confins de la haute Mahavavy et de la haute Bebao, [18°26'S 45°37'E], 15-16.V.1970, fr., Service Forestier 29170 (holo-: P [P00062672]!; iso-: K [K000 313587]!, MO [MO-313781, MO-313782]!, P [P00062673, P00062674]!, TEF [TEF000321]!).

*Conservation status.* – With an AOO of 18 km<sup>2</sup> and 2 subpopulations, neither of which are situated within the protected area network, *M. centrale* is assigned a preliminary status of Endangered (EN B2ab[iii]) following the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2001) (calculation following CALLMANDER & al., 2007).

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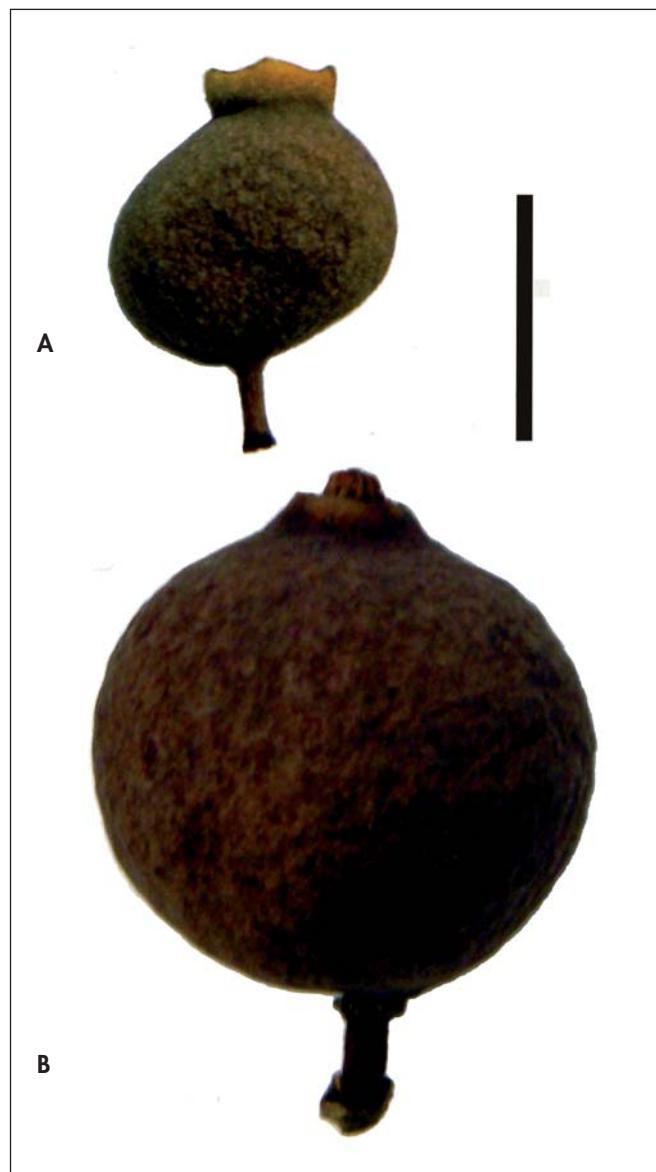
MWC: Missouri Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, Missouri, 63166-0299, U.S.A. and Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, ch. de l'Impératrice 1, CP 60, 1292 Chambésy, Switzerland.

B2ab[iii]) following the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN, 2001) (calculation following CALLMANDER & al., 2007).

*Observations.* – This species is evidently restricted to dry, semi-deciduous forests in northeastern Madagascar. Its description as a variety of *M. eglandulosum* H. Perrier was seemingly based on floral characters, which were said to be identical between the two taxa (JACQUES-FÉLIX, 1985b: 12). Additional

collections have revealed that the fruits of *M. bezavonense* are characteristically asymmetrical and have a distinct calycinal crown, quite unlike the fruits of *M. eglandulosum* which are larger, globose and have a stylopodium projecting past the truncate rim of the calyx (Fig. 1). Species status for *M. bezavonense* is further justified by its smaller, oblanceolate leaves (dimensions 4-5 × 1.2-1.8 cm) in comparison to the larger, ± elliptic leaves of *M. eglandulosum* (dimensions 5-7.5 × 2-3 cm).

*Additional specimens.* – MADAGASCAR. Prov. Antsiranana: type loc., 13.XII.1966, st., Service Forestier 27239-bis (P, TEF); Antsiranana II, Andrafabe, Saharenana, lieu de récolte Andranomadio-Sahafary, 3 km au Sud-Est du village de Saharenana, 12°36'26"S 49°26'21"E, alt. 227 m, forêt sèche semi-caducifoliée, 10.XI.2004, fr., Rakotondrajaona & al. 342 (CAS, MO, P, TAN). S. loc.: s.d., fr., Service Forestier 29413 (TEF).



**Fig. 1.** – Comparison of fruit morphology (scale bar = 1 cm). **A.** Fruit of *Memecylon bezavonense* (Jacq.-Fél.) R. D. Stone [Rakotondrajaona & al. 342, CAS]. **B.** Fruit of *Memecylon eglandulosum* H. Perrier [Madiomanana & al. 196, NU].

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