

THE PRESENT STATUS OF *BAZZANIA CURVIDENS* STEPH. (LEPIDOZIACEAE)

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Abstract: Based on study of the types and additional specimens of the Madagascan *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. is proposed to be included as a subspecies under *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindb.) Trevis.

Keywords: *Bazzania*, Madagascar, Lepidoziaceae

We studied various Madagascan collections of *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindb.) Trevis. specimens with recurved lobe teeth and revealed their identity with *Bazzania curvidens* Steph., described from Madagascar (Stephani 1891). S. Arnell (1965) considered *B. curvidens* to probably only be a form of *Bazzania decrescens*. It was also referred by E. Jones (1975) and R. Grolle (1995) to the *Bazzania decrescens* complex. Then the taxon was collected in two parts of Madagascar by Pócs et al., Roger Heim (*Plate II*) Illustrations of *Bazzania curvidens* were published in Stephani's *Icones* (1985: fig. 7079, under *Mastigobryum curvidens*).

We examined three type specimens of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (holotype preserved in Geneva Herbarium G15409! and isotypes in PC herbarium PC0101769!, PC0101770!), all collected in Madagascar, in sylvia Alakatz by Perrot in 1891 (*Plate I*).

This study confirmed the recognition of *Bazzania curvidens* as a taxon subordinate to *Bazzania decrescens* instead of considering them as two different species. *Bazzania curvidens* differs from the *Bazzania decrescens* only by the incurved leaf and underleaf teeth and fits well in the original descriptions of Stephani "cum *Bazzania*



decescente comparanda...optima distincta dentibus numerosis in apice foliorum varieque incurvis.” The present known distribution of the subspecies is restricted to Madagascar, we therefore consider the rank of subspecies justifiable for it.

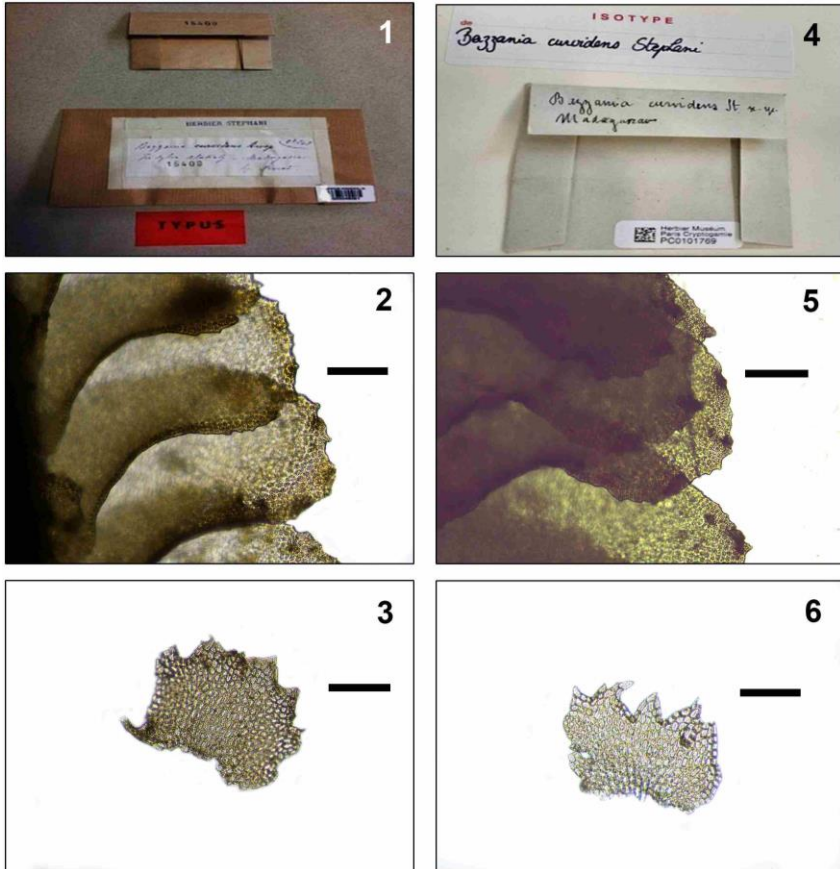


Plate I. Figures 1–3. Specimen kept in the Stephani herbarium, as type of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (Perrot, G15409!) Figs. 2–3: leaf and underleaf apices showing incurved teeth **Figures 4–6.** Specimen kept in the PC herbarium, as isotype of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (Perrot, PC0101769!) **Figures 5–6.** leaf and underleaf apices showing incurved teeth. The scale bar in all cases 200µm long.

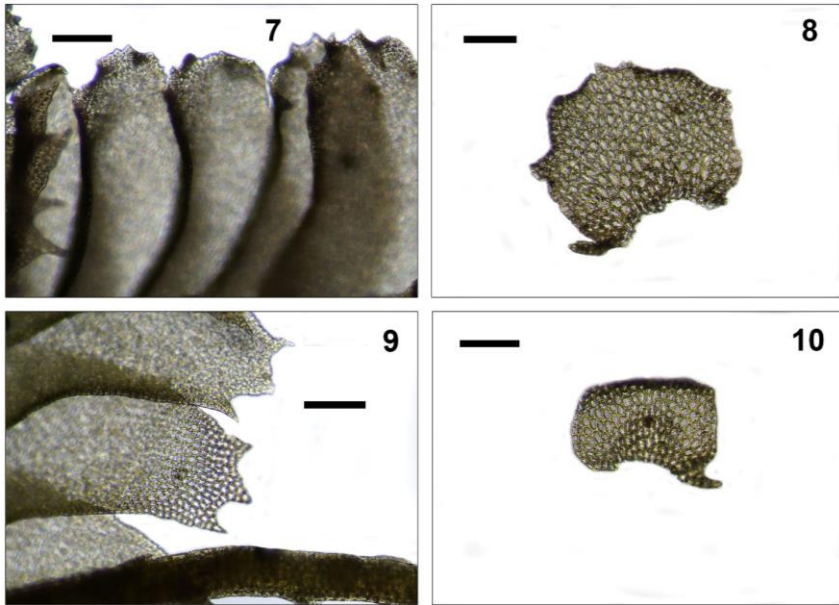


Plate II. Figures 7–8. *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. *ssp. curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati Figs. 7: leaf margin and 8: underleaf, Madagascar. Forêt d'Amoapaka. 8.09.1934. R. Heim 1126 (PC) **Figures 9–10.** *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindb.) Trevis. *ssp. decrescens* Figs. 9: leaf margin and 10: underleaf, Madagascar. TOAMASINA Province. Park National de Mantadia. 2.10.2018. Sass-Gyarmati 1804/A (EGR). The scale bar in all cases 200µm long.

FORMAL TREATMENT

The format follows Söderström *et al.* (2012).

***Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. *ssp. curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati comb. et stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Bazzania curvidens* Steph., Bull. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belgique, Compt. Rend. 30 (2): 197, 1891 (Stephani 1891).

≡ *Mastigobryum curvidens* (Steph.) Steph., Spec. Hepat. 3: 480 (Stephani 1908)

Type: Madagascar, in sylva Alakatz. Perrot 1891. (holotype G15409!; isotypes PC0101769!, PC0101770!)

Additional specimens seen: *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. *ssp. curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati. Madagascar. Forêt d'Amboapaka. Sur tronc pourri. 9.09.1934, R. Heim. no. 1128a (PC).

Angavo Escarpment. Old *Eucalyptus* plantation replacing montane rainforest at the S side of main road between Ambatolaona and Mandraka. S.& T. Pócs and A. Szabó, 10 & 27. August 1998. no. 9868 (EGR).

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