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# IDENTITY of BASISTEMON and SACCANTHUS

BY

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In the course of ordering recently at the Conservatoire Botanique the unplaced material in the Scrophulariaceae, we found several undetermined sheets of *Linden* 812 which proved to be co-type material of *Basistemom* Turcz. Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 214 (1863). We were struck by their vegetative similarity to *Saccanthus* Herzog, Med. Rijks Herb. LEIDEN 29, 47 (1916) which we had had occasion some time previously to insert in the herbarium as a new genus in the Verbenaceae.

Critical examination of the co-types of all these plants has shown conclusively that they are in fact congeneric.

*Basistemom*, although placed by its author in Verbenaceae, was referred by Bentham and Hooker to the Scrophulariaceae Gen. Pl. II, 2, 1244 (1826) because the ovules and inflorescences «longe differt» from those of the former family.

However, the inflorescences of certain Verbs (cf. subfam. Chloanthoideae) are similarly reduced, that is, even to solitary axillary flowers as in *Basistemom*. We find, too, that the ovules are actually arranged in a 2-celled ovary (Turczaninow wrote "ovary 1-celled?"). Also the pendant ovules are not in contradiction to the diagnosis of the Verbenaceae.

Herzog, in rightly placing *Saccanthus* in Verbenaceae and probably near to *Rhaphithamnus*, quite naturally overlooked *Basistemom*, so hidden by both Bentham and Hooker and by Wettstein (Pflzf. IV. 3 b, 66 1897) in the Scrophulariaceae. His two species though so nicely agreeing with the type (*B. bogotense* Turcz.) are however separable specifically. Leaves mostly 2-3 cm. long or longer; flowers white.

Leaves lustrous; flowers mostly solitary-axillary. *B. bogotense*.

Leaves dull; flowers solitary but mostly in short lateral branchlets  
*B. silvaticum*.

Leaves mostly 1,5-2 cm. long; flowers violet *B. violaceum*.

**Basistemom violaceum** (Herzog) Baehni et Macbr., comb. nov.  
— *Saccanthus violaceus* Herzog Med. Rijks Herb. Leiden, 29, 47 (1916).

**Basistemom silvaticum** (Herzog) Baehni et Macbr., comb. nov.  
— *Saccanthus silvaticus* Herzog, loc. cit..