

Note on the Nomenclatural treatment of *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Lythraceae)

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The genus *Lagerstroemia* L. (1759: 1068) belonging to family Lythraceae, represented by ca. 56 living species (Furtado & Srisuko, 1969; Graham, 2007) occurring in China, India, Burma, Indochina, Thailand, Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, Celebes, Borneo, New Guinea, North Australia and the Philippine Islands. It was named after the Director of Swedish East India Company, Magnus von Lagerström, who supplied Carolus Linnaeus with material brought by Swedish Captains trading with Canton (Jarvis, 2007; Koehne, 1903). The genus was based on the species *L. indica* L. (1759: 1076) described from drawings in Herb. Amboin. 7: 61, pl. 28, f. 1 (1755) the plate was later designated as the lectotype by Merrill (1917).

The binomial *L. speciosa* (L.) Pers. (1807: 72) was coined by C. H. Persoon in Synopsis Plantarum for *Lagerstroemia munchhausia* Willd. (1799: 1179) with basionym *Munchhausia speciosa* L. (1770: 357). While going through the treatment of this species in various floras, observed confusion in the nomenclatural treatment of this species, particularly in the usage of names *L. speciosa* and *L. flos-reginae*. Nomenclatural history of *L. speciosa* is discussed here in detail, including the descriptive Latin names before Linnaeus' introduction of binomials.

The species *L. flos-reginae* Retz. (1789: 25) was proposed by Andreae Johannis Retzii treating *L. major-javanensis* Retz. (1779: 20), *Murtghas* L. (1747: 221), *Ketmia indica* Burm. (1737: 137) and *Adamboe* Rheede (1683: 45 tt. 20 & 21) as synonyms. Of these, the genus *Murtghas* was erected by Carl Linnaeus in his Flora Zeylanica (1747) based on Paul Hermann's collection with *Althaea arborea-indica* Sherard (1689: 307), *Althaea arborescens-indica* Amm. (1700: 247),

Alcea indica-arborea Ray (1686: 1902), *Alcea indica-arborescens* Breyn. (1689: 11) as synonyms. Later William Roxburgh in his "Plants of the Coast of Coromandel" put forth *Lagerstroemia reginae* (1795: 45) treating *Lagerstroemia flos-reginae* Retz. as its synonym, along with *Adamboe* Rheed.

While revising the family, Koehne (1903) accepted *L. speciosa* (L.) Pers. as the valid name and treated *Adamboe* Rheede, *Ketmia indica* Burm., *Murtughas* L., *Munchausia speciosa* L., *Lagerstroemia major-javanensis* Retz., *L. flos-reginae* Retz., *Adambea glabra* Lam., *Lagerstroemia munchhausia* Willd., *Lagerstroemia pilicifolia* Stokes (1812: 105), *Lagerstroemia reginae* Roxb., *Lagerstroemia angusta* Wall., *Lagerstroemia macrocarpa* Wall., *Murtughas speciosa* (L.) OK. (1891: 249) as synonyms. He also accepted *Lagerstroemia hirsuta* (Lam.) Willd. (1799: 1178) as a distinct species, with *Muenchausia ovata* J. St.-Hil. (1805: 176), *Sotularia malabarica* Raf. (1838: 98) and *Murtughas hirsuta* O. Ktze. (1891: 249) as synonyms.

Lagerstroemia hirsuta was erected by Willdenow with *Adambea hirsuta* Lam. as its basionym and *Alcea indica-arborea* as synonyms, based entirely on Rheed., Hort. Mal. IV, 1683, 45t. 22. Totally agreeing with Furtado & Srisuko (1969), if we ignore the badly drawn sepals and Rheed's text, Rheede's Tab. 22 is nothing but *L. speciosa*.

Until the monograph of Lythraceae by Koehne (1903), many workers like Clarke (1879) and Trimen (1894) had used *L. flos-reginae* against *L. speciosa*. However, Koehne accepted the Linnaean specific epithet and treated *L. flos-reginae* and *L. reginae* as synonyms of *L. speciosa*. But later workers like Brandis (1911), Lewis (1934), Corner (1939) continued to use *L. flos-reginae*. Merrill (1954)

commented on this apparent reluctance of certain taxonomists to accept the name *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. resting on the argument by King (1898) who overlooked the species description of *M. speciosa* (1770: 357) and stated that *L. flos-reginae* is a tree and Linnaeus had described *M. speciosa* as a shrub.

During the revision of the genus *Lagerstroemia* Furtado & Srisuko (1969), recognised *L. speciosa* and *L. reginae* as two distinct species and treated *Lagerstroemia flos-reginae* var. *augusta* Clarke (1879: 577), *Lagerstroemia macrocarpa* Wall (1829: 2114) (following the treatment of C. B. Clarke, 1879), *Adambea hirsuta* (1783: 39), *Adambea glabra* Lam. (1783: 39), *L. hirsuta* (Lam.) Willd. as the synonyms of *L. reginae*. Furtado & Srisuko placed *L. flos-reginae* Retz. (1789: 25) and *Katou-Adamboe* Rheede (1683: 45 t. 22 *pro parte*) as a synonym of *L. speciosa*. However, since the characters used to delimit these two species were very feeble, later workers (Dassanayake, 1995) had expressed doubts on the supposed distinctions based on the characters like thickness and spread of the sepals in the fruits and treated *L. reginae* as a synonym of *L. speciosa*. A synoptic overview of the nomenclatural treatment of *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. is provided below:

Lagerstroemia speciosa (L.) Pers., Syn. Pl. 2: 72, 1806; *Munchausia speciosa* L., Hausvater 5: 357, 1770

Lagerstroemia munchausia Willd., Sp. Pl. 2: 1178, 1799

Lagerstroemia flos-reginae Retz., Observ. Bot. 5: 25, 1789

Lagerstroemia major javanensis Retz., Observ. Bot. 1: 20, 1779

Murtghas L. Fl. Zeyl. 221, 1747

Ketmia indica Burm. Thes. Zeyl. 137, 1737

Adamboe Rheede, Hort. Mal. 4. (1683) 45t. 22 *proparte*

Althaea arborea-indica Sherard, Sch. Bot., 307, 1689

Althaea arborescens-indica Amm., Ch. Pl., 247, 1700

Alcea indica-arborea Ray, Hist. Pl. 2: 1902, 1686

Alcea indica-arborescens Breyn., Prod. Fasc. 2: 11, 1689

Lagerstroemia reginae Roxb., Pl. Coromandel 1: 45, 1795

Lagerstroemia flos-reginae var. *augusta* Clarke (sphalm *augusta*) in Hk. F. Brit. India 2: 577, 1879

Lagerstroemia macrocarpa Wall., Numer. List 2114 A, 1829

Adambea hirsuta Lam., Encycl. 1: 39, 1783

Adambea glabra Lam., Encycl. 1: 39, 1783

Lagerstroemia hirsuta (Lam.) Willd., Sp. Pl. 2: 1178, 1799

Katou-Adamboe Rheede (1683: 45 t. 22 *pro parte*)

Lagerstroemia plicifolia Stokes, Bot. Mat. Med. 3: 105, 1812

Lagerstroemia augusta Wall., Numer. List 2113, 1829

Munchausia ovata J.St.-Hil., Expos. Fam. Nat. 2: 176, 1805

Murtughas hirsuta (Lam.) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 1: 249, 1891

Sotularia malabarica Raf., Sylva Tellur. 98, 1838

Cadali-poea, Rheede, Hort. Malab. 1683

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