



A note on the chestnut vine and Séraphin Mottet's 'Dictionnaire Pratique d'Horticulture et Jardinage' (1892–1899)

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Abstract The discovery, introduction and naming of the chestnut vine (*Tetrastigma voinierianum*, Vitaceae), a Vietnamese plant, is examined and bibliographic citation corrected. The 173 at the time of writing disregarded new species names and new combinations made in Séraphin Mottet's *Dictionnaire Pratique d'Horticulture et Jardinage* (1892–1899) include six names in current use, hitherto attributed to later authors. All the other Mottet novelties, as well as the 125 disregarded in Nicholson's 'mother volume', his *Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening* (four names in current use) and its later *Century Supplement* (22) have been passed to IPNI editors as have 15 from Bois's *Dictionnaire d'Horticulture Illustré*: none disturbs current nomenclature save six changes in authority. Many species introduced to cultivation by Veitch were much cited by Mottet and Nicholson but were first published in Veitch catalogues, necessitating a new name in *Miconia* (*Melastomataceae*) and seven changes in authority in names in current use.

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THE CHESTNUT VINE

The chestnut vine, so-called because of its chocolate-brown stems, is a very vigorous liana, widely grown in warm countries as a screening plant or for ground-cover, particularly as it is very shade-tolerant. However, it can become invasive as on the Big Island of Hawaii (Staples & Herbst 2005: 573). In cooler climates, as in The Netherlands, it is sold in pots as a house-plant. In the fourth edition of *Mabberley's Plant-book* (Mabberley 2017b), its Latin name is rendered as *Tetrastigma voinierianum* (Mottet) Gagnep. (Vitaceae), based on *Vitis voinieriana* Mottet ((1898–)1899 5: 520), an unlisted place of publication for the basionym, rather than the usual attribution to Baltet (1902). However, it transpires that even Mottet's was not the earliest use of *V. voinieriana*.

Tetrastigma voinierianum was first collected in the Ninh Binh mountains in what is now northern Vietnam, by Father Henri François Bon (1844–1895) of the Késo / Ke-So Mission (now So Kien in Kien Khe, Ha Nam Province), 60 km from Hanoi, where he grew it over his aviary (Baltet 1902). His herbarium specimens (Bon 2555) collected 24 April 1884 are at P (P00697355, P00697356, P00697357). Under the manuscript name *Vitis voinieriana*, Bon sent living material to 'M[onsieur]. Voinier', principal veterinarian of the French army of occupation in Hanoi (Grignon 1888, Baltet 1902), Bon noting later in a letter to Charles Baltet (1830–1908), pomologist of Troyes, France, that this plant 'couvrirait une cathédrale'. Aside from his administrative duties in the army, Voinier, who had been in Hanoi since 1884, trialled plantation crops in a nursery established in 'la citadelle', which by 1888 had over 20 000 plants (Grignon 1888). He had by then sent 8 000 plants 'aux villages catholiques du Haut Tonkin', including cocoa seedlings to Bon, which would explain their connection and, no doubt, Bon's grateful dedication.

Voinier was recalled to France in 1888. It is perhaps not coincidental that there was a seedsman business, 'Voinier et Blanpied' founded in December 1892 at 14 fg Ste Catherine, Nancy, France (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k56652574/f10>), then at '77 St-Georges' where by 1892 succeeded by 'Guérillot' (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k5663020s/f15>). Baltet (1902) was to note how a Nancy grower considered the chestnut vine one of the most significant recent greenhouse introductions.

Although Bon sent herbarium specimens directly to the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris from Vietnam (see above), the chestnut vine seems to have been first named when plants were offered for sale to the public as cool-house climbers at 5 fr. each, by J. Sallier fils of Neuilly-sur-Seine (just west of Paris), successor to the great nursery firm of Thibaut and Ketteler of Sceaux (just south of Paris). Sallier had received material from Baltet, herbarium specimens of which, collected by Paul Hariot (1854–1917) in Baltet's cool house at Troyes in 1905, are now in Pierre's Herbarium at P complete with Pierre's MSS and original drawings. These are erroneously labelled *T. obovatum* Gagnep. (*Vitis obovata* M.A. Lawson (1875), non Raf. (1830)) – P00697359, as is that collected by Hariot from a plant grown in the Jardin des Plantes from Baltet stock received in 1901 – P00697360.

