

1. History of the family

by F.J. Breteler

The genus *Connarus* was published by Linnaeus in 1753. He classified it in *Monadelphia Decandria*. Aublet (1775) used the same system to classify his new genus *Rourea*. When A.L. de Jussieu (1789) described *Cnestis*, he placed it in his *Terebintaceae* under 'Genera Terebintaceis affina', together with genera which are now placed in families like *Rutaceae* and *Sapindaceae*. The genera *Connarus* and *Rourea* were, apparently, considered as true Terebintaceous. Robert Brown (1818) was the first author to separate the three known genera from the *Terebintaceae*, placing them together in the new family *Connaraceae*. *Omphalobium* of Gaertner (1788) is considered by him a synonym of *Connarus*. Brown's concept of the family is essentially the same as ours.

De Candolle (1825) did follow De Jussieu rather than Brown in placing the genera of *Connaraceae*, treated as a tribe, in *Terebintaceae*. The generic concept of *Connarus* is expanded to accommodate Aublet's *Rourea*, a genus with 5 instead of 1 carpel per flower. Next to *Connarus* Gaertner's genus *Omphalobium* is maintained, accommodating like *Connarus*, 5-carpellate as well as 1-carpellate species. This confusing situation ended when Planchon in 1850 reinstated *Connaraceae* as a distinct family, reducing *Omphalobium* unambiguously into a synonym of *Connarus* by making the necessary new combinations. Planchon (l.c.) also added five new genera: *Agelaea*, *Bernardinia* (now treated as a synonym of *Rourea*), *Cnestidium*, *Manotes*, and *Roureopsis* (now also in *Rourea*). He divided the family in two tribes, the *Connareae* and the *Cnestideae*, based on differences in the aestivation of the sepals and the presence of endosperm. J.D. Hooker (1862) followed Planchon in his generic treatment of the family. Four genera were added: *Ellipanthus* and *Taeniochlaena* of himself, *Tricholobus* Blume (1850), and *Troostwykia* Miquel (1860). Of these only *Ellipanthus* is maintained here.

When Gilg (1891) made his treatment for 'Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien' he maintained Planchon's tribes. Radlkofer's genus *Pseudoconnarus*, published in 1886, was added. In his supplements to this work of 1891, 1894, and 1897 the family was enriched with the genera *Paxia* Gilg (1891), *Spiropetalum* Gilg (1891), *Jaundea* Gilg (1894), *Dinklagea* Gilg (1897), and *Jollydora* of Pierre (1896). In his third supplement Gilg divided the *Connaraceae* in two subfamilies, *Connaroideae* and *Jollydoroideae*, to underline the separate position of *Jollydora*, while Planchon's tribes are maintained.

Schellenberg (1910) made a new subdivision of the family. Two subfamilies were distinguished namely *Connaroideae* (including *Jollydora*) and *Cnestoideae*. The *Connaroideae* are divided in two tribes the *Connareae* and the *Roureeae*. The latter tribe is further divided into two subtribes. It is interesting to note that the fundamental difference within *Connaraceae* of flowers having five or