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New synonymy in *Macromitrium* (Musci, Orthotrichaceae) and *Syrrhopodon* (Musci, Calymperaceae) in the bryoflora of Réunion Island

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Abstract – New synonyms are proposed in the moss families Orthotrichaceae and Calymperaceae occurring in Réunion Island. *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch. (Orthotrichaceae) is placed in synonymy with *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. subsp. *sulcatum* and *Syrrhopodon rodriguezii* Renauld & Cardot (Calymperaceae) is found to be conspecific with *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch. var. *mahensis*.

Orthotrichaceae / *Macromitrium* / Calymperaceae / *Syrrhopodon* / New synonymy / Réunion Island

Résumé – On propose de nouveaux synonymes dans les familles de mousse Orthotrichaceae et Calymperaceae se produisant dans la Réunion. *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch. (Orthotrichaceae) est placé dans la synonymie avec *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. var. *sulcatum* et *Syrrhopodon rodriguezii* Renauld & Cardot (Calymperaceae) s'avère conspecific avec *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch. var. *mahensis*.

Orthotrichaceae / *Macromitrium* / Calymperaceae / *Syrrhopodon* / Nouveaux synonymes / La Réunion

INTRODUCTION

Ah-Peng & Bardat (2005), in their recent checklist of the bryophytes of Réunion Island, list ten species in the genus *Macromitrium* (Orthotrichaceae) and ten species in the genus *Syrrhopodon* (Calymperaceae). Presented below are a summary of subsequent taxonomic and nomenclatural changes and proposals for some new synonymy affecting these genera in Réunion Island (see Appendix).

Under the family Orthotrichaceae, Ah-Peng & Bardat (2005) list *Macromitrium scleropodium* Besch. and *Macromitrium gimalacii* Bizot & Onr. The former has since been placed in synonymy with *Macromitrium orthostichum* Nees *ex* Schwägr. (Wilbraham, 2007), and the latter in synonymy with *Macrocoma*

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lycopodioides (Schwägr.) Vitt (Arts, 2005). Both *Macromitrium orthostichum* and *Macrocoma lycopodioides* were previously unrecognised for Réunion Island. In this paper, *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch., known from East Africa and the East African Islands (including Réunion Island), is recognised as conspecific with the more widely distributed *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. subsp. *sulcatum*.

In the family Calymperaceae, Ah-Peng & Bardat (2005) list three varieties of *Syrrhopodon prolifer* Schwägr. in addition to the type variety: *S. prolifer* var. *acanthoneuros* (Müll.Hal.) Orbán & W.D.Reese, *S. prolifer* var. *hispidocostatus* (Renauld & Cardot) Orbán & W.D.Reese and *S. prolifer* var. *seychellarum* Orbán. Subsequent research (Ellis, 2005) suggests that var. *acanthoneuros* is a neotropical variety, with its supposed representatives in Réunion Island referable to *Syrrhopodon apertifolius* Besch., that var. *hispidocostatus* should be regarded as a species – *Syrrhopodon hispidocostatus* Renauld & Cardot (very rare in Réunion Island), and that var. *seychellarum* is a synonym of *Syrrhopodon albidus* Thwaites & Mitt. subsp. *integrifolius* (E.B.Bartram) L.T.Ellis. Further to these proposed alterations to *Syrrhopodon* in the checklist for Réunion Island, Ah-Peng *et al.* (2005) have added *Syrrhopodon pottioides* Orbán, and Arts (2005) has newly recorded *Syrrhopodon crenulatus* (Tixier) W.D.Reese and *Syrrhopodon africanus* (Mitt.) Paris var. *africanus*. In this paper, *Syrrhopodon rodriguezii* Renauld & Cardot, regarded as endemic to Réunion Island, and the earlier published *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch., are shown to be conspecific.