In his autumn catalogue of 1897, that is after the death of Father Bon, Sallier was apparently the first to publish a description, which was reported in Vienna in January 1898 (Burgerstein & Abel 1898) and shortly thereafter attributed to Sallier (but as from 'Chine') by Hariot, whose publication below is more-or-less contemporary with that of Mottet:

Vitis voinieriana [H.F. Bon ex] Sallier (1897) 2; Burgerst. & F. Abel (1898) 23 '*Voinierianum*'; Sallier (1898) 9; Har. in Bois ([1893–1899] 1207 as '*V. ? Voinieriana* Sallier'; Mottet ([1898–] 1899) 5: 520; Baltet (1902) 56, f. 18–21; *Cissus voinieriana* (Sallier) Viala in Viala & Vermorel (1910) 104, f. 174–180 = *Tetrastigma voinierianum* (Sallier) Gagnep. (1910).

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Notes — Material grown at Kew in the 'Mexican House' was that received from Sallier on 19 May 1904 and is very likely to be clonal material of what Sallier was describing, so, in the absence of any authentic Sallier material from his nursery being found in a herbarium in France, the sheet (<http://specimens.kew.org/herbarium/K000701069>) is a candidate as neotype for a monographer to consider. Sallier (1897) rightly says 'confinant au Laos', bordering Laos, i.e., not from Laos itself, though many texts starting with Baltet (1902), who noted the plant's being grown outside at the new Jardin Coloniale de Nogent-sur-Marne (P00697358, collected there by Baltet in 1901), now Jardin Tropicale de Paris in eastern Paris, mistakenly say it was a Laotian, rather than Vietnamese, plant.

Although Mottet did not cite Sallier, he, like Burgerstein & Abel (1898), would no doubt have been aware of the catalogue because at this time he was scrutinising all such publications for new introductions as he prepared digests of them for the annual Paris 'almanach', *Le Bon Jardinier*, but it has not been possible for this author to see the 1898 issue in which it is likely to have been reported.

SERAPHIN MOTTET

Séraphin-Joseph Mottet (1861–1930), a horticulturist and prolific writer (Lesourd 1930), was born in Paris, worked in Lyon and Marseille and in 1880 settled back in Paris, where he worked for the great nursery firm, Vilmorin-Andrieux & Cie. He was an authority on, among other things, irises, and wrote monographs on *Eremurus* (*Asphodelaceae*), *Primula* (*Primulaceae*) and, with G. Boucher, *Clematis* (*Ranunculaceae*). In 1885 he was sent to study at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick, England where he learnt English, besides cultivation techniques. He contributed articles to *Gardeners' Chronicle* for over 30 years (Anon. 1930). In the late 1890s he became one of the compilers of the annual publication, *Le Bon Jardinier*, providing his articles on new plants from at least 1896.

In his publications, largely in *Revue Horticole* over some 40 years, Mottet described several new species whose names have been picked up by IPNI and other databases. Among these is that of an ornamental, endemic New Zealand sedge (Mottet 1897), *Carex vilmorinii* (*Cyperaceae*), named after his employer, but now considered a synonym of *C. comans* Berggr. On the other hand, his names in current use include *Cotoneaster nanshan* M.Vilm. ex Mottet (*Rosaceae*) and *Thladiantha oliveri* (Cogn.) Mottet (*Cucurbitaceae*).

MOTTET'S DICTIONNAIRE

Moreover, with a working knowledge of English (Lesourd 1930), 'Dès 1891, il [Mottet] entreprit la traduction du Dictionnaire anglais de jardinage de G[eorge] Nicholson: travail colossal, qui dura dix ans et aboutit à la publication de cinq gros volumes de 800 pages chacun. Cet ouvrage [*Le Dictionnaire Pratique d'Horticulture et de Jardinage*], épuisé aujourd'hui et très recherché, reste encore le des principal monument bibliographique élevé à l'Horticulture française' [From 1891 Mottet embarked on the translation of George Nicholson's garden dictionary: a colossal labour which took ten years, resulting in the publication of five large volumes each of 800 pages. This work, now out of print and much sought after, remains the principal bibliographic landmark in French horticulture].

