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Sadiria aberrans, a new combination in Chinese Myrsinaceae

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Current studies have shown that *Embelia aberrans* Walker is a member of *Sadiria* because its corollas unite above the middle and its inflorescences are very short in axillary, subfasciculate cymes. Therefore, the new combination *Sadiria aberrans* (Walker) C.M. Hu & Y.F. Deng is proposed.

Mez (1902) split the genus *Pimelandra* into two parts. The species with their corollas lobed nearly to the base were reduced to a subgenus of *Ardisia*, and he established a new genus, *Sadiria* to accommodate the species with corollas united above middle. The genus *Sadiria* is closely related to *Ardisia*, but can be easily distinguished by the above mentioned characters, and by its very short (equaling to or shorter than the petioles), axillary, subfasciculate cymose, or subpaniculate inflorescence. The genus consists of seven species and two varieties and is distributed from eastern Himalaya and Khasi Hills to northern Myanmar and southern Yunnan, China (Mez 1902, Nayar & Giri 1974 [1977], Giri *et al*. 1992, Ståhl & Anderberg 2004, Mabberley 2008). A key to the genus is provided below.

Key to the species of the genus *Sadiria*

1. Corollas connate to 5/6 of the length ..... *S. solanifolia*
1. Corollas connate for 1/2 to 3/4 of the length 2
2. Leaves subsessile ..... *S. subsessilifolia*
2. Leaves distinctly petiolate 3
3. Calyx elliptic, margin minutely ciliate ..... *S. erecta*
3. Calyx triangular-ovate, margin ciliate or serrulate 4
4. Branches and leaf blades glabrous ..... *S. bourii*
4. Branches and leaf blades puberulous beneath 5
5. Anthers ovate, apex with an excurrent connective ..... *S. eugenifolia*
5. Anthers lanceolate or narrowly triangular-ovate, apex without an excurrent connective 6
6. Leaf base broadly cuneate to sub-rounded, lateral veins 18 to 23 pairs ..... *S. aberrans*
6. Leaf base narrowly cuneate, lateral veins 7 to 11 pairs ..... *S. griffithii*

Embelia aberrans was published by Walker (1939) based on the collection *H. T. Tsai 61555* from Pingbian (Pinpien) in Yunnan, China. The holotype is rather poor, with only three leaves and a young infructescence. Walker (1939) placed the species in *Embelia* with some hesitation; the species epithet "*aberrans*" implies that the plant is somewhat abnormal in the genus. Chen (1977) examined the isotypes at KUN and PE, which have flowers, and found that the corolla is united above the middle, quite different from the genus *Embelia*; so he transferred the species to the genus *Ardisia*. The character of the corolla-tube longer than the lobes is the most

important diagnostic character to separate the genus *Sadiria* from *Ardisia*. After re-examining the type material of *Embelia aberrans*, it was concluded that it is a member of *Sadiria*. Therefore, a new combination is proposed below.

Sadiria aberrans (Walker) C.M. Hu & Y.F. Deng, *comb. nova*

Embelia aberrans Walker, Bull. Fan Mem. Inst. Biol. 9: 173, fig. 22. 1939. — *Ardisia aberrans* (Walker) C.Y. Wu & C. Chen, Fl. Yunnan. 1: 337. 1977. — TYPE: China. Pingbian, Yunnan, in woods, 21 Aug. 1934 *H. T. Tsai 61555* (holotype US!; isotypes A, IBSC, KUN, PE).

Sadiria aberrans is known only from its type locality, Pingbian (Ping-pien) Xian, Yunnan Province, China. It grows in wet places in the forest at altitudes of 1100–1400 m.

Sadiria aberrans is morphologically very close to *S. griffithii*, but can be distinguished by its leaf base which is broadly cuneate-obtuse to sub-rounded (*vs*. narrowly cuneate), and by the 18 to 23 pairs of lateral veins (*vs*. 7 to 11 pairs) (Mez 1902, Walker 1939, Chen 1977, 1979, Chen & Pipoly 1996).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: **China**. Yunnan, Pingbian, 12 Mar. 1954, *P. I. Mao 3387* (KUN, PE).

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