SYSTEMATICS

MACROMITRIUM (Orthotrichaceae)

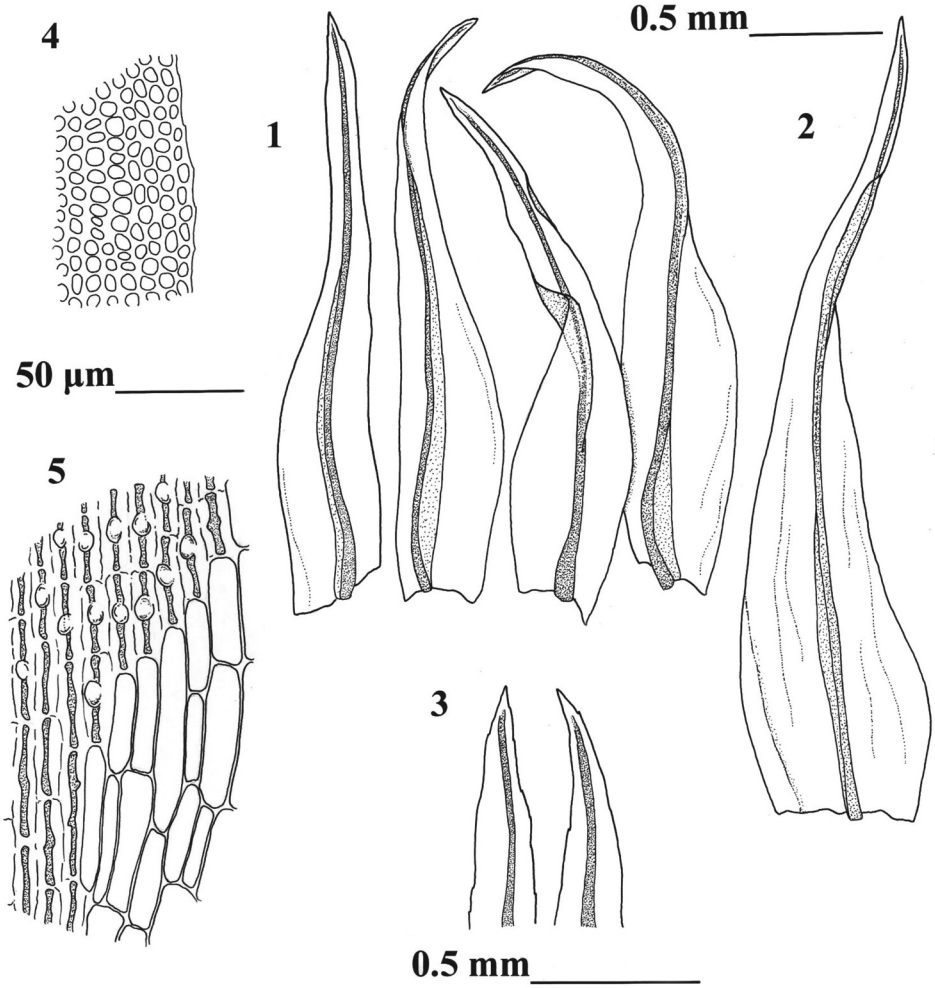
Macromitrium sulcatum (Hook.) Brid. **subsp. *sulcatum***, *Bryol. Univ.* 1: 319. 1826. **Figs 1-5**

Basionym: *Schlotheimia sulcata* Hook. [as orthographical variant *Sclotheimia sulcata*], *Musci Exot.* 2: *t. 156*. 1819. **Type citation.** Hab. In Nepal. *Hon. D. Gardner*. **Type specimen.** Nepal, 1819, *Gardner* (BM000878045! – lectotype, selected here).

Macromitrium rufescens Besch., *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot.,* Sér. 6, 9: 362. 1880, **s*yn. nov*. Type citation.** La Réunion: *Bory* (herb. Cosson); sur l'écorce des vieux arbres, lieux élevés, *Richard*, *n° 685*; *Boivin* (in herb. Mus. Par.); plaine des Fougères, *Lepervanche*, 1839 (herb. Thuret); Terre-plate, plaine des Cafres, *G. De L'Isle n° 254*; Sainte-Agathe. *P. Lepervanche*, 1877. Grande Comore: mai 1850, *Boivin* (*Macromitrium Boivinii* C. Mull. in *Rev. Bryol.*). Madagascar, N. O: *Pervillé*, 1841. **Type specimen.** La Réunion, *Richard* (BM000879305 – Hb. Bescherelle! – **lectotype, selected here**).

