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Thesium longiperianthium (Santalaceae), a new replacement name for *T. brevibracteatum*

P.C.Tam

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Abstract

Background

Thesium brevibracteatum P.C.Tam is a later homonym of *T. brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich.

New information

We propose the new name *T. longiperianthium* for *T. brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam.

Keywords

Thesium brevibracteatum, homonym, replacement name, Inner Mongolia,

Introduction

Thesium brevibracteatum P.C.Tam was described based on the specimen *Chiu* L.C. 5128 collected from Inner Mongolia, China ([Tam 1981](#)). It is a sub-fruticose herb up to 30 cm tall, and grows on sunny side of dunes and hills, and drought grassland (Tam 1981, Tam 1988, Xia and Gilbert 2003, Zhao et al. 2020). In the protologue, the author indicated that *T. brevibracteatum* is similar to *T. longifolium* N.S.Turczaninow (Sumnevich 1940), but distinguishes from the latter by the short bracts and long persistent perianth. As an

endemic species, this species is distributed in Xilin Gol Meng, Horqin Right Front Banner, and Hulun Buir, Inner Mongoli, China (Imzab 1990, Zhao et al. 2020).

The name *Thesium brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich is validly published and described on the type (*Korotkova E.E. et Titov V.S. 1502*) collected from Uzbekistan (Sumnevich 1940). This species is a perennial soft-stemmed herb up to 25 cm tall. As indicated in protologue, this species is close to *T. ramosissimum* E.G.Bobrov (Bobrov 1936) and *T. ramosum* F.G.Hayne (Hayne 1800). It differs from the first species by a very short peduncle - about 1 mm long (not 2-3 mm long), smaller nuts, non-woody roots, low and poorly branched stems in the inflorescence area (not high to 60 cm and branched from the base), and from *T. ramosum* in thin, woody roots and stems, branched in the inflorescence area, leaves with a single vein, and shorter lateral bracts equal to half the length of the flower. As noted by Goloskokov (Goloskokov 1960), *T. brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich is probably a southern, ecologically isolated race of *T. ramosum* F.G.Hayne. The common distribution of the *T. brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich is Central Asia (Western Tian Shan). It grows on the northern slopes in the upper belt of mountains on fine-grained slopes in woody and shrubby thickets (Sumnevich 1953). In addition to the type locality (Tashkent Alatau), this species was found in the Karatau mountains, Western Tian Shan (Kazakhstan) (Goloskokov 1960).

During the preparation of the checklist of vascular plant of Central Asia, we realized that the name *T. brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam is a later homonym of *T. brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich (Art 53.1 of ICN) (Turland et al. 2018). After checking the protologue and type specimens (Fig. 1), we are sure that those two species are very different in long of peduncle and nut, such as the species *T. brevibracteatum* G.P.Sumnevich show shorter peduncle and smaller nut. In the protologue, the long persistent perianth is a key characteristic for *T. brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam. After checking in IPNI (<https://www.ipni.org>), the epithet "longiperianthium" was not used in the genus *Thesium* previously. Thus, we propose the new name *T. longiperianthium* for *T. brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam.

Taxon treatment

***Thesium brevibracteatum* Tam, P.C., nom. nov. \equiv *Thesium longiperianthium* X. Hong Xu & W. Jun Li in Tam, P.C. (1981) New materials on Santalaceae. Bulletin of Botanical Research 1: 70-77.**

Description

***Thesium longiperianthium* X. Hong Xu & W. Jun Li, nom. nov.**

Replaced name:—*Thesium brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam (1981: 73), *nom. illeg.*, non G.P.Sumnevich (1940: 32).

Type:—CHINA. Inner Mongolia: Xilin Gol Meng, Yikenao, 7 Sep. 1965, *Chiu L.C. 5128* (Holotype SHM 0009016!).

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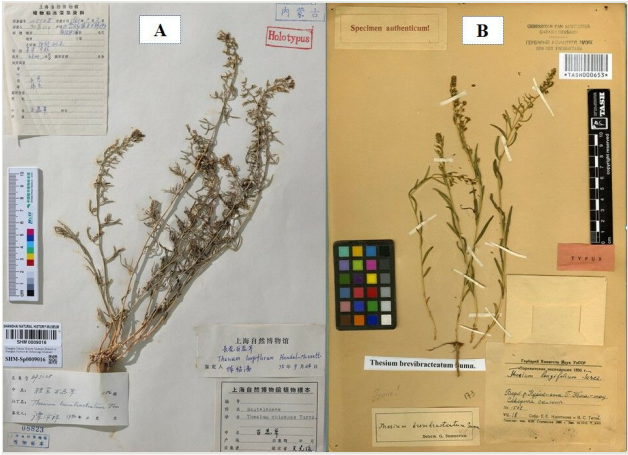


Figure 1.
The holotype of *Thesium brevibracteatum* P.C.Tam (1981: 73) (A) and *T. brevibracteatum* Sumnevich (1940: 32) (B)