



Nomenclatural changes in *Rubus* (Rosaceae) mostly from China

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Rubus Linnaeus (1753: 492) is one of the largest genera in the Rosaceae and occurs on all continents except Antarctica (Lu & Boufford 2003, Wang & Sun 2013). *Rubus* is a taxonomically notoriously complex genus. Its species circumscription is complicated by hybridization, polyploidy, agamospermy, and lack of a universal species concept (Weber 1996), which has resulted in broad disagreement about the number of species with estimates ranging from 250 (Mabberley 1997) to several thousand (Jennings 1988). In the latest revision, published nearly a century ago by Focke (1910, 1911a, 1914), *Rubus* was divided into 12 subgenera. Most of the species were classified in subgenera *Rubus*, *Idaeobatus* (Focke 1874: 143) Focke (1910: 128), and *Malachobatus* (Focke 1874: 187) Focke (1910: 41). In this paper we propose several nomenclatural changes in subgenera *Idaeobatus* and *Malachobatus*.

Rubus maershanensis Huan C. Wang & H. Sun, *nom. nov.*

Replaced name: *Rubus lutescens* Franchet (1890: 206), *nom. illeg.*, non Boulay (1868: 105). Type:—CHINA. Yunnan: Heqing County, Ma'er Shan, 3500 m, 9 July 1889, *J. M. Delavay 3751* (holotype P!, isotypes A!, GH!, NY!, P!).

Etymology:—The specific epithet refers to "Ma'er Shan", the locality of the type collection.

Notes:—In 1890, Franchet (1890: 206) proposed the name *Rubus lutescens* for a species endemic to southwestern China. Unfortunately, the name *R. lutescens* had been previously used by Boulay (1868: 105) for a European species, thus Franchet's name is a later homonym of *R. lutescens* Boulay and is illegitimate. Franchet's species has been recognized as distinct species by most authors since it was described. Therefore a replacement name (nomen novum) for this Chinese species is required and *R. maershanensis* Huan C. Wang & H. Sun is proposed here.

Rubus maroccensis Huan C. Wang & H. Sun, *nom. nov.*

Replaced name: *Rubus debilis* Ball (1873: 332), *nom. illeg.*, non Boulay (1868: 98). Type:—MOROCCO. Marrakech: Ourika valley, at the foot of the Great Atlas, 960–1100 m, 11 May 1871, *J. Ball s. n.* (lectotype K-000737690!, designated here).

Etymology:—The specific epithet derives from Morocco, the country where the species was found.

Notes:—Ball (1873: 332) proposed the name *Rubus debilis* for a distinct species endemic to Morocco, which Focke placed in subgenus *Idaeobatus*. The name *R. debilis*, however, had been previously used by Boulay (1868: 98) for a different French species. Thus Ball's name is a later homonym of *R. debilis* Boulay and illegitimate. A replacement name (nomen novum), *R. maroccensis* Huan C. Wang & H. Sun, is proposed here.

Ball (1873) did not cite specimens in the protologue of his *Rubus debilis*. The specimen *J. Ball s. n.* (K000737690) is here chosen as the lectotype since this sheet agrees in all respects with Ball's protologue and bears Ball's handwriting "*Rubus debilis* nob." on the label.