Macromitrium boivini Müll.Hal. *in* Besch. *nom. nud*., *Rev. Bryol.* 4: 15. 1877. **Original specimen.** Grande Comore, *Boivin* (BM000870033 and BM000868303 – Hb. Bescherelle!, syntype of *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch.) (*vide* Bescherelle, 1880).

Discussion – *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. is a widespread and polymorphous species that was originally described by Hooker (1819) from Nepal. It is distinguished by a robust habit; branch leaves contorted and twisted when dry;



Figs 1-5. *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. subsp. *sulcatum*. **1:** Branch leaves. **2:** Perichaetial leaf. **3:** Branch leaf apices. **4:** Upper laminal cells. **5:** Basal laminal cells. (All from *Richard s.n.*, BM, lectotype of *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch.).

a tuberculate leaf base with an area of thin-walled hyaline cells adjacent to the base of the costa (Fig. 5); upper laminal cells smooth and somewhat bulging and the peristome consisting of a low double membrane (Eddy, 1996; Magill & van Rooy, 1998). This species has an African-Indo-Malesian distribution, widespread across sub-Saharan Africa (O'Shea, 2006), and extending eastwards through India, Sri Lanka, East Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand (Gangulee, 1976), Vietnam, Malay Peninsula, Borneo (Nair *et al.,* 2005) and the Philippines (Luzon, Mindanao) (Bartram, 1939).

Although no modern treatment has provided a satisfactory review of this variable species across its entire range, on the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka, local variations in form have been recognised as three subspecies and one variety: *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *ceylanicum* (Mitt.) M.Fleisch.; *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *neelgheriense* (Müll.Hal.) M.Fleisch.; *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *ramentosum* (Thwaites & Mitt.) M.Fleisch. and *Macromitrium sulcatum* var. *torulosum* (Mitt.) Tixier (O'Shea, 2002). Initial investigation of these infraspecific taxa suggests that they may have been created unnecessarily. However, further research is required and will be the subject of a future paper.

In the course of identifying recent collections of *Macromitrium* from Réunion Island, the type specimen of *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch. (Réunion, *Richard s.n.*, BM) was examined and found to have features largely matching those of *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *sulcatum*. However, some features of this type material differ slightly from those in the type of *Macromitrium sulcatum* (Nepal, *Gardner s.n.*, BM). Shoots in the latter possess broadly lanceolate branch leaves with a somewhat mucronate costa, the perichaetial leaves are shortly ovate to ovate-lanceolate and have sporophytes with setae up to 6 mm long. Type material of *Macromitrium rufescens* (BM) typically has shoots with narrower branch leaves and possesses a costa ending just below the leaf apex, the perichaetial leaves are ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate and setae reach some 20 mm long. Specimens examined from across the geographical range of *M. sulcatum* show intermediate forms of these differing features (e.g. Uganda, *O'Shea U5447a*; India, *Wallich s.n.*; Philippines, *Merrill 7824* – In the latter collection, both extremes of variation in the perichaetial leaves are represented in a single perichaetium). Therefore, these minor differences, when considered within the context of this highly variable species, do not provide sufficient justification for retaining *M. rufescens* as a distinct species or for giving it an infraspecific rank within *M. sulcatum*. *Macromitrium rufescens* Besch. has been recorded from Kenya, Tanzania, Comoros, Réunion Island and Madagascar (O'Shea, 2006). It's recognition as a synonym of *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *sulcatum* adds Réunion Island to the geographical range of the latter.

