Radula multiflora var. reflexilobula is a synonym of R. decurrens (Radulaceae, Marchantiophyta)

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Radula Dumortier (1822: 112) is one of the largest genera of the liverworts with about 200 currently accepted species (Frey & Stech 2009), but some of them are poorly known and their status is still unclear. Radula javanica Gottsche (in Gottsche et al. 1844: 257) is one of the oldest names of Radula which is widespread in the tropical and subtropical Asia, the Pacific Islands and Australasia (Yamada 1979, Renner 2014). So (2006) reduced a highly variable species R. multiflora Gottsche ex Schiffn. (in Engler 1889: 20) to R. javanica Gottsche. However, Renner (2014) suggested that R. multiflora might be different from R. javanica but similar to R. reflexa Nees & Mont. (in Montagne 1843: 255).

Yamada and Grolle described R. multiflora var. reflexilobula (Yamada 1982: 326) based on a collection made by B.O. van Zanten from New Guinea. This variety differs from the type variety by the large trigones of basal cells of leaf-lobes and the lobule strongly reflexed at the apex. Yamada (1982) also noted that R. multiflora var. reflexilobula is similar to R. reflexa and R. decurrens Mitt. (in Seemann 1873: 410) in appearance. However, R. reflexa differs from this variety by the medium-size trigones of the leaf-lobes and the arched interior margin of the leaf-lobule that fully covering the ventral stem surface, and R. decurrens is distinguished by its densely imbricate and strongly recurved leaf-lobules.

During our examination of the type specimens of R. decurrens and R. multiflora var. reflexilobula in the Herbarium Haussknecht (JE), however, we found that the shape of leaf-lobes of the fertile branch (Fig. 1) of R. multiflora var. reflexilobula is indistinguishable from R. decurrens. Thus, we here propose R. multiflora var. reflexilobula as new synonym of R. decurrens. Unfortunately, we have not seen the type specimens of R. reflexa, a putatively closely related species.

Formal treatment

The format of this note follows Söderström et al. (2012).

Radula decurrens Mitt. in Seemann, Fl. Vitiensis.: 410. 1873.

Type:—Samoa Island. s.d., T. Powell s.n. (holotype: NY; isotype: JE!, NY, YU)

For further synonyms, see So (2006).

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References