Mottet's *Dictionnaire* was produced in 80 parts from 1892 to 1899, but their publication dates and precise contents are still unclear (Stafleu & Cowan 1981: 741), so the dates (spanning

consecutive years) on the volume title-pages are those used here, with square brackets around the more unlikely year, if obvious. The book was a considerable advance on George Nicholson's *Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening* (also issued in parts, 1884–1887) in that he included many species known in Continental horticulture besides the very many brought into cultivation in Britain since the appearance of Nicholson's book, as well as completely new (signed) articles by Mottet himself and others. Although Mottet used Nicholson's original illustrations he augmented them with many more fresh ones, such that the whole work had some 5000 figures. Unlike Nicholson, he also added species-name authorities to the entries.

In view of all this and, in particular, the fact that the book was re-issued ('Nouveau tirage', but actually a facsimile) in 1938–1939 (Stafleu & Cowan 1981: 742) and is now digitized by the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k62286973>), it seems extraordinary that his monumental and widely distributed work, far more familiar to Continental 'users' of plant-names than were many scientific works of the period, has hitherto been disregarded in Anglophone countries. Such books cannot be considered 'obscure'.

Mottet's work in the annual *Le Bon Jardinier* (that in the 1896 issue seen by the author, courtesy Stefan Dressler) is also cited in his *Dictionnaire*, in which, some years ago two combinations for species of kauri (*Agathis*, *Araucariaceae*) were detected (Mabberley 2002), even though no other names from that work had hitherto been noted by compilers. Full examination of Mottet's important work now shows that there are, surprisingly, 174 other validly published names (new species, new combinations and *nomina nova*) there to be attributed to him. Except for the two *Agathis* names, none of these had been, at the time of writing, noted at all in IPNI (2017), WCSP (2017) or The Plant List (<http://www.theplantlist.org>, last accessed November 2017), which are the benchmarks used here.

In maintaining the files for *Mabberley's Plant-book*, I have therefore checked whether or not any of the rest of the validly published names in Mottet's book antedate those generally accepted for currently used ones. There are indeed six (none effecting name-changes), two referring to New Zealand endemic plants, which names are all made somewhat securer (some by almost a century) by these findings (which may of course in turn be antedated by further bibliographic research as in the case of the chestnut vine), but this note provides the evidence for the attributions to be accepted so far:

1. **Amorphophallus teuszii** (Engl.) Mottet 1 (1892[–1893]) 137 as '*Teutzii*'; G.Nicholson (1900) 43; N.E.Br. (1901) 149, isonym – *Araceae* (Tropical Africa)

Basionym. *Hydrosme teuszii* Engl. (1884) 2.

2. **Bulbinella hookeri** (Hook.) Mottet 1 (1892–1893) 430; Cheeseman (1906) 718, isonym – *Asphodelaceae* (New Zealand)

Basionym. *Chrysobactron hookeri* Colenso ex Hook. (1851) t. 817.

3. **Bulbinella rossii** (Hook.f.) Mottet 1 (1892–1893) 430; Cheeseman (1906) 717, isonym – *Asphodelaceae* (New Zealand)

Basionym. *Chrysobactron rossii* Hook.f. (1844) 72, t. 44.

Note — The binomial was published as a *nomen nudum* by Kirk (1891) 224.

4. **Chevaliera fernandae** (André) Mottet 1 ([1892–]1893) 639 as '*Chevalliera*'; L.B.Sm. & W.J.Kress (1989) 78, isonym – *Bromeliaceae* (north-east South America)

Basionym. *Bromelia fernandae* É.Morren ex André (1871) 114, t. 65.

Note — The original description is signed by André, who took up Morren's MS name.

5. **Dioscorea racemosa** (Klotzsch) Mottet 2 (1893[–1894] 217); Uline (1896) 430, isonym – *Dioscoreaceae* (Central America)

Basionym. *Helmia racemosa* Klotzsch (1851) 393.

6. **Wikstroemia alberti** (Regel) Mottet 5 ([1898–]1899) 538; Domke (1932) 362, isonym – *Thymelaeaceae* (Turkestan)

Basionym. — *Stellera alberti* Regel (1886) 616.

Although it may seem odd that the currently accepted authorities of names of such well-known plants as those of New Zealand, for example, are antedated in hitherto disregarded French works, this is hardly surprising when the method of putting together *Index kewensis*, the basis for most of today's databases, is considered (see Mabberley 1990, 1991, for discussion). Indeed, there are many other examples of Indopacific plant-names coined in other French books similarly formerly disregarded (see Mabberley 1999, 2004), though those names have latterly been incorporated in standard databases. Other such currently accepted New Zealand plant-names now very recently shown also to be attributed to French authors include *Pimelea gnidia* (J.R.Forst. & G.Forst.) Lam. and *P. prostrata* (J.R.Forst. & G.Forst.) Lam. (*Thymelaeaceae*; see Mabberley 2017a).