Selection of specimens examined

***Macromitrium sulcatum* (Hook.) Brid. subsp. *sulcatum*.** SÃO THOMÉ: 1885, *Moller s.n.* (BM000868401, type of *Macromitrium undatifolium* Müll.Hal.).
CAMEROON: *Mann, s.n.* (BM000868395, isotype of *Macromitrium levatum* Mitt.). UGANDA: Kasiru, Bwindi NP, 2050 m, 28 January 1996, *Porley U139a* (BM, E). Bushenyi, Kasyoha-Kitomi forest, 1350 m, 5 February 1997, *O'Shea U5447a* (BM, E). Rukungiri, Bwindi NP, Munyaga Falls, 1600 m, 8 February 1997, *Hodgetts U4640d* (BM, E). Karwungu District, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP, 1532 m, 12 March 2005, *Mugizi, T.F. 1109/25* (BM). MALAWI: Mulanje Mt., Upper Ruo Valley, 1900 m, 20 June 1991, *Wigginton M1228a* (BM, E). Mulanje Mt., Thuchila to Chambe Path, 1930 m, 24 June 1991, *O'Shea M7411a* (BM, E). Mulanje Mt., Lichenya, 1720 m, 26 June 1991, *O'Shea M7493a* (BM, E). Mulanje Mt., Thuchila, 940 m, 30 June 1991, *Porley M343a* (BM, E). SOUTH AFRICA: Drakensberg, Cathedral Peak, Rainbow Gorge, 2000-2500 m, 1980, *Eddy & Sims 7072* (BM000872027). MADAGASCAR: 1841, *Perville s.n.*, (BM000872022, syntype of *M. rufescens*). *Anon. 17* (BM). GRANDE COMORO: *Boivin s.n.* (BM000870033, syntype of *M. rufescens*). RÉUNION ISLAND: *Boivin s.n.* (BM000872023, syntype of *M. rufescens*). *Borgen s.n.* (BM). *Bory s.n.* (BM000872021, syntype of *M. rufescens*). *G. de L'Isle 254* (BM000868302, paratype of *M. rufescens*). 1839, *Lepervanche s.n.* (BM000870034, syntype of *M. rufescens*). Hell Boung - GRR1 menant á la forét de Bélouve, 1205 m, 26 June 2005, *Bardat R476/1* (BM). INDIA: Assam, *Wallich s.n.* (BM000878039). Nilgiri, *Gardner 35,* (BM000878040). Khasia, *J.D.Hooker 223* (BM000878042). Mahabaleshwar, 6 March 1962,

Norkett 10050 (BM). THAILAND: Chiang Mai, Doi Chiang Dao, 10 November 1996, *Ellis & Wolseley T1028* (BM). PHILIPPINES: Luzon, May 1911, *Merrill 7824* (BM).
***Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *neelgheriense* (Müll.Hal.) M.Fleisch.** INDIA: Nilgiri, *Perrottet 1554*, (BM000872004, type of *Macromitrium neelgheriense*).
***Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *ceylanicum* (Mitt.) M.Fleisch.** SRI LANKA: *Gardner 253*, (BM000872003, type of *Macromitrium ceylanicum*).
***Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *ramentosum* (Thwaites & Mitt.) M.Fleisch.** SRI LANKA: *Thwaites 40* (BM000872002, type of *Macromitrium ramentosum*).
***Macromitrium sulcatum* var. *torulosum* (Mitt.) Tixier.** SRI LANKA: *Thwaites 34b* (BM000872029, type of *Macromitrium torulosum*).

SYRRHOPODON (Calymperaceae)

Syrrhopodon mahensis Besch., *Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot*. sér. 6, 9: 61. 1880. **Type citation.** Seychelles: Mahé, *G. De L'Isle*. **Type specimen.** Seychelles. Mahé, 1876, *G. de L'Isle* (BM000677611 – Hb. Bescherelle! – **lectotype, selected here**).

Syrrhopodon rodriguezii Renauld & Cardot, *Bull. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belgique* 33(2): 115. 1895, ***syn. nov.*** **Type citation.** Bourbon [Réunion Island]: Plaine des Grégues et St Philippe, (rev. Rodriguez). (Renauld, *Musc. masc. mad. exsicc*., no. 19). **Type specimen.** Bourbon [Réunion Island]. Plaine des Grégues, *Rodriguez* ['66'] (PC0098431 – Hb. Renauld! – **lectotype, selected here**; H-BR3956 013! – isolectotype).

Syrrhopodon rodriguezii var. *sublaevis* Renauld & Cardot, *Bull. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belgique* 33: 116 (1895). **Type citation.** Bourbon [Réunion Island]: Plaine des Grégues, (rev. Rodriguez). **Type specimen.** Bourbon [Réunion Island]. Plaine des Grégues, *Rodriguez* (PC0098438! – **lectotype, selected here**) (*vide* Orbán 1981; Crosby *et al.* 1983).

