

**(1167) Proposal to reject *Illicium san-ki* Perr., a threat to *Clausena anisum-olens* (Blanco) Merr. (*Rutaceae*)**Jean-François Molino<sup>1</sup>**(1167) *Illicium san-ki* Perr., Cat. Pl. Intr. Colon.: 33. Mai-Dec 1824 [Rut.], nom. utique rej. prop.**Neotype (Molino in Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia 16(1): 134. 1994): Philippines, Luzon, Benguet subprov., May 1914, Merrill, *Phil Pl. 1791* (PNH; isoneotypes: BM, BO, P, PE, SING).*Clausena san-ki* (Perr.) Molino, vide *Illicium san-ki*.

Robinson (in Philipp. J. Sci C. 3: 305. 1908) first noted that *Illicium san-ki* Perr. involved a mixture of the dried fruit of the true star anise (Chinese *I. verum* of *Illiciaceae*), sold in Manila's markets, and a living plant of *Clausena anisum-olens*, a popular medicinal endemic of the Philippines, collected from the wild and cultivated around Luzon homes for its strongly anise-scented leaves. Indeed, Perrottet's prologue is clear enough to identify both taxa, and Robinson's hypothesis has been confirmed by all subsequent authors, including Merrill (Enum. Philipp. Fl. Pl. 2: 154. 1923) and Smith (in Sargentia 7: 76. 1947). "San-ki" (given by Perrottet as the Chinese name for his new species of star anise) was cited by Quisumbing (Med. Pl. Philipp.: 301. 1951) as the main Tagalog name for the dried fruit of star anise.<sup>2</sup>

*Illicium san-ki* predates both *I. verum* Hook. f. (in Bot. Mag. 114: ad t. 7005. 1888) [*Illiciaceae*] and *Cookia anisum-olens* Blanco (Fl. Filip.: 359. 1837) [*Rutaceae*], the basionym of *Clausena anisum-olens* (Blanco) Merr. (in Publ. Bur. Sci. Gov. Lab. 17: 21. 1904).

Robinson (l.c. 1908), and Smith (l.c. 1947) used *Illicium verum* for the star anise, both rejecting *I. san-ki* Perr. as a *nomen confusum*. Starting with the 1906 (Vienna) Rules, Art. 51(4) provided that one should refuse to admit a name "which ... embraces elements altogether incoherent...". This, which made sense under the now defunct circumscription method for determining the application of names, survived until its descendant (Art. 70) was deleted by the 1975 Leningrad Congress, which established that one is to determine the application of a name by typifying it by one of the elements. Thus, after 1975, *I. san-ki* was to be applied to one of its constituent elements. Considering that the Chinese star anise (*I. verum*) is far more important economically than *Clausena anisum-olens*, and not knowing of the new opportunities for conserving and rejecting species names provided by the new 1994 (Tokyo) Code, I designated a neotype and changed the name of the Philippine plant from *C. anisum-olens* to *C. san-ki* (Perr.) Molino (in Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia 16(1): 132. 1994). *I. san-ki* had never been used, not even as a synonym, let alone as a basionym, until I revived it. I would like to reverse this action.

<sup>1</sup> Centre ORSTOM, B.P. 165, F-97323 Cayenne, France (Guyane).

<sup>2</sup> [Nom. ed. note: A Chinese colleague assures me that san-ki is Cantonese for powder (sanji in Mandarin), involving san, medicine in powder form, and ji, pharmaceutical preparation. This suggests that Perrottet and the Filipinos accepted, as a plant name, what the Chinese used to refer to their product after grinding. – DHN.]

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Outright rejection of *Illicium san-ki* under Art. 56.1 of the *Tokyo Code* also rejects combinations based on it, i.e., *Clausena san-ki*, and thus would restore the name *C. anisum-olens*, a name in permanent and undisputed use since its publication in 1904 for a popular medicinal plant of the Philippines. Recent usage of *C. anisum-olens* includes: Engler in Engler & Prantl, *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* ed. 2, 19A: 322. 1931; Tanaka in *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Taiwan* 22 : 422. 1932; Reyes, *Contr. Phyto-Chem. Study C. anisum-olens* [Thesis, Univ. Philipp.]. 1938; Swingle in *Citrus Industr.* 1: 179. 1944; Quisumbing, *Med. Pl. Philipp.*: 456. 1951; Uphof, *Dict. Econ. Pl.*: 136. 1968; and Molino in *Acta Hort.* 331: 183-190. 1993. The last paper considers an Indonesian cultivar as a promising essential oil crop plant, which probably originated from the living Philippine material taken back to France by Perrottet.