

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE GENERIC LIMITS OF DALBERGIA AND MACHAERIUM (PAPILIONACEAE)

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SUMMARY

Dalbergia and *Machaerium* are two distinct genera. The former genus *Ecastophyllum* is a distinct entity in the genus *Dalbergia*. The former genus *Drepanocarpus* differs from *Machaerium* only in certain pod characters and is considered as congeneric with it.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the literature the main difference between the genera *Dalbergia* and *Machaerium* is said to be the method of dehiscence of the anthers (Bentham, Ducke, Burkart, Amshoff). Such a character, if used by itself, would appear rather trivial. Moreover, as there seemed to be several transitions between the genera, it seemed worthwhile to investigate whether other characters are associated with the anther character, or, in other words, if the delimitation of the genera would have to be revised or even abandoned. Most modern authors, i.a. DUCKE (1922), AMSHOFF (1939), HOEHNE (1941), recognize only the genera *Dalbergia* and *Machaerium*, whereas HUTCHINSON in his recent work (1964) again subdivides *Machaerium* into *Machaerium* and *Drepanocarpus*, as was done by some older authors, e.g., BENTHAM (1860). *Machaerium* is, with the exclusion of one species, entirely neotropical, *Dalbergia* occurs in the tropics and subtropics all over the world. In *Dalbergia* 60 species were available for study out of a total of about 100, in *Machaerium* 53 out of a total of about 120 species. For both genera this is about half of the number of species. As the investigated characters are so consistent, it seemed justified to draw conclusions valid for the genus as a whole though based only on the species investigated.

The material was taken from the herbaria of Utrecht and Wageningen. Where the material was incomplete, I tried to supplement the data from the original description, which was, however, not always sufficient. Particular attention was paid to characters of leaf and leaflets, indument, stipules, inflorescence, size of flower, length of pedicel, calyx, corolla, stamens, anthers, style, ovary, and pod. The data were marked on punchcards, one for each species. In this way correlations between diverse characters could be readily observed.

2. RESULTS

It appears that several characters occur *either* in *Machaerium* or in *Dalbergia*. In the following list, characters applying to all species investigated are printed in **bold face**, those applying to most species in roman, those applying to some species in *italics*.

Machaerium

calyx teeth about similar in shape and size
 calyx teeth shorter than 1/5 of calyx tube (25 spp.)
 vexillum hirsute (44 spp.)
vexillum glabrous (9 spp.)
 anthers versatile
anthers dehiscing with longitudinal slits
 anthers oblong, large (39 spp.)
anthers globular or triangular (9 spp.)
 disc present (28 spp.)
 pod unilaterally alate (37 spp.)
pod orbicular or oval (5 spp.)
pod intermediate (3 spp.)
seed excentric in the pod
leaflets parallel-veined (17 spp.)
leaves with more than 20 leaflets (19 spp.)
 stipules thickened into a spine (26 spp.)
flowers sessile (21 spp.)
inflorescence exclusively terminal (16 spp.)

Dalbergia

calyx teeth dissimilar in shape and size, never shorter than 1/4 of calyx tube
calyx teeth as long as calyx tube
vexillum glabrous
anthers non-versatile
anthers dehiscing with small, transverse slits
anthers globular, small
disc wanting
pod never unilaterally alate
seed centrally located in the pod
leaflets reticulate-veined
 leaves with less than 20 leaflets (55 spp.)
stipules never thickened into a spine
flowers pedicellate
inflorescence never exclusively terminal

As shown by the table, *Dalbergia* is much more homogeneous than *Machaerium*, where few characters are present in all but more in only some species. It should be stated here, since the table does not show it, that *Machaerium* seems still a natural group, as the deviating species diverge only in one or two characters of importance, whereas the others are always in good agreement with the genus as a whole and exclude them from *Dalbergia*.

When looking into the question if, apart from the (superficial) similarity in the pods, there is still more resemblance between the former genus *Ecastophyllum*, now united with *Dalbergia*, and the former genus *Drepanocarpus*, now united with *Machaerium*, the following becomes apparent: between *Dalbergia riedelii*, *D. subcymosa*, *D. monetaria*, *D. nitida*, and *D. ecastophyllum* there is much mutu-