UNLISTED NICHOLSON NAMES CITED BY MOTTET

The comprehensive Mottet also drew attention to all the new species and new combinations provided by Nicholson in the 'mother volume', another work well known to 'users' of plant-names. Almost all of the hundreds of Nicholson names published there have been picked up by IPNI etc. (admittedly some only very recently), but some 125 had not at the time of writing. The only four affecting names in current use, including yet another New Zealand plant, make them all more secure (by well over a century in two cases):

1. **Homalanthus polyandrus** (Müll.Arg.) G.Nicholson 2 (1885) 149; Cheeseman (1906) 630, isonym – *Euphorbiaceae* (New Zealand)

Basionym. *Carumbium polyandrum* Hook.f. ex Müll.Arg. (1864) 434.

2. **Palicourea racemosa** (Aubl.) G.Nicholson 3 (1886) 8; Wright & Dewar (1894) 798; Borhidi (2011) 247, isonym – *Rubiaceae* (northern South America)

Basionym. *Nonatelia racemosa* Aubl. 1 (1775) 186, t. 72.

3. **Ruellia schaueriana** (Nees) G.Nicholson 3 (1886) 334; Voss 1 (1894) 813, isonym – *Acanthaceae* (Brazil)

Basionym. *Dipteracanthus schauerianus* Nees (1838) [3].

Note — See Mabberley (1983).

4. **Tigridia vanhouttei** Roetzl ex G.Nicholson 4 (1887) 39; Espejo & López-Ferr. (1997) 2, isonym – *Iridaceae* (Mexico)

Note — Nicholson has a description and cites Flore des Serres 25 (1875) t. 2174, which plate ('TIGRIDIA? VAN HOUTTEI Roetzl') has neither analysis nor adequate accompanying description in the associated text (p. 49) by Van Houtte, headed 'TIGRIDIA HOUTTEI B. ROEZL.'

Nicholson produced a 'Century Supplement' to his *Dictionary*, in two parts (1900–1901), in which he took up most of Mottet's innovations but, again, made further nomenclatural innovations, few of which had reached IPNI at the time of writing. Twenty-two amended or additional names have therefore been passed to IPNI, one of them having a minor effect on a name in current use:

- Pleurothallis lamprophylla* G.Nicholson (1901) 608; Schltr. (1918) 205 = **Stelis lamprophylla** (G.Nicholson) Karremans – *Orchidaceae* (Mexico to Panama)

Note — I am indebted to Adam Karremans for help with this name.

DESIRE BOIS'S DICTIONNAIRE

It must also be realised that contemporary with Mottet's and Nicholson's work were the competing *Dictionnaire d'Horticulture Illustré*, edited by Désiré Bois (1856–1946) and being written in Paris in 40 parts (1893–1899, but their publication dates and precise contents are still unclear) by a team of specialists under the auspices of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. During its publication a new German edition of what had been Vilmorin's *Les fleurs de pleine terre* (ed. 1, 1860; ed. 4, 1894) was issued in Germany in 50 parts (1894–1896) by Andreas Voss (1857–1924) as *Vilmorin's Blumengärtnerei Beschreibung, Kultur und Verwendung des gesamten Pflanzenmaterials für deutsche Gärten* (the new names in which have reached IPNI). Both contain nomenclatural novelties, notably in the case of Bois, e.g., many cactus and legume names are all in IPNI, but also 15 at the time of writing that have not reached the index and have now been passed thither, including one affecting the authority of a name in current use:

- Felicia cymbalariae** (Aiton) Gérôme in Bois (1893–1899) 536; Levyns in Adamson & Salter (1950) 770, isonym – *Compositae/Asteraceae* (South Africa)

Basionym. *Aster cymbalariae* Aiton 3 (1789) 197.

