

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Zeitschrift: | Boissiera : mémoires de botanique systématique |
| Herausgeber: | Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève |
| Band: | 29 (1979) |
| | |
| Artikel: | A revision of the genus Rotala (Lythraceae) |
| Autor: | Cook, C.D.K. |
| Vorwort: | Introduction |
| DOI: | https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-895488 |

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 11.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Introduction

Some species of *Rotala* are extremely successful weeds in ricefields and irrigation ditches. In S. India it is quite common to find up to five different species in a single ricefield. The phenomenon of these closely related species growing intermingled and the difficulty of identifying the species were the stimuli for my interest in this genus. The only world-wide revision of *Rotala* was written by A. KOEHNE in a series of works (1880, 1883, 1903, 1907, 1908). By 1908 KOEHNE had recognised 41 species and since then 40 new species have been described (many of them by A. FERNANDES, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1974). Adding some nomenclatural recombinations there are today about 97 "paper" species.

Apart from accounts in Floras the following localized floristic accounts have been published: KOEHNE (1885), GRAHAM (1964) — USA; BLATTER & HALLBERG (1918) — colonial India; LOURTEIG (1954) — Argentina; RAYNAL (1967) — W. and C. Africa; LEEUWEN (1971) — Malesia; MITCHELL (1976) — N. Australia. Very little morphological or anatomical work has been carried out, the most detailed accounts are those of VOS (1974) and PANIGRAHI (1975). One individual in the whole genus has been cytologically examined (*R. ramosior*, $2n = 32$, STRIPLING & ROSS, 1962). I have found no works on the genetics, gametogenesis, population structure, ecology, floral biology or chemistry of *Rotala*.

I have had the opportunity to study and make mass gatherings of 11 different species in the field and have cultivated 10 species in the botanic gardens of the University of Zürich. These studies have given me a limited insight into local population variation, ecology, breeding systems and phenotypic plasticity. On the whole, however, my work has been mostly based on herbarium and literature studies. I have attempted to produce an "alpha" revision of the genus *Rotala* to the level of species on a world-wide basis. I have accepted 44 of the 97 "paper" species. Many species show considerable variation but I feel it is folly to attempt any infraspecific classification on a very widespread group of aquatic and amphibious plants without an experimental approach.