Seorsus Rye & Trudgen

ALA (https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2890456) NSL [legitimate] (https://biodiversity.org.au/nsl/services/apni-format/display/214317)

Options

— Rye, B.L. & Trudgen, M.E. (21 August 2008), Seorsus, a new Gondwanan genus of Myrtaceae with a disjunct distribution in Borneo and Australia. *Nuytsia* 18: 248-249

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Nomenclature

Rye, B.L. & Trudgen, M.E. (21 August 2008), Seorsus, a new Gondwanan genus of Myrtaceae with a disjunct distribution in Borneo and Australia. *Nuytsia* 18: 248-249 ()

Etymology

From the Latin *seorsus* (severed or apart), referring to the great geographic disjunctions found in the genus.

Description

Low-growing to tall shrubs, glabrous. Young stems with a thick sub-epidermal layer that becomes transversely fissured. Leaves opposite, not clustered, shortly petiolate, concolorous, entire, without an apical point. Peduncles 1-flowered. Bracteoles usually persistent. Pedicels absent or to ± as long as peduncles. Hypanthium reticulate-rugose. Sepals 5, much shorter than the petals, dorsally ridged or smooth, persistent in fruit. Petals 5, widely spreading in flower, broadly obovate to circular, white, shed in fruit; antipetalous colleters absent. Staminodes rare or absent. Stamens inflexed in bud, 15–78, in very discrete, antisepalous fascicles, much shorter than the petals. Anthers basifixed; thecae widely divergent on a triangular connective; connective gland ventral. Ovary inferior, 2- or 3-locular; ovules 6–16 per loculus, radially arranged. Style base shortly inset, not reaching placentas. Fruits dehiscent, largely inferior. Seeds strongly facetted, 0.6–1.4 mm long, crustaceous; testa smooth or colliculate, brown; inner protrusion absent or inconspicuous.

Diagnostic Features

Unusual in having young stems with a thick sub-epidermal layer that becomes transversely fissured, stamens in very discrete antisepalous fascicles, and basifixed anthers with a ventral connective gland. Other important characters: anther thecae widely divergent at base; seeds strongly facetted.

Chromosome Numbers

Unknown.

Biostatus

Native.

Distribution

A genus of 4 species, 2 endemic to Borneo and 2 to Australia, with 1 species occurring in southwestern Western Australia and 1 in the northern part of the Northern Territory.

Ecology

The southwestern species is lignotuberous and found on the margins of salt lakes while the other three species are restricted to rocky habitats in the tropics, with both Bornean species occurring on mountains. Their small flowers attract varied insects to readily accessible nectar. Fruits dehisce by 2 or 3 terminal valves, releasing small, crustaceous seeds.

Nomenclature and Typification

Seorsus Rye & Trudgen, *Nuytsia* 18: 248–249 (2008). Type: *Seorsus clavifolius* (C.A.Gardner) Rye & Trudgen.

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Taxonomic Notes

A very distinctive genus, with antisepalous stamen fascicles as in *Astartea* DC. but differing in having a ventral connective gland and strongly facetted seeds. The species in Borneo differ from the Australian ones in several characters including their lack of pedicels and almost constant stamen numbers per fascicle. Both Australian species were initially included in *Astartea* but one was later placed in *Baeckea* sect. *Astartea* (DC.) Nied. (Niedenzu 1893). One of the Bornean species was originally described as *Baeckea taxifolia* Merr. (Merrill 1928).

Seorsus is sister to a strongly supported clade comprising *Astartea*, *Cyathostemon* Turcz. and *Hypocalymma* (Endl.) Endl. (Rye *et al.* 2020).

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Source

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Taxonomy

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- Kingdom: Plantae ()
- Phylum: Charophyta
- Class: Equisetopsida
- Subclass: Magnoliidae
- Superorder: Rosanae ()
- Order: Myrtales ()
- Family: Myrtaceae (/opus/foa/profile/Myrtaceae) ()
- Genus: Seorsus (/opus/foa/profile/Seorsus) ()

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