

A New Combination for *Barclaya kunstleri* (King) Ridley of the Nymphaeaceae

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Abstract

As the generic name *Hydrostemma* antedates *Barclaya*, as discussed recently by Mabberley, the species of this genus must now be known as *Hydrostemma longifolium* (Wall.) Mabb. and *H. motleyi* (Hook. f.) Mabb. A probable third species, recognized by Ridley, based on *Barclaya motleyi* var. *kunstleri* King, requires a name under *Hydrostemma*, here provided as *Hydrostemma kunstleri* (King) Stone, comb. nov.

Introduction

Nathaniel Wallich, author of the generic name *Barclaya* which has been used for a century and a half for a small group of waterlilies native to Borneo, Malaya, Thailand and Burma, actually first proposed the name *Hydrostemma* for the genus. As recently exposed by D. Mabberley (1982) this name was published in June 1827, about six months earlier than *Barclaya* which was published in December 1827. This seems to be a clear case of an author changing his mind, which was acceptable in that period when no formal nomenclatural rules were universally agreed upon, but now is inadmissible according to the present International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Although used by Hooker *filius*, G. King, Ridley and many other botanists, the name *Barclaya* is clearly a later name and must yield to *Hydrostemma*. As the genus is a small one, without the need for numerous new nomenclatural combinations, and is not significant in applied botany, Mabberley proceeded to make two needed combinations, *Hydrostemma longifolium* (Wall.) Mabb. and *H. motleyi* (Hook. f.) Mabb.

There is however another taxon, originally described by G. King as *Barclaya mottleyi* (*sic!*) var. *kunstleri* King, in honour of H. Kunstler who was in the employ of King as a plant collector in Perak (and frequently identified solely as "King's collector"). King's description (King, 1889) brings out some of the salient features of this plant, and Ridley later raised it to the rank of species (Ridley, 1922, p. 117), remarking: "This, in its thin glabrous leaves and globose seeds, is much nearer *B. longifolia* than *B. motleyi*, but the sepals are those of *B. motleyi*, as indeed is the whole flower. In the Setul plant some of the leaves are lanceolate cordate." Ridley cites a specimen from Bera, Perak (collected by Kunstler and evidently the type), and another from Setul, Bukit Rajah Wang, collected by Haniff. In ranking this plant as a species Ridley clearly placed emphasis on the leaf shape and the seed characters.

King's original description reads: "Leaves ovate-rotund, cordate, the under surfaces and petioles pubescent or glabrous, as are the peduncles; petals claret-coloured; seeds rugose, occasionally echinate. — In similar situations with the last. Perak; King's collector, Scortechini, Wray. The leaves of this are thinner in texture than those of the typical form."

