

# *Diospyros foliosa*: the correct name for *D. elliptica*, and new combinations in Fijian and Samoan *Diospyros* (Ebenaceae)

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**Summary.** The correct name in *Diospyros* L. (Ebenaceae) for a species from Tonga first described as *Maba elliptica* J. R. Forst. & G. Forst. and incorrectly known as *D. elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green is *D. foliosa* (A. Gray) Bakh. In addition to the nominate variety, six additional varieties are recognised from Fiji and Samoa. As these varieties lack names under *D. foliosa*, the following new combinations are proposed: *D. foliosa* var. *elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Dorr, *D. foliosa* var. *fijiensis* (Bakh.) Dorr, *D. foliosa* var. *fructuosa* (A. C. Sm.) Dorr, *D. foliosa* var. *iridea* (Fosberg) Dorr, *D. foliosa* var. *opaca* (A. C. Sm.) Dorr, and *D. foliosa* var. *savaiiensis* (Christoph.) Dorr.

**Key Words.** Fiji, Pacific Islands, Samoa, Tonga.

## Introduction

While attempting to resolve the identity of the enigmatic *Pimia* Seem. (Dorr & Cheek 2011, this volume), the combination *Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green (Ebenaceae) was discovered to be illegitimate as it is a later homonym of *D. elliptica* Knowlt., the name of a Miocene fossil. When Green (1969) proposed his combination based on *Maba elliptica* J. R. Forst. & G. Forst., a species described from Tonga, the species in question was known generally albeit incorrectly as *D. ellipticifolia* (Stokes) Bakh. (based on *Ferreola ellipticifolia* Stokes). Green (1969) speculated that Bakhuizen (1933) had adopted the specific epithet “ellipticifolia” on the assumption that a combination based on *M. elliptica* was pre-empted by *D. elliptica* André. According to Green (1969), Bakhuizen’s action was “doubly unfortunate” as Green felt justifiably that the name proposed by André (1887) clearly was intended to apply at the rank of variety (or cultivar, viz. *D. kaki* ‘*Elliptica*’) and *F. ellipticifolia* was nomenclaturally superfluous because the earlier *M. elliptica* was cited in synonymy. Green’s (1969) solution would have been correct except that he overlooked the earlier homonym that blocked the transfer of the specific epithet “elliptica.” The next available epithet is “foliosa” (based on *M. foliosa* A. Gray) and thus *D. foliosa* (A. Gray) Bakh. is the correct name in *Diospyros* L. for *D. elliptica*.

Berry (1909), who wished to transfer *Phyllites ellipticus* Newb. to the genus *Diospyros* wrote that *D. elliptica* Knowlt. pre-empted this action and therefore he proposed *D. amboyensis* E. W. Berry as a nomen novum. Later, Berry (1911) mislabelled a plate (pl. 29, fig. 5) and its caption (p. v) “*Diospyros elliptica* (Newb.)

Berry,” but this combination cannot be considered to have been validly published as Berry accepted *D. amboyensis* in the text (p. 212, 230) of this monograph of the fossil flora of the Raritan Formation (see McNeill *et al.* 2006, Art. 34.1).

Smith (1971, 1981) revised *Diospyros* for Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga, and considered *D. foliosa* (as *D. elliptica*) to be a variable species for which he recognised seven varieties occurring amongst these islands. Six of these varieties lack names under *D. foliosa* and new combinations are proposed below.

## Taxonomy

***Diospyros foliosa* (A. Gray) Bakh.** (Bakhuizen 1941: 444, 447). Type: Fiji, Vanua Levu, “Muthuata and Ovalau” [i.e., Mathuata], s.d., *U.S. Exploring Expedition* s.n. (holotype US-65907!; isotype GH).

*Maba foliosa* Rich. ex A. Gray (1862: 326).

*Ebenus foliosa* (Rich. ex A. Gray) Kuntze (1891: 408).

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *foliosa* (A. Gray) A. C. Sm. (1971: 377).

