

NOMENCLATURE

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***Parashorea chinensis* Wang Hsie and *P. chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi: Two exceptional cases of names with a corporate authorship**Yu-Min Shui,¹ Jun Wen^{1,2} & Wen-Hong Chen¹¹ Key Laboratory of Biodiversity and Biogeography, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Heilongtan, 132 Lanhei Road, Kunming 650204, Yunnan Province, China² United States National Herbarium, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, MRC-166, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, U.S.A.

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Abstract *Parashorea chinensis* Wang Hsie and *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi (*Dipterocarpaceae*) are economically and ecologically important tree taxa in China and Vietnam. Their authorship should be “Wang Hsie” and “Lin Chi”, respectively, which represent two logograms of working groups that existed in the particular circumstances from the 1960s to the 1970s in China. The author of *Parashorea chinensis* has sometimes been designated inappropriately as H. Wang. We herein discuss in detail these two unique cases in the context of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*.

Keywords authorship; citation; nomenclature; *Parashorea chinensis*; *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis*

■ INTRODUCTION

Parashorea chinensis Wang Hsie is a momentous timber tree and is ecologically important in tropical forests in parts of southern China (W Guangxi, S and SE Yunnan) and adjacent Vietnam as one of the tallest trees in the region (Smitinand & al., 1990; Yang & al., 2002; Li & al., 2007; Zhang & al., 2009). The species was treated as *Shorea chinensis* (Wang Hsie) H. Zhu, a later homonym of *S. chinensis* Merr. (Merrill, 1922; Yang & Wu, 1994), by Zhu & Wang (1992). *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi is taxonomically treated as a synonym of the above species (Li & Xu, 2001; Li & al., 2004). *Parashorea chinensis* usually grows in dense forests at elevations of 300 to 1100 m in the valleys and on mountain slopes. In the field, the species usually forms pure stands in southern Yunnan, and can also be found as an occasional tree on the highest layer of tropical forest canopy in SE Yunnan, W Guangxi and N Vietnam. In southern China, it is locally known as “chuan ban shu”, which means “wood used for boats”. At present, the species has become very rare primarily due to illegal logging, and has been listed as one of the first-grade protected plant species in China.

■ BACKGROUND: A BRIEF HISTORY OF PARASHOREA IN CHINA

Numerous scientific papers and books were “authored” by a committee or a working group instead of a particular person or persons during a special period known as the Cultural Revolution from the 1960s to the 1970s in China. Nevertheless, the authors of most new taxa described during

that period can be traced with confidence except *Parashorea chinensis* Wang Hsie and *P. chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi (Tong & Tao, 1990; Tao, 1991; Bartholomew & Zhou, 2007; Li & al., 2007).

There was intense debate about the authorship of *Parashorea chinensis* and *P. chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* (pers. comm. with Prof. X.-W. Li). The original papers provided no explanation to the authorship in regard to specific persons who participated in the study (“Chingtianshu” Research Group, 1977; Cooperation Group of “*Parashorea chinensis*”, 1977). According to Prof. Y.K. Yang and Prof. D.M. Wang, several manuscripts from different institutions were almost simultaneously submitted to the journal *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* around 1976 to describe the new species and the new variety. The executive editor-in-chief of the journal, Prof. Yen-Cheng Tang, made a trip to Yunnan and organized a symposium on *Parashorea chinensis* to mediate on its authorship and that of its variety. The editor and the diverse authors agreed that the authorship of *Parashorea chinensis* should be attributed to “Wang Hsie”, a logogram of the Cooperation Group of “*Parashorea chinensis*” and that of *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* to “Lin Chi”, a logogram of the “Chingtianshu” Research Group.

The authorship as in *Parashorea chinensis* and *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* is obviously unusual. “Wang Hsie” and “Lin Chi” may be easily mistaken as the names of specific persons, who described the new taxa or made the effective publication of the names of the species and the variety (Art. 46 of McNeill & al., 2006). It is difficult if not impossible to be certain as to who were the actual authors. We herein propose to use “Wang Hsie” and “Lin Chi” as the author names in these two exceptional cases, respectively.