al conformity. The most striking character is that they have the stamens in two groups of four and five, respectively: isadelphous with *nine* stamens. This was not found in a single other *Dalbergia* species. In this group only *Dalbergia ecastophyllum* is isadelphous with 10 stamens. Another conspicuous property of the species of this group is that they have few leaflets, viz. from one to five, only in *D. subcymosa* about 10. In the former genus *Drepanocarpus* only *Machaerium ferox* is isadelphous, the other species, viz. *M. inundatum*, *M. crista-castrense*, *M. lunatum*, and *M. aristulatum*, are monadelphous with 10 stamens. Except for the (superficial) likeness of the pods they have little in common with the former genus *Ecastophyllum*, at least in the characters I have taken into consideration. Moreover, they have no close general similarity to each other, apart from the more or less pronounced curvature of the pod.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Apart from the dehiscence of the anthers, there are several important features that occur *only* in *Dalbergia*, or *only* in *Machaerium*, and it seems therefore justified to consider the generic limits of *Dalbergia* and *Machaerium* as correct. The main difference between the genera is in the pod.

As far as known to me, in *Dalbergia* the *seed* is always situated in about the *middle* of the pod (fig. 1e, f en g). In *Machaerium*, however, it is placed in the basal part of the pod which is nearly always *unilaterally alate*, (fig. 1a) except in the former genus *Drepanocarpus* (fig. 1d) with a few intermediate forms (fig. 1b and c). The pod is always more or less incurved towards the seed.

The shape of the anthers is in *Dalbergia* always *globular* and in *Machaerium* mostly *oblong*. As a rule the anthers in *Machaerium* are rather large; there are, however, also species with quite small ones.

There are also characteristic differences in the calyx, not only as regards the shape in bud (in *Dalbergia* it is campanulate and in *Machaerium* obtuse and tubular), but also in the shape and size of the calyx teeth. In *Dalbergia* they are nearly always dissimilar in shape and size, in *Machaerium* mostly nearly identical. In *Machaerium* the flowers are sessile in about half of the investigated species, in *Dalbergia* in one species only. A character emphasizing the difference between the genera is the consistency of the flower, of which I got an impression from herbarium material: in *Dalbergia* calyx and corolla (this is particularly noticeable in the vexillum) are limp and thin, in *Machaerium* as a rule the calyx is much firmer and sometimes even hard, as is the vexillum.

The former genus *Ecastophyllum* fits altogether into the picture of the genus *Dalbergia*, but its species also show a striking mutual similarity in the insertion and number of the stamens (4–5), which does not occur in any other *Dalbergia* species. They also have few leaflets (1–10, mostly less than five), which occurs occasionally elsewhere in the genus.

The former genus *Drepanocarpus* has a pod that is different from that of the other *Machaerium* species. By its other characters, however, it fits well into the genus. When one considers the strong curvature of the pod (fig. 1d) as an ex-