Hydrostemma kunstleri (KING) STONE

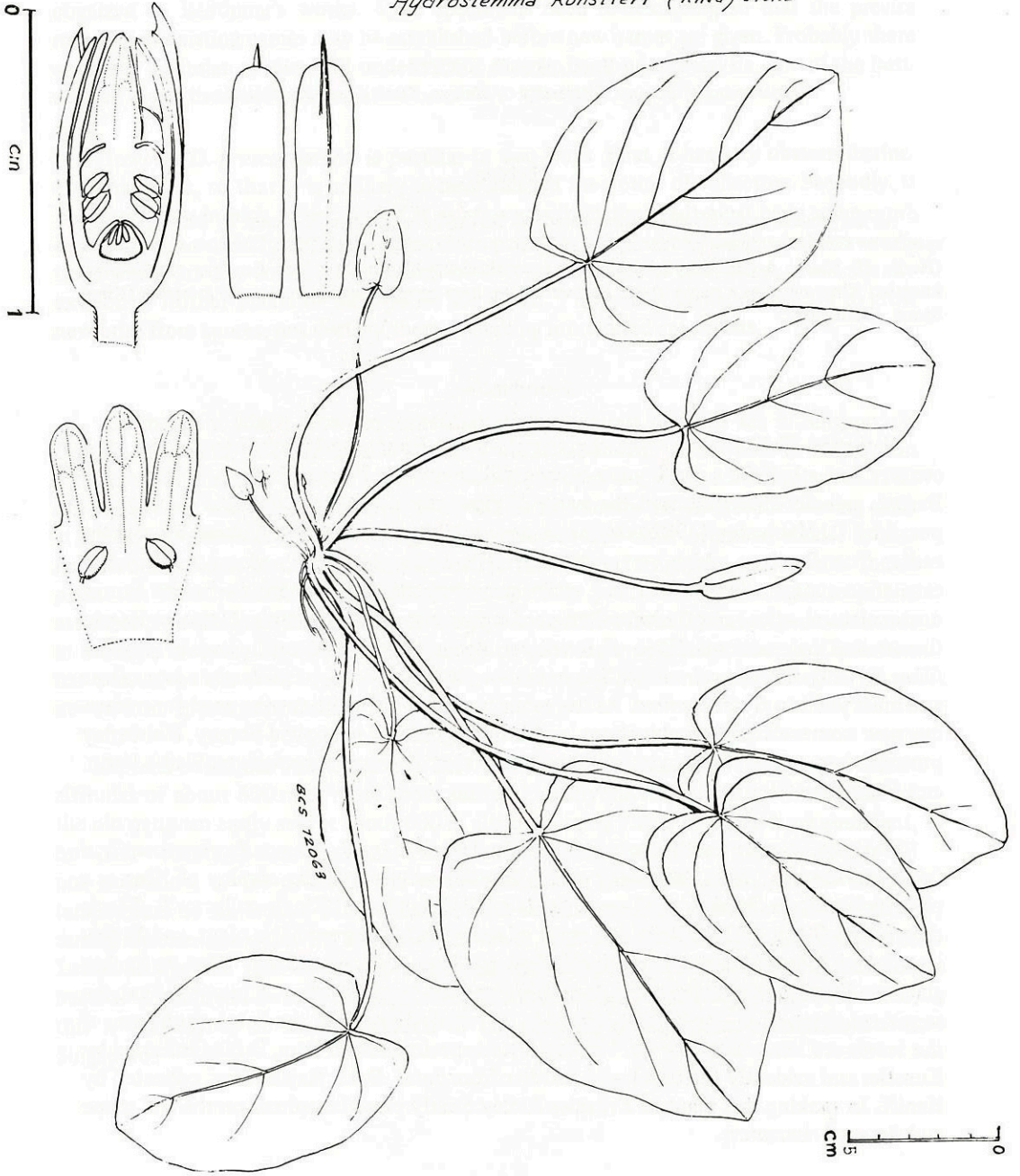


Fig. 1. *Hydrostemma kunstleri* (King) Stone. (Formerly *Barclaya kunstleri* (King) Ridley). Habit. Inset (upper left) shows flower in longitudinal section, two views, ad- and abaxial, of tepal, and (below) segment of interior of perianth showing two stamens. All from BCS. 12063.

From these points it appears that var. *kunstleri* does indeed merit recognition. The characters mentioned are suggestive but perhaps only the seed characters might be crucial.

Recently, this plant was collected in Selangor, Templer Park, by Stone and van Balgooy, and a note was published on it in the *Malayan Naturalist* (Stone, 1978), along with specimen citations of the other species. Flowers were present in the collection, but not seeds. The leaf shape and texture were certainly correct for the taxon *kunstleri*. Thus, though the actual status of the plant is somewhat dubious, it may be something other than a simple variety of *B. motleyi*. The possibility exists that hybridization between *B. motleyi* and *B. longifolia* occurs, or has occurred, and that *kunstleri* may be a result. Alternatively, Ridley may be right in ranking it as a species. Clearly a more detailed investigation is desirable. In the meantime, some designation is required, and it seems preferable to follow Ridley, but to use the original generic name. Thus the following new combination is made:

Hydrostemma kunstleri (King) B. C. Stone, comb. nov.

Syn. *Barclaya kunstleri* (King) Ridley, *Fl. Mal. Pen.* 1: 117. 1922.

B. mottleyi var. *kunstleri* King, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal* 58: 390. 1889.

Lectotype: Perak, *H. Kunstler* (King's collector).

Distribution. Perak: Belanja, 100 ft. alt., *L. Wray Jr. 143* (SING!). Without locality, *Scortechini* (CAL, K). Selangor: Balai Berjuntai, May 1895, *Ridley 7348* (SING!). Templer Park, *Stone & van Balgooy 12063* (KLU!). Johore: Sungei Serai, Kota Tinggi, *Teruya 370* (SING!). 5th mile Gelang Patah road, *Sinclair 10859* (SING!). Johore, without locality, *Teruya 2480* (SING!). Singapore: Nee Soon, Selitar, *Sinclair 40337* (SING! — very glabrous, resembling *B. motleyi*).

This plant is very infrequently collected and certainly deserves further study to clarify its status.

References

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