■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Parashorea chinensis Wang Hsie [Cooperation Group of “*Parashorea chinensis*”] in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 15(2): 10, f. 1, t. 1–13, 1977; T. Smitinand & al., Fl. Cambodge, Laos & Vietnam 25: 110, f. 21, t. 5–9, 1990; S.Q. Tong & G.D. Tao in H.W. Li (ed.), Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 50(2): 126, 1990; G.D. Tao in C.Y. Wu (ed.), Fl. Yunnan. 5: 123, f. 38, t. 1–8, 1991; H.W. Li & al. in Acta Bot. Yunnan. 24: 416, 2002 (“*Parashorea chinensis* H. Wang”); H.W. Li & al. in C.Y. Wu & al. (eds.), Flora of China 13: 51, 2007 (“*Parashorea chinensis* H. Wang”); T. Zhang & al. in Y.M. Shui & al. (eds.), Vouchered Flora of Southeast Yunnan 1: 11, 2009 ≡ *Shorea chinensis* (Wang Hsie) H. Zhu, not Merrill (1922), H. Zhu & H. Wang in Acta Bot. Yunnan. 14: 22, 1992 ≡ *Shorea wangtianshuea* Y.K. Yang & J.K. Wu in J. Wuhan Bot. Res. 12(2): 190, 1994.

Note: *Parashorea chinensis* Wang Hsie (*Dipterocarpaceae*) was originally described by the Cooperation Group of “*Parashorea chinensis*” (1977). The author of the paper was given as “Wang Hsie”, an abbreviation of “Wang Tian Shu Hsie Zuo Zu” as the Chinese phonetic symbols or pinyin for the Cooperation Group of “*Parashorea chinensis*”. “Wang Tian Shu Hsie Zuo Zu” consists of two parts in Chinese, with “Wang Tian Shu” as the vernacular name for *Parashorea chinensis* and “Hsie Zuo Zu” as the “cooperation group.” The cooperation group included a number of participants from the following institutions: Yunnan Forestry Academy, Subtropical Department of Yunnan Forestry College, Agriculture and Forestry Bureau of Mengla County of Yunnan Province, Yunnan Tropical Botanical Institute (now Xishuangbanna Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences), and Yunnan Botanical Institute (now Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences), although the names of the participants were not indicated in the paper. In addition to the description of the new species, the paper also documented its vegetation, forest associations, growth, regeneration, wood qualities, and uses. The logogram not only reflected the contributions from the above institutions, but also implied the efforts of the journal to mediate the conflicts among the contributors. Because the authorship is not a name of a person but a logogram without the difference of the first name and the last name, we argue that the author of *Parashorea chinensis* should not be abbreviated as “H. Wang” (Li & al., 2002, 2007).

Furthermore, the author name “H. Wang” has already been used by at least two Chinese botanists with the same spelling of their names “Hong Wang”, such as in *Amoora duodecimantha* H. Zhu & H. Wang (Zhu & Wang, 1994) and in *Pedicularis yaoshanensis* H. Wang (Zhang & al., 2006). The first “Hong Wang” is from the Herbarium of Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (HITBC), whereas the second is from Kunming Institute of Botany (KUN). In fact, the Chinese characters of their first names “Hong” are different in spite of the same pinyin. At present, H. Wang is designated to refer to the author Hong Wang from KUN. Such a case is common when Chinese names are spelled with pinyin or translated into English names.

Parashorea chinensis Wang Hsie var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi [“Chingtianshu” Research Group] in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 15(2): 22, f. 2–4, 1977 ≡ *Shorea wangtianshuea* subsp. *kwangsiensis* (Lin Chi) Y.K. Yang & J.K. Wu in Chin. Wild Plant Resources 21(3): 6, 2002.

Note: *Parashorea chinensis* var. *kwangsiensis* Lin Chi represents a similar case. In the same volume of the same journal (“Chingtianshu” Research Group, 1977), the author of the variety was designated as “Lin Chi”. The author of the paper was “Chingtianshu” Research Group. “Chingtianshu” was literally the Chinese spelling of the local name of the variety. “Chingtianshu” Research Group was organized by Guangxi Forestry Bureau, and included several colleagues from Guangxi Forest Survey, Guangxi Forestry College, Guangxi Institute of Botany, and Guangxi Forestry Academy. “Lin” means “forestry” and “Chi” refers to “botany”. “Lin Chi” thus implied the contribution of its discovery from the forestry and botanical colleagues.

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