

A new name and a new combination in the neotropical genus *Agonandra* (Opiliaceae)

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PAUL HIEPKO

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Abstract

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Izabalaea excelsa (*Nyctaginaceae*) is transferred to *Agonandra* (*Opiliaceae*). Because the name *A. excelsa* already exists and applies to a different species, a substitute name is proposed: *A. goldbergiana*. *A. conzattii* is treated as subspecies of *A. obtusifolia*, *A. obtusifolia* subsp. *conzattii*.

During the preparation of a monograph of *Agonandra*, the only neotropical genus of *Opiliaceae*, I found an isotype of *Izabalaea excelsa* Lundell in the type collection of the New York Botanical Garden (NY) that had been determined by Aaron Goldberg as *Agonandra* sp.

Izabalaea excelsa was described by Lundell (1971) as a new, monotypic genus of *Nyctaginaceae* from Guatemala. A study of the type specimens and some additional collections of female trees showed that Goldberg is correct and the taxon has to be transferred to the genus *Agonandra*. Since the combination *A. excelsa* Griseb. already exists, it is not possible to maintain Lundell's epithet *excelsa* for this species, and a substitute name is here proposed.

Agonandra goldbergiana Hiepko, **nom. nov.**

≡ *Izabalaea excelsa* Lundell in *Wrightia* 4: 154. 1971 [non *Agonandra excelsa* Griseb., *Symb. Fl. Argent.*: 149. 1879]. – Holotype: Guatemala, Izabal, Cadenas, in high forest bordering Rio Sarstun, 19.3.1962 (male fl.), *Contreras 6791* (LL!; isotypes: LL!, NY!).

The epithet acknowledges the fact that A. Goldberg was the first to correctly interpret the type specimen as an *Agonandra* species. Had he failed to do so, the species might have remained hidden for long among the *Nyctaginaceae*. One of the reasons for Lundell's placing the species in the tribe *Pisonieae* of that family was obviously the erroneous assumption of a basal fusion of the perianth.

Standley (1920) described two new species of *Agonandra* from Mexico: *Agonandra obtusifolia* and *A. conzattii*. He wrote that “*Agonandra conzattii* is related to *A. obtusifolia* more closely than to *A. racemosa*. It differs chiefly in the size of the fruit ...”. According to my studies, *A. obtusifolia* is rather widely distributed in Mexico, from Tamaulipas and Veracruz to Puebla, Oaxaca, and Chiapas, whereas *A. conzattii* occurs only in the southern part of this range, usually

at higher altitudes. Since both taxa intergrade in the contact zone I prefer to treat them as subspecies of a single species.

Agonandra obtusifolia Standl. in J. Washington Acad. Sci. 10: 507. 1920 subsp. *obtusifolia*
Holotype: Mexico, Tamaulipas, vic. of Victoria, 320 m, 1.5.–13.6.1907 (fr.), *Palmer 421* (US 572649!; isotypes: K!, MO!).

Leaves usually larger than 3 × 1 cm, young branches and petioles puberulous to glabrous, midrib glabrous; fruits 8–10 × 5–7 mm; growing at elevations between 0 and 500 m.

Agonandra obtusifolia subsp. *conzattii* (Standl.) Hiepko, **comb. & stat. nov.**
≡ *Agonandra conzattii* Standl. in J. Washington Acad. Sci. 10: 508. 1920. – Holotype: Mexico, Oaxaca, Distr. de Cuicatlán, Portillo de Coyula, 1600 m, 23.4.1919 (fr.), *Conzatti 3558* (US 1012311!; isotype: US 989655!).

Leaves usually less than 3 × 1 cm, young branches, petioles, and lower part of midrib beneath pubescent; fruits 15–18 × 12 mm; growing at elevations above 1000 m.

References

- Lundell, C. L. 1971: Studies of American plants III. – *Wrightia* **4**: 153–170.
Standley, P. C. 1920: The North American species of *Agonandra*. – J. Washington Acad. Sci. **10**: 505–508.

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