VEITCH CATALOGUES

One of the other nurseries providing novelties covered by Nicholson and Mottet (and contemporary rivals including Bois in France, Voss in Germany and Wright & Dewar in their edition (1894) of Johnson's *Gardener's Dictionary* in England [Mabberley 1990]) was the great nursery firm of Veitch in King's Road, Chelsea, London (Shephard 2003). Many of their plants were reported in published accounts of flower shows in London and elsewhere, while the firm also inserted advertisements in *Gardeners' Chronicle* announcing its novelties for sale. Nonetheless, in IPNI and other databases, some of the Veitch names have been attributed to Nicholson's *Dictionary*.

Subsequently, the new plants were offered by other nurseries like William Bull in London besides others on the Continent such as Van Geert and Laurentius, and appeared in Belgian, French, Austrian and German periodicals too. Very many citations of their plant-names in the literature refer to such secondary reportage, but the names first appeared in the firm's catalogues.

It is most important to grasp this because, often, these original descriptions were accompanied by plates not reproduced in the reportage. Unlike the readily lost loose plates earlier being issued for example by Ch. Huber Frères & Cie. in Hyères, France (Mabberley 1985), these were part of the bound catalogues.

There is a particularly complete set of Veitch catalogues with plates in the Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society in London and I am grateful to Thomas Pink there for facilitating access to them. The important catalogues in the annual cycle of publications were those with the year's new introductions, issued in April (many are dated thus), with the advertisements (sometimes with errors) a few weeks later in *Gardeners' Chronicle*. Although a few have been detected by, e.g., IPNI from the primary source, at the time of writing dozens of new names or names had not and need to be revised to earlier dates and authorship and so have been provided to IPNI. Very occasionally there is a report, with description of a Veitch novelty exhibited at a show, before the germane catalogue was issued, e.g., *Dendrobium glomeratum* below.

The following names are the hitherto unrecognised ones in current use, thereby making these binomials more secure, while one leads to an adjustment in *Miconia*, where a *nomen novum* is proposed:

1. ***Dendrobium glomeratum*** H.J.Veitch ex Rob. (1893) 568; H.J.Veitch (1894) 6 – *Orchidaceae* (Central Malesia)

2. ***Dieffenbachia weirii*** J.J.Veitch (1866) 11 – *Araceae* (Brazil)

3. ***Dipladenia boliviensis*** J.J.Veitch ([April] 1869) 6 (t.), 13 = ***Mandevilla boliviensis*** (J.J.Veitch) Woodson – *Apocynaceae* (Bolivia, Ecuador)

Note — Usually rendered as *D. boliviensis* Hook.f. (July 1869).

4. ***Leea amabilis*** H.J.Veitch (1882) 11 (t.), 19 – *Vitaceae* (Borneo)

5. ***Miconia peruviana*** J.J.Veitch ([April] 1867) [t. only seen*] & in Gard. Chron. 1867 (4 May 1867) 458 = ***Miconia*** sp. (*Melastomataceae*), according to Fabián A. Michelangeli, in litt. 6 July 2017

Note — The name antedates the homonym *Miconia peruviana* Cogn. (1891: 909), which has no synonyms according to Fabián A. Michelangeli, authority on the genus, and so I take pleasure in re-naming Cogniaux's Peruvian species after him:

Miconia fabianiana Mabb., *nom. nov.*

*The Royal Horticultural Society copy of Veitch's 1867 catalogue comprises merely the plates, the accompanying text having been discarded.

6. ***Rhododendron* × *sesterianum*** J.J.Veitch (1862) 8; G.Nicholson 4 (1886) 598 (*R. edgeworthii* Hook.f. × *R. formosum* Wall.) – *Ericaceae*

Note — Apparently an older name for *R. × fragrantissimum* Rollison of 1868.

7. ***Sarracenia* × *chelsonii*** H.J.Veitch (1879) 18 (t.), 27 (*S. purpurea* L. × *S. rubra* Walter) – *Sarraceniaceae*

8. ***Sarracenia* × *mooreana*** H.J.Veitch (1877) 26 (*S. flava* L. × *S. leucophylla* Raf.) – *Sarraceniaceae*

POSTSCRIPT

Besides respecting the efforts of earlier workers, sometimes deliberately disregarded for social or nationalistic reasons (Mabberley 1991), and recognising their insights and proposals, the bibliographic research needed to ensure precision in plant nomenclature (Merrill 1949) is not only of importance to taxonomists. As in the case of the chestnut vine, it can also lead to findings that are of interest to historians of botanical exploration besides scholars concerned with the prosopography associated with plant introductions to horticulture - in this case those made in a particularly obsessive, and commercially competitive, acquisitive period.

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