A new combination in Thelypteridaceae

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Sledge (1981) described the fern *Trigonospora obtusiloba* Sledge (1981: 18) of Thelypteridaceae as a new endemic species from Sri Lanka. Fraser-Jenkins (2008: 595) suspected that this species was a probable synonym of *Cyclosorus caudipinna* (Ching) Panigrahi (1993: 66) but it differs from *C. caudipinna* in smaller size and lack of caudate pinnae apices (Sledge 1981). It can further be distinguished by its strongly dimorphic fronds, i.e., fertile fronds have narrower pinnae and longer stipes than sterile fronds. This is clearly evident in all specimens listed below and has not been reported from any other species of *Cyclosorus* subgenus *Trigonospora* (Holttum) Panigrahi (1991: 13). Since the opinion of Fraser-Jenkins (2008) is not supported, it is logical to maintain *T. obtusiloba* as a distinct species until further molecular data clarify its position. According to present generic concept of Thelypteridaceae (Christenhusz et al. 2011, Rothfels et al. 2012) *T. obtusiloba* should be transferred to *Cyclosorus* Link (1833: 128) and consequently a new combination under *Cyclosorus* is proposed here.

*Cyclosorus obtusilobus* (Sledge) J.Mazumdar comb. nov.

Paratypes (digitalized specimens):—SRI LANKA: Adam’s peak, 14 December 1950, W.A. Sledge 609 (BM-01044534); near Stakgala, 27 Dec 1950, W.A. Sledge 754 (BM-01044529); Pahala Hewessa near Moragalla, 20 January 1951, W.A. Sledge 889 (BM-001044530); Kannelliya Forest Reserve near Udugama, 21 Jan 1951, W.A. Sledge 907 (BM-001044531); above Beverley estate near Deniyaya, 12 March 1954, W.A. Sledge 1287 (BM-001044533); Kottawa Forest Reserve Southern province, 1 April 1954, W.A. Sledge 1378 (BM-001044532).

References