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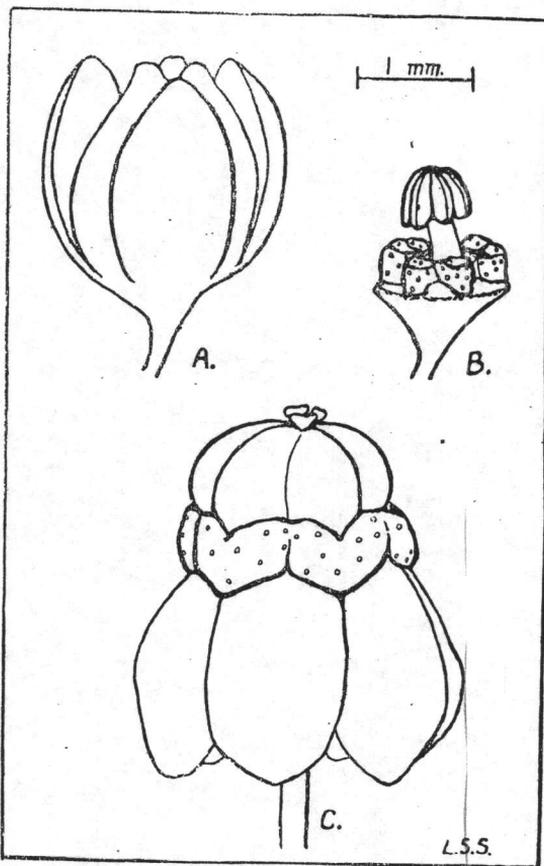
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**PHYLLANTHUS CLAMBOIDES (F. MUELL.) DIELS.  
 A LITTLE KNOWN NORTH QUEENSLAND PLANT.**

(By L. S. SMITH, B.Sc., Botanic Museum and Herbarium, Brisbane.)

In 1876 Mueller described a plant, collected by Fitzalan from the Dainton  
 was unfortunate, as it is an illegitimate one, being a later homonym, and



**PHYLLANTHUS CLAMBOIDES (F. Muell.) Diels.**

A. Male flower. B. Male flower with perianth removed. C. Female flower.

tree River, as *Leichhardtia clamboides* and placed it in the family *Menispermaceae*. His choice of a generic name

must therefore be rejected under Art. 61 of the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature. Robert Brown had

already validly published a genus *Leichhardtia* (misspelt *Leichardtia*) in 1849, which was later reduced to a synonym of *Marsdenia* R. Br. (Ascle. piadaceae). As Fitzalan's specimen bore male flowers only, as one might expect, it would be difficult to place the plant with any degree of certainty.

Diels, in his Monograph of the Menispermaceae (1910), followed Mueller in including *Leichhardtia* in the Menispermaceae but did not provide a new name for the genus. However, he admitted its doubtful position and makes the remark "... tamen a non re vera Euphorbiaceae quaedam sit drupis ignotis vix decidi potest."

Immediately following the publication of Pax and Hoffman's account of the Euphorbiaceae in Engler-Prantl Naturl. Pflanzenfam. 2 Aufl. 19c. 64 (1931), Diels finally appears to have recognised the true affinity of *Leichhardtia clambooides* with a small group of plants from New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, which comprised *Phyllanthus* Sect. *Nymania* (K. Schum.) J. J. Smith. In his paper entitled "Aufklärung der Gattung *Leichhardtia* F. Muell." (1931), he makes the new combination *Phyllanthus clambooides* as well as describing a few more allied species from New Guinea and listing those already known belonging to the section. One of the species mentioned, namely *P. insignis* (K. Schum.) J. J. Smith in Nova Guinea VIII. 781 (1912), requires a new name. The combination is a later homonym of *P. insignis*. Muell.-Arg. in DC, Prodr. XV, ii. 1271 (1866), and in consequence must be rejected. That this latter name was validly published has been kindly checked by Mr. H. K. C. Mair at the National Herbarium, Sydney. The new name *Phyllanthus schumanniana* L. S. Smith is hereby provided.

In this same paper Diels reduces *Phyllanthus* Sect. *Nymania* to a synonym of *Phyllanthus* Sect. *Leichhardtia* (F. Muell.) Diels, apparently basing the change on the fact that the generic name *Leichhardtia* (1876) is older than *Nymania* (1905). However, Art. 58 of the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature states that the earliest name bearing sectional rank

must stand. As *Nymania* was reduced to sectional rank in 1912 and *Leichhardtia* in 1931, the former name must obviously be used for the section.

The combination *Phyllanthus clambooides* was made without female flowers of the plant having been seen. So far as I am aware, specimens of this plant have not been collected since the type gathering until a short time ago a specimen bearing both male and female flowers was received at the Queensland Herbarium, Brisbane, for identification, from the North Queensland Naturalists' Club. This specimen shows that Diels was correct in removing the species to the family Euphorbiaceae and placing it in the genus *Phyllanthus*. It also enables the following more complete description of the plant to be prepared.

*Phyllanthus clambooides* (F. Muell.)  
Diels in Notizb. Bot. Gart. Berlin,  
xi. 310 (1931).

*Leichhardtia clambooides* (F. Muell.)  
Fragm. x. 68 (1876); F. M. Bail.  
Queensl. Fl. i. 33 (1899); Diels in  
Engl. Pflanzenreich iv. 94, 184  
(1910) et fig. 66.

A shrub or small tree (?). **Branchlets** hollow, flexuous, glabrous, light to dark brown or sometimes blackish, more or less finely longitudinally striate, towards the apex angular, otherwise terete; internodes up to 4 cm. long but usually less. **Stipules** paired, persistent, attached by a broad base, broadly ovate and obtuse or more or less semilunar and rounded at the apex, 1-3 mm. long. **Petiole** glabrous, narrowly winged in the upper part, 3-5 mm. long. **Leaves** alternate, distichous, the lamina papyraceous to thinly coriaceous, drying dark green above and paler beneath or somewhat brownish, glabrous, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, 7-14 cm. (18 cm. sec. Mueller) long, 3-6 cm. wide, obtusely acuminate at the apex, broadly cuneate or frequently, more or less rounded at the base, margin entire, often slightly recurved, midrib elevated on both surfaces, more so beneath, lateral nerves 8-12, curvedly ascending, more prominent beneath, secondary and tertiary nerves obscure above, slightly prominent beneath.