Discussion – *Syrrhopodon rodriguezii* Renauld & Cardot has been regarded as a good species endemic to Réunion Island[1]. However, its essential features are identical to those of *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch. described from the Seychelles (Bescherelle, 1880). Orbán & Reese (1986), in their key to African species of *Syrrhopodon*, maintain both of these taxa and distinguish them by features of the leaf margin. In *S. mahensis*, the differentiated rib forming the leaf margin is said to incorporate a strand of stereids (Fig. 10), while that in *S. rodriguezii* is said to lack stereids. Contrary to the latter assertion, the marginal rib in leaves in the lectotype (Réunion, *Rodriguez* ['*66*'], PC) and other collections of *S. rodriguezii* often includes a strand of stereids (Fig. 9), particularly where the rib is well-developed. In this and all other respects the relatively short leaves in *S. rodriguezii* are indistinguishable from those found in small forms of *S. mahensis*.

Syrrhopodon mahensis Besch. is known from the Seychelles and Réunion Island (O'Shea, 2006). It is an extremely variable species, with shoots ranging from < 0.5 cm to > 7.0 cm high. The leaves vary from short (3-5 mm) and almost lingulate to long (5-15 mm) and narrowly lanceolate (abruptly narrowing from a broad base). Teeth and papillae, which characteristically adorn the leaves of this species, vary in their distribution, size and shape. Orbán (1995) proposed two formal varieties of *S. mahensis* to accommodate this plasticity of form. One of these, *S. mahensis* var. *palmarum* Orbán, is characterised (like *S. rodriguezii*) by

1. A few, probably duplicate, collections of *S. rodriguezii* made by Rodriguez (PC), are labelled as coming from Mauritius. On most of these (in Hb. Renauld and Hb. Cardot) are annotations casting doubt on their provenance and suggesting Réunion Island as the more likely place of origin. The occurrence of *S. rodriquezii* [= *S. mahensis*] on Mauritius must presently remain in doubt.