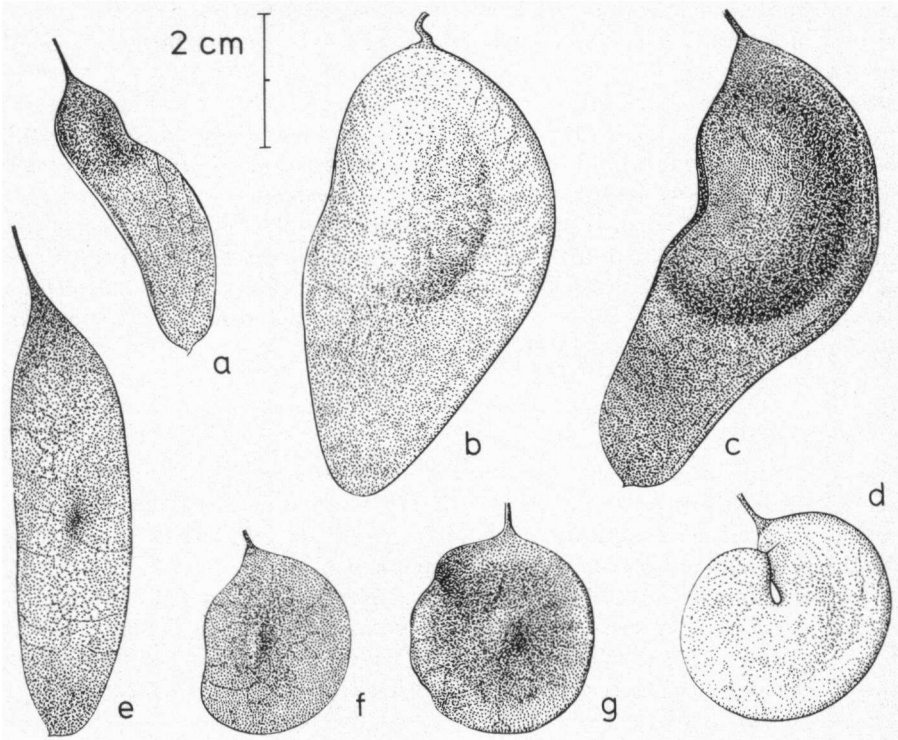


Fig. 1. a. *Machaerium stipitatum* Vog., Minas Gerais, Brazil (Y. Mexia 4908)
 b. *M. leiophyllum* (DC.) Benth., Pará, Brazil (Ducke 11759)
 c. *M. trifoliatum* Ducke, Suriname (Wessels Boer 1300)
 d. *M. lunatum* (L.f.) Ducke, Suriname (coll.indig. 1910)
 e. *Dalbergia spruceana* Benth., Amazonas, Brazil (Krukoff 4921)
 f. *D. ecastophyllum* (L.) Taub., Tobago, W. Indies (Broadway 4088)
 g. *D. monetaria* L.f., Suriname (Soeprato 299)

trème degree of curvature towards the seed, as is more weakly the case in the pods of other *Machaerium* species, there is no need for separating *Drepanocarpus* from *Machaerium*, the more so as there are transitions between both types of pod (see fig. 1c). DUCKE (1922) described several intermediate shapes of pod, i.a. in *M. leiophyllum* (fig. 1b) and *M. macrophyllum*, and stated that because of these it is impossible to maintain *Drepanocarpus* as a separate genus. I quite agree with him and disagree with HUTCHINSON (1964), who again made it a distinct genus. He placed *Machaerium* in the tribe *Pterocarpeae*, *Dalbergia*, however, as the only genus in the tribe *Dalbergieae*. The only argument in support of this view is that in the tribe *Pterocarpeae* the anthers are *versatile* and in the *Dalbergieae* *non-versatile*. The other tribal characters are the same. It seems hazardous to place *Dalbergia* apart on the basis of a single character, the more so as in a few *Machaerium* species the anthers are not versatile but basifixed.

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MATERIAL STUDIED

- Dalbergia afzeliana D. Don: Portuguese Guinea (Espirito Santo 2047, 2672)
 D. amerimnum Benth.: Colombia (H. H. Smith 1750)
 D. armata E. Merr.: South Africa (Lanjouw 914)
 D. boehmii Taub.: Portuguese Guinea (Espirito Santo 2479)
 D. brasiliensis Vog.: Brazil, Santa Catarina (Reitz 4600)
 D. candanensis Prain: Malesia, Sumatra (Achmad 863, Korthals s.n.), Indo-China (Clemens 4372)
 D. cearensis Ducke: Brazil, Ceará (Ducke 17158)
 D. championii Thun: Malesia, Malay Peninsula (King 6565)
 D. confertiflora Benth.: India, Malabar (Stocks s.n.)
 D. cumingiana Benth.: Philippines, Luzon (16789)
 D. dalzielii Bak.f.: Africa, Nigeria (Bonny 2.77)
 D. ecastophyllum (L.) Taub.: Africa, Ivory Coast (Versteegh & den Outer 694), Liberia (Kunkel 512), Jamaica (Hooke s.n.), British Guiana (Tutin 348), Suriname (Geyskes 186, Kramer & Hekking 2103), Brazil, Amazonas (Krukoff 4807)
 D. ealaensis de Wild.: Africa, Cameroons (Breteler 1801)
 D. ferruginea Roxb.: India orientalis (Bentham 343)
 D. foliosa Benth.: Bolivia (Steinbach 7134), Argentina (Ducke 20380 and 15449), Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4484 and 5766)
 D. frondosa Roxb.: India orientalis (Bentham 723)
 D. glauca (Desv.) Amsh.: Venezuela (Maguire 46991), British Guiana (Jenman 4351), Suriname (Lanjouw 864 and 2003, Lindeman 4311, Pulle 436, Versteeg 625), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 11592 and 12151)
 D. glaucescens Mart.: Brazil, Santa Catarina (Reitz 4546)
 D. grandibracteata De Wild.: Belgian Congo (Louis 8944)
 D. heudelotii Stapf: Africa, Ivory Coast (Versteegh & den Outer 635, de Wilde 871 and 927)
 D. hostilis Benth.: Africa, Sierra Leone (Morton & Gledhill 3228), Cameroons (de Wilde 1405), Portuguese Guinea (Espirito Santo 1641), Belgian Congo (Louis 11352)
 D. hygrophila (Mart.) Hoehne var. nephrocarpa (Ducke) Hoehne: Brazil, Mato Grosso (Ducke 4566)
 D. insularis Pulle: Netherlands New Guinea (Versteeg 1117)
 D. inundata Spruce: British Guiana (A. C. Smith 2684), Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 3228, Fróes 22069, Krukoff 6195 and 6671)
 D. lactea Vatke: Africa, Ghana (Bougey 10, 473)
 D. lanceolaria L.: Sumatra (Lörzing 5157)
 D. latifolia Roxb.: India, Canara (Bentham 622), Java, Madioen (Koorders 4109)
 D. laxiflora Michel: Africa, Congo (P. Sita 1598)
 D. louisii Cronquist: Africa, Belgian Congo (Leonard 937, Louis 1534, P. Sita 1624)
 D. melanoxylon Guill. et Perr.: Africa, Cameroons (de Wilde 3476), Tanganyika (Tanner 1042)
 D. mimosella Prain: Philippines, Luzon (Ramos s.n.)
 D. monetaria L.f.: Jamaica (Proctor 22628), Venezuela (Steyermark 87342), French Guiana (BAFOG 7821), Suriname (Gonggrijp 2932 and 3533, Lindeman 6263, Wessels Boer 1350)
 D. mossambicensis Harms: East Africa, Nyasaland (Stolz 1569 and 1676)
 D. nigra (Fr. Allemao) Benth.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4128)
 D. nitida (Radlk.) Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 4555)
 D. nitidula Welw.: Africa, Congo (Devred 249)

