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**Gymnosporia thyrsiflora** comb. nov. (Celastraceae), a correct name to replace **G. graciliramula** from southwest China

Wen-Bin Yu, Hong Wang and De-Zhu Li

The genus *Gymnosporia* was first established by Hooker (1862) on the basis of *Celastrus* sect. *Gymnospora* Wight and Arnott. In the last century, nevertheless, several taxonomists suggested that *Gymnosporia* should be congeneric with *Maytenus* Molina s.l. (Pei and Li 1981a, Jordaan and van Wyk 1999). However, recently the genus *Gymnosporia* was reinstated as distinct from *Maytenus* s.s. based on comparative analyses of morphological characters and molecular sequences (Jordaan and van Wyk 1999, Simmons and Hedin 1999, Simmons et al. 2001a, 2001b, 2008). Meanwhile, two older names, *M. thyrsiflora* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li and *M. pseudoracemosa* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li, were listed as synonyms in conflict with article 52.3 of ICBN. In this article, we propose a new combination *G. thyrsiflora* (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) W. B. Yu & D. Z. Li that is the correct name when *G. thyrsiflora*, *M. pseudoracemosa* and *M. graciliramula* are treated as a single species in *Gymnosporia*.

Previously, Chinese taxonomists treated *Gymnosporia* as included in *Maytenus* s.l. (Pei and Li 1981a, Cheng et al. 1999, Qin et al. 2008). During the revision of *Maytenus* s.l. from Yunnan, Pei and Li (1979) described ten new taxa, including *M. graciliramula*, *M. thyrsiflora* and *M. pseudoracemosa*. However, the name *M. graciliramula* was not validly published because of two collections simultaneously designated as type (Article 40.1 and 40.2). *Maytenus graciliramula* became validated later (Pei and Li 1981b). In the Chinese edition of ‘Flora Reipublicae Popularis Sinicae’, Cheng et al. (1999) adopted *Maytenus* sect. *Gymnospora* (Wight & Arnott) C. Y. Cheng, and they accepted *M. thyrsiflora* and treated *M. pseudoracemosa* and *M. graciliramula* as its synonyms. According to Article 11.5, this synonymization established priority of the name *M. thyrsiflora* over the name *M. pseudoracemosa*. During the preparation of the updated and English edition of ‘Flora of China’, Liu and Funston (2008) recognized *Gymnosporia* as a distinct genus with three new combinations proposed. Unfortunately, their intended combination ‘*G. graciliramula*’ (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) Q. R. Liu & Funston’ was not validly published, because they only provided a full and direct reference to the publication in 1979 contrary to Article 41.1 of ICBN (McNeill et al. 2012). Meanwhile, Liu and Funston (2008) listed two older names, *M. thyrsiflora* and *M. pseudoracemosa*, as synonyms of their ‘*G. graciliramula*’ but without full and direct references to the places of their valid publication, therefore not making the intended new combination validly published even as a superfluous replacement name. The new combination *G. thyrsiflora* (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) W. B. Yu & D. Z. Li proposed herein becomes the correct name when *G. thyrsiflora*, *M. pseudoracemosa* and *M. graciliramula* are united in *Gymnosporia*.

**Gymnosporia thyrsiflora** (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) W. B. Yu & D. Z. Li comb. nov.


**Type:** China. Yunnan: Shuangjiang, 24 Jul 1977, J. H. Zhang and Y. Cheng 11054 (holotype: HITBC 081516!, isotypes: HITBC 081517!, 081518!).

In ‘Flora of China’, the combination ‘*Gymnosporia graciliramula* (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) Q. R. Liu & Funston’ was proposed, but this name was not validly published in 2008 because the presumed basionym *Maytenus graciliramula* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li was not published in 1979 as stated, but in 1981, contrary to Article 33.4 of ICBN. Meanwhile, two older names, *M. thyrsiflora* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li and *M. pseudoracemosa* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li, were listed as synonyms in conflict with article 52.3 of ICBN. In this article, we propose a new combination *G. thyrsiflora* (S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li) W. B. Yu & D. Z. Li that is the correct name when *G. thyrsiflora*, *M. pseudoracemosa* and *M. graciliramula* are treated as a single species in *Gymnosporia*.

**Type:** China. Yunnan: Linchang, 19 Jul 1977, J. H. Zhang and Y. Cheng 11050 (holotype: HITBC 081504!).


**Type:** China. Yunnan: Mengla, 23 May 1976, G. D. Tao 9113 (holotype: HITBC 081511!, isotype: HITBC 081512!).

*Gymnosporia thyrsiflora* is endemic to southwest China (southern Yunnan and western Guangxi). It occurs on open dry slopes with mixed shrubs along riversides at altitudes between 400 and 1500 m a.s.l. Morphologically, *G. thyrsiflora* belongs to *G.* sect. *Tenuispinae* in accordance with Jordaan and van Wyk (2006). This species is distinguished from the other Chinese *Gymnosporia* in having axillary and slender thorns on young branches and sturdy thorns on old branches, narrowly obovate and papery leaves, 3-valved red–brown capsules, and a white cupulate aril covering the base of seeds.

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**References**