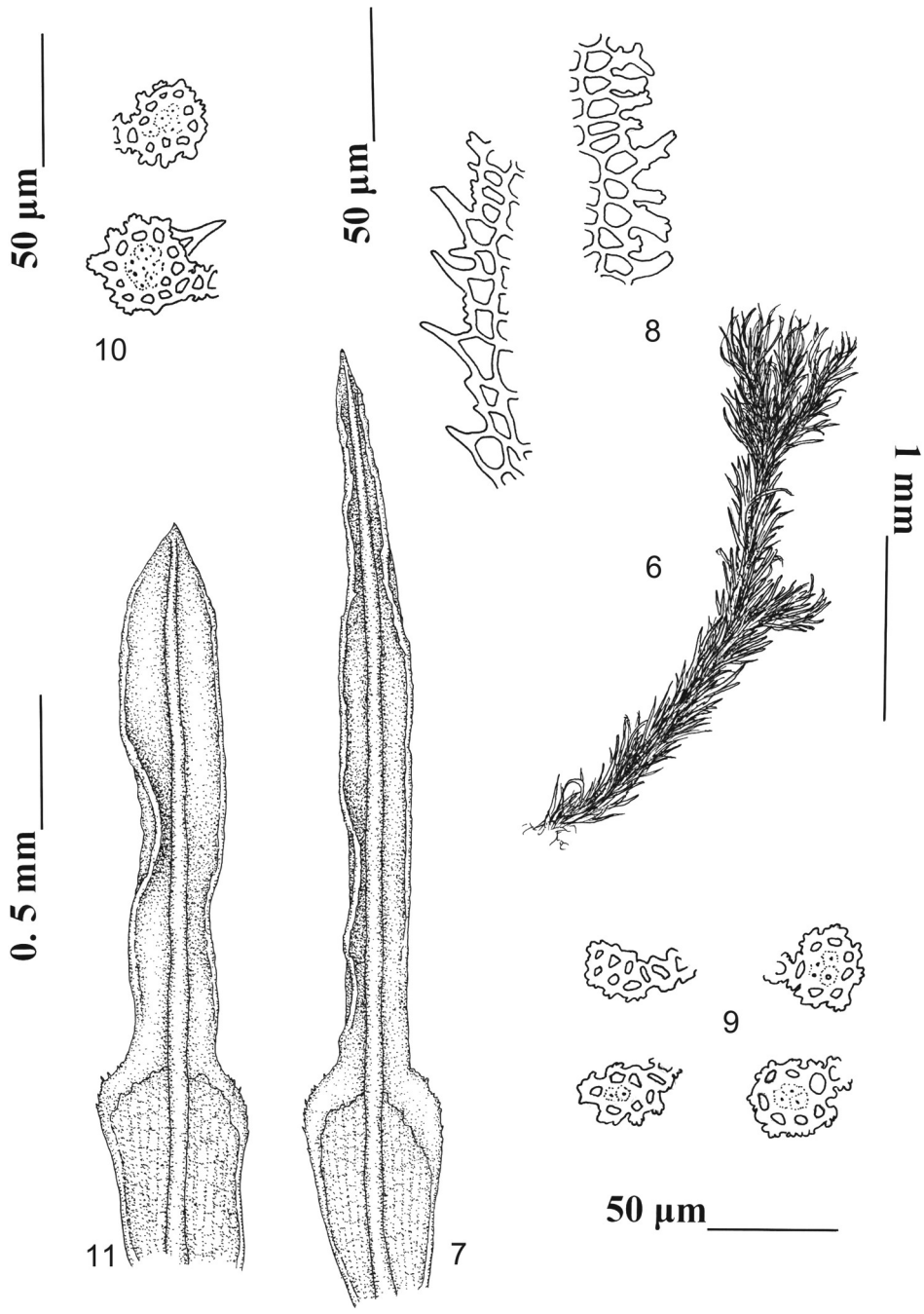


Fig. 6-11. *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch. var. *mahensis* (6-10) and *S. mahensis* var. *palmarum* Orbán (11). **6.** Habit. **7.** Leaf in ventral view. **8.** Margin at shoulders of leaf (from either side of same leaf). **9, 10.** Margin of chlorophyllose limb in cross-section. **11.** Leaf in ventral view. (6 from *Rodriguez s.n.*, PC; 7-9 from type of *S. rodriguezii*, PC; 10 from *Norkett 18448A*, BM; 11 from *Norkett 16685A*, BM).

the possession of relatively short leaves. It is described as possessing shoots 0.5-1.0 cm high, with lanceolate, shortly acute leaves, 3-5 mm long; the distal part of the leaf (chlorophyllose limb) being only slightly narrower than the proximal part (hyaline base). Along the margin adjacent to the apex of the hyaline base (leaf shoulders) an acute tooth is formed by "every second marginal cell". This variety is based on material from Praslin Island, but appears to occur more generally in the Seychelles (e.g. Mahé, *Norkett 16685A,* BM has shoots and leaves of similar size and proportions (Fig. 11)).

Syrrhopodon rodriguezii possesses leaves with a similar length to those in var. *palmarum*, but does not share its diminutive habit. The type and authentic material of *S. rodriguezii* has shoots reaching 2.5 (–3.0) cm high. Most leaves are about 4 mm long and have a broad hyaline base with a relatively narrow, lanceolate chlorophyllose limb (Fig. 7). Teeth at the margin of the leaf shoulders are variable in shape and distribution even on either side of a single leaf (Fig. 8). *S. rodriguezii* cannot be comfortably accommodated within *S. mahensis* var. *palmarum.*

A further notable feature of the type and some authentic material of *S. rodriguezii,* is the possession of long, densely packed shoots that hardly innovate below but often diverge near their apices into a few short, compact branches (Fig. 6). This pattern of growth appears a little unusual within *S. mahensis* generally and is not apparent in some other collections from Réunion Island. It may be a consequence of incidental environmental influences and provides no justification for treating *S. rodriguezii* as a distinct, named variety within *S. mahensis*. *Syrrhopodon rodriguezii* Renauld & Cardot is best regarded as an anonymous short-leaved form of *Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch.