- D. oblongifolia* G. Don: Africa, Ivory Coast (de Wilde 920, de Wit 1038, Versteegh & den Outer 726)
- D. obovata* E. Mey.: Moçambique (Coomans s.n.), South Africa (Lanjouw 467)
- D. oligophylla* Bak.: Africa, Cameroons (Breteler c.s. MC 175)
- D. pachycarpa* Uhler.: Africa, Cameroons (W. de Wilde 2926)
- D. parviflora* Roxb.: Malay Peninsula (King 6151), Indonesia, Palembang (3723 H.B.)
- D. pinnata* Prain: Sikkim Himalaya (5-4-1902), Indo-China (Clemens 3925)
- D. reticulata* Merr.: Philippines, Luzon (Elmer 18340)
- D. riedelii* (Radlk.) Sandw.: British Guiana (Sandwith 53), Suriname (Pulle 338, Wessels Boer 1257), Brazil, Amazonas (Black 47.1989, Wurdack 43164)
- D. rimosa* Roxb.: India, Mount Khasia (J. D. Hooker)
- D. riparia* Benth.: Brazil, Amazonas (Krukoff 6383, Kuhlmann 2607 and 7165)
- D. rostrata* Grah.: Java (Backer 17238)
- D. rufa* G. Don.: Africa, Congo (P. Sita 2759), Portuguese Guinea (Espirito Santo 2102)
- D. saxatilis* Hook.f.: Africa, Ivory Coast (Versteegh & den Outer 533 and 558, Leeuwenberg 1924), Portuguese Guinea (Espirito Santo 1882)
- D. saxatilis* Hook.f. var. *preussii* (Harms) Cronq.: Africa, Belgian Congo (Corbetier 1643)
- D. sissoo* Roxb.: India (Tahauinpox 441)
- D. spruceana* Benth.: Brazil, Amazonas (Black 47-1699, Ducke 1996 and 11567, Krukoff 4921)
- D. stipulacea* Roxb.: India, Assam (Prain 991), E. Pakistan, Chittagong (Hooker & Thomson)
- D. stuhlmannii* Taub.: East Africa, Tanganyika (Tanner 4234)
- D. subcyrosa* Ducke: British Guiana (Cowan 38535), French Guiana (BAFOG 7915), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 11572), Amapá (Pires 51662)
- D. tomentosa* (Benth.) Taub.: Brazil, Amazonas (Kuhlmann 3066)
- D. vaccinifolia* Vatke: East Africa, Tanganyika (Tanner 2875 and 3768)
- D. variabilis* Vog.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 11730, Lisboa 2628)
- D. violacea* (Vog.) Malme: Brazil, São Paulo (Ducke 4339), Minas Gerais (Regnell II-70)
- Machaerium aculeatum* Raddi: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 11730), Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4468)
- M. acutifolium* Vog.: Bolivia (Krukoff 10029), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 11749), Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4393)
- M. amazonense* Hoehne: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 24194 and 35516)
- M. aristulatum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Krukoff 5904)
- M. aureiflorum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 24193), Pará (Ducke 17172)
- M. brasiliense* Vog.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 13388 and 15489)
- M. castaneiflorum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 11753), Pará (Ducke 11752)
- M. caudatum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 23382)
- M. cobanense* Donn. Smith: Guatemala (v. Türckheim II-1401)
- M. crista-castrense* (Mart.) Ducke: Brazil, Pará (Ducke 17183, T. Silva 267)
- M. cuspidatum* Kuhlmann et Hoehne: Peru (Y. Mexia 6456)
- M. discolor* Vog.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 5107)
- M. ferox* (Benth.) Ducke: British Guiana (Fanshawe 6346), Suriname (Hulk 94 a), Brazil, Amapá (Pires 51483), Amazonas (Kuhlmann 3069)
- M. firmum* Benth.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Allemao 5067)
- M. floribundum* Benth.: British Guiana (Fanshawe 5101 and 5192), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 2030 and 11650)
- M. floridum* (Mart.) Ducke: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4724), Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 15485)
- M. glabratum* Pittier: Colombia (H. H. Smith 2032)
- M. gracile* Benth.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexia 4425)
- M. hoehneanum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Fróes 29558)
- M. humboldtianum* Vog.: Colombia (H. H. Smith 2026), Venezuela (Breteler 3676)
- M. inundatum* (Mart.) Ducke: British Guiana (A. C. Smith 2104), Suriname (Lanjouw 1211,