***Diospyros foliosa* var. *elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Dorr comb. nov.** Type: Tonga, “Tonga-tabu & Namok,” s.d., J. R. Forster & G. Forster (lectotype BM, selected by Smith 1981: 732).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116929-1>

*Maba elliptica* J. R. Forst. & G. Forst., *Char. Gen. Pl.* 61, pl. 61 (Forster & Forster 1775).

*Ferreola ellipticifolia* Stokes (1812: 556), **nom. superfl.**

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*Ebenus elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Kuntze (1891: 408).  
*Diospyros ellipticifolia* Bakh. (Bakhuizen 1933: 162),  
**nom. superfl.**

*Diospyros ellipticifolia* Bakh. var. *elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Fosberg (1938: 611), **nom. invalid.**

*Diospyros major* (G. Forst.) Bakh. var. *elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) Bakh. (Bakhuizen 1941: 431), **in synon.**

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green (1969: 340), nom. illegit., non “*D. elliptica*, nov. var.” André (1887: 349, pl.), nec *D. elliptica* Knowlton (Knowlton 1902: 83, pl. 16, fig. 5), nec *D. elliptifolia* Merr. (Merrill 1926: 421).

**Diospyros foliosa** var. **fijiensis** (Bakh.) Dorr, **comb. nov.** Type: Fiji, Vanua Levu, Mba, S portion of Seatovo Range, 20 April 1934, A. C. Smith 1564 (lectotype BO, designated by Smith 1971: 376; isotypes BISH, GH, K, NY!, UC, US!).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116931-1>

*Diospyros ellipticifolia* Bakh. var. *fijiensis* Bakh., *Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg*, ser. 3, 15: 431, 437 (Bakhuizen 1941).

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *fijiensis* (Bakh.) A. C. Sm. (Smith 1971: 376).

**Diospyros foliosa** var. **fructuosa** (A. C. Sm.) Dorr, **comb. nov.** Type: Fiji, Viti Levu, Serua, hills N of Ngaloa, in drainage of Waininggere Creek, 19 Nov. 1953, A. C. Smith 9185 (holotype US-2192180!; isotypes BISH, K, SUVA, UC).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116932-1>

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *fructuosa* A. C. Sm., *J. Arnold Arbor*. 52: 375 (Smith 1971).

**Diospyros foliosa** var. **iridea** (Fosberg) Dorr **comb. nov.** Type: Samoa, Savaii, near Tufutafoe, 22 Nov. 1931, Christophersen 3310 (holotype BISH; isotypes K, NY!, UC, US!).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116934-1>

*Diospyros ellipticifolia* Bakh. var. *iridea* Fosberg, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club* 65: 612 (1938).

*Diospyros major* (G. Forst.) Bakh. var. *iridea* Bakh. (Bakhuizen 1941: 431), **in synon.**

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *iridea* (Fosberg) A. C. Sm. (Smith 1971: 380).

**Diospyros foliosa** var. **opaca** (A. C. Sm.) Dorr **comb. nov.** Type: Fiji, Viti Levu, Serua, bank of upper

Navua R., 22 April 1966, *Fiji Dept. Agr.* [leg. *Koroiveibau & Qoro*] 14883 (holotype BISH; isotypes MASS, SUVA).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116935-1>

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *opaca* A. C. Sm., *J. Arnold Arbor*. 52: 381 (Smith 1971).

**Diospyros foliosa** var. **savaiiensis** (Christoph.) Dorr **comb. nov.** Type: Samoa, Savaii, near Fangalele, 21 Nov. 1931, Christophersen 3404 (holotype BISH; isotypes A, K, NY!, UC, US!).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77116936-1>

*Maba savaiiensis* Christoph., *Bernice P. Bishop Mus. Bull.* 128: 173, fig. 26 (Christophersen 1935).

*Diospyros ferrea* (Willd.) Bakh. var. *savaiiensis* (Christoph.) Fosberg (1938: 611).

*Diospyros elliptica* (J. R. Forst. & G. Forst.) P. S. Green var. *savaiiensis* (Christoph.) A. C. Sm. (1971: 379).

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