Selection of specimens examined

***Syrrhopodon mahensis* Besch.** RÉUNION ISLAND: *Rodriguez s.n.* (Hb. Bizot ex Hb. Cardot 6743, PC0080751). April 1890, *Rodriguez s.n.* (PC0098432). May 1887, *Rodriguez s.n.* (BM000677655). "Maurice"[?] *Rodriguez s.n.* (PC0098433). "Maurice"[?], *Rodriguez s.n.* (Hb. Renauld 3, PC0098434; PC0098436). *Rodriguez s.n.* (Hb. Renauld, PC0098435). St Paul, *Rodriguez s.n.* (BM000677635). *Rodriguez s.n.* (H-BR3956 003). La Côte aux vents, Le Grand Brulé, Ravine Tremblet, 28 September 1997, *Arts RÉU 54/13A* (BM000677600). St Philippe, Route forestière de Longue' Reserve Naturelle, 7 March 1997, *Arts RÉU 11/40* (BM000677599). SEYCHELLES: Mahé, 21 October 1973, *Norkett 17357c* (BM000677607). Mahé, Salazie, Foret Noir Road, 25 September 1973, *Norkett 16842* (BM000677674). Mahé, Botanical Gardens, 20 September 1973, *Norkett 16685A* (BM000677606). Praslin, Glacis Noir, 8 January 1974, *Norkett 18448A* (BM000677676).

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APPENDIX

Provisional list of taxa in *Macromitrium* and *Syrrhopodon* known from Réunion Island. Modified from Ah-Peng & Bardat (2005).

Bold print = currently accepted name
E = Taxa considered endemic to Réunion Island
NB. Research on the taxa of *Syrrhopodon* and *Macromitrium* occurring in Réunion Island continues and further alterations to this list are anticipated.

MACROMITRIUM (Orthotrichaceae)
Macromitrium belangeri Müll.Hal. **E**
Macromitrium fasciculare Mitt.
Macromitrium fimbriatum (P.Beauv.) Schwägr.
Macromitrium gimalacii Bizot & Onr. = *Macrocoma lycopodioides* (Schwägr.) Vitt
Macromitrium mauritianum Schwägr.
Macromitrium orthostichum Nees *ex* Schwägr.
Macromitrium pallidum (P.Beauv.) Wijk & Margad.
Macromitrium rufescens Besch. = *Macromitrium sulcatum* subsp. *sulcatum*
Macromitrium scleropodium Besch. = *Macromitrium orthostichum*
Macromitrium serpens (Bruch *ex* Hook. & Grev.) Brid.
Macromitrium sulcatum (Hook.) Brid. subsp. ***sulcatum***
Macromitrium voeltzkowii Broth.

SYRRHOPODON (Calymperaceae)
Syrrhopodon africanus (Mitt.) Paris var. ***africanus***
Syrrhopodon albidus Thwaites & Mitt. subsp. ***integrifolius*** (E.B.Bartram) L.T. Ellis
Syrrhopodon armatus Mitt. subsp. ***insularus*** (Bizot & Onr.) Orbán & W.D.Reese
Syrrhopodon apertifolius Besch. (Réunion Island and other Old World specimens misclassified as *Syrrhopodon prolifer* var. *acanthoneuros* (Müll.Hal.) Müll.Hal.)
Syrrhopodon asper Mitt.
Syrrhopodon crenulatus (Tixier) W.D.Reese
Syrrhopodon gardneri (Hook.) Schwägr.
Syrrhopodon gaudichaudii Mont.
Syrrhopodon hispidocostatus Renauld & Cardot
Syrrhopodon involutus Schwägr.
Syrrhopodon mahensis Besch. var. ***mahensis***
Syrrhopodon mauritianus Müll.Hal. *ex* Ångstr.
Syrrhopodon parasiticus (Brid.) Besch.
Syrrhopodon pottioides Orbán
Syrrhopodon prolifer Schwägr.
Syrrhopodon prolifer var. *acanthoneuros* (Müll.Hal.) Müll.Hal. (not on Réunion Island, see *S. apertifolius*)
Syrrhopodon prolifer var. *hispidocostatus* (Renauld & Cardot) Orbán & W.D.Reese = *Syrrhopodon hispidocostatus* Renauld & Cardot
Syrrhopodon prolifer var. *seychellarum* Orbán = *Syrrhopodon albidus* subsp. *integrifolius*
Syrrhopodon rodriguezii Renauld & Cardot = *Syrrhopodon mahensis* var. *mahensis*
Syrrhopodon rodriguezii var. *sublaevis* Renauld & Cardot = *Syrrhopodon mahensis* var. *mahensis*