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- Mennega 108), Brazil, Pará (Krukoff 1237)
- M. incorruptibile* Fr. Allemão: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Ducke 19278, Kuhlmann 15482)
- M. isadelphum* (E. Mey) Amsh.: Suriname (Hostmann 629), Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexía 4535, Regnell III-463), Rio de Janeiro (Campos 11741)
- M. kegelii* Meissn.: British Guiana (Fanshawe 5100, A.C. Smith 3233), Suriname (Kegel 1249)
- M. latifolium* Rusby: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 24199), Pará (Ducke 17169 and 17171)
- M. leiophyllum* (DC.) Benth.: Suriname (Hostmann 256, Versteeg 134), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 11759 and 17189)
- M. lilacinum* Ducke: Brazil, Pará (Ducke 11754)
- M. longifolium* Benth.: Brazil, Pará (Ducke 17164)
- M. lunatum* (L.f.) Ducke: Suriname (Florschütz 911, Jonker 38, Kramer & Hekking 2362, Lanjouw 3108, Mennega 231)
- M. macrophyllum* Mart.: Colombia (Black 46-201)
- M. microphyllum* (E. Mey) Standl.: Venezuela (Wurdack 40991), Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 24196, Pires 3452), Pará (Ducke 5061)
- M. milleflorum* Pittier: Colombia (H. H. Smith 2033)
- M. moritzianum* Benth.: Venezuela (Steiermark 88946), Colombia (H. H. Smith 14)
- M. multifoliatum* Ducke: Brazil, Amazonas (Krukoff 8510), Mato Grosso (Krukoff 1428)
- M. myrianthum* Spruce: Brazil, Mato Grosso (Krukoff 1516)
- M. nigrum* Vog.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexía 4446 and 4501)
- M. oblongifolium* Vog.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Y. Mexía 4168 and 5080), Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 2174, Lisboa 2753)
- M. paraense* Ducke: Fr. Guiana (BAFOG 7830), Brazil, Amapá (Irwin c.s. 47491 and 48208), Pará (Ducke 11673)
- M. paraguayense* Hassler: Paraguay (Tessmann 6058)
- M. parviflorum* Benth.: Brazil, Amazonas (Ducke 24200)
- M. purpurascens* Pittier: Panama (Hunter 512)
- M. quinatum* (Aubl.) Sandw.: British Guiana (Fanshawe 4845, A.C. Smith 2682), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 17166, Pires 51934), Mato Grosso (Kuhlmann 18199)
- M. robinifolium* Vog.: Venezuela (Breteler 3494)
- M. secundiflorum* Mart.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Constantino 5340, Ducke 2623)
- M. seemannii* Benth.: Panama (Allen 4606, 17347)
- M. setulosum* Pittier: Mexico (Y. Mexía 9255)
- M. stipitatum* Vog.: Brazil, Paraná (Hatschbach 9775), Minas Gerais (Y. Mexía 4908 and 5072, Reitz 8351)
- M. tobagense* Urb.: Tobago (Broadway 2452)
- M. tortipes* Hoehne: Brazil, Acre (Ducke 24198)
- M. trifoliatum* Ducke: Suriname (Wessels Boer 1300), Brazil, Pará (Ducke 17188)
- M. uncinatum* Benth.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Kuhlmann 5094)
- M. villosum* Vog.: Brazil, Minas Gerais (Ducke 5069)
- M. violaceum* Vog.: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (Ducke 2404 and 2405).

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