

## THE PRESENT STATUS OF *BAZZANIA CURVIDENS* STEPH. (LEPIDOZIACEAE)

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**Abstract:** Based on study of the types and additional specimens of the Madagascan *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. is proposed to be included as a subspecies under *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindb.) Trevis.

**Keywords:** *Bazzania*, Madagascar, Lepidoziaceae

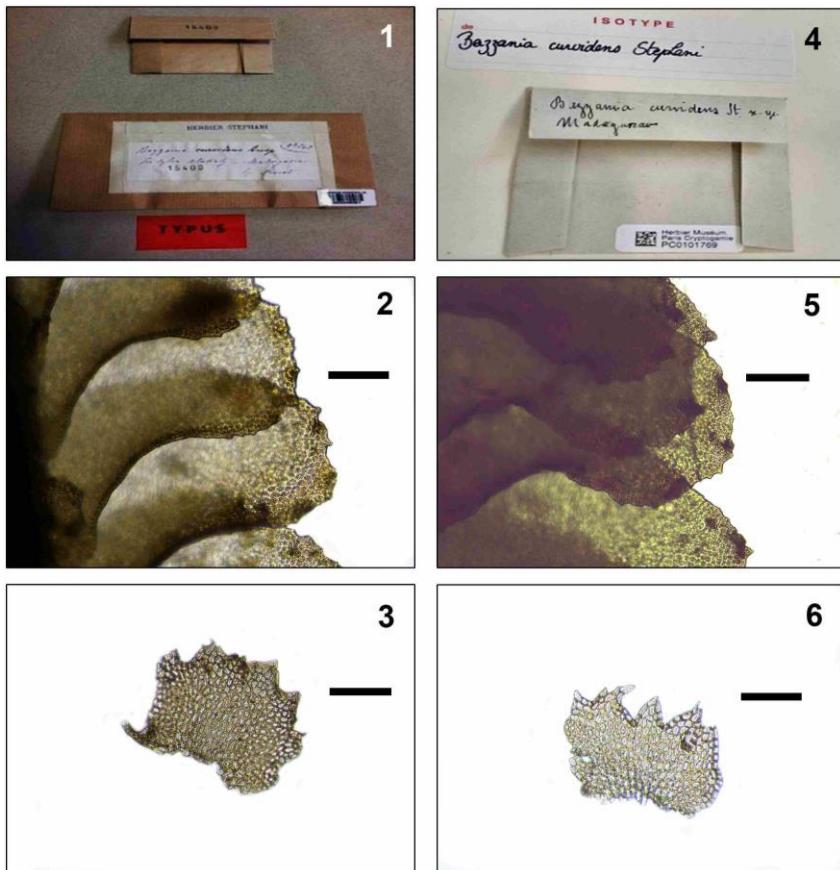
We studied various Madagascan collections of *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindb.) Trevis. specimens with recurved lobe teeth and revealed their identity with *Bazzania curvidens* Steph., described from Madagascar (Stephani 1891). S. Arnell (1965) considered *B. curvidens* to probably only be a form of *Bazzania decrescens*. It was also referred by E. Jones (1975) and R. Grolle (1995) to the *Bazzania decrescens* complex. Then the taxon was collected in two parts of Madagascar by Pócs et al., Roger Heim (*Plate II*) Illustrations of *Bazzania curvidens* were published in Stephani's *Icones* (1985: fig. 7079, under *Mastigobryum curvidens*).

We examined three type specimens of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (holotype preserved in Geneva Herbarium G15409! and isotypes in PC herbarium PC0101769!, PC0101770!), all collected in Madagascar, in sylva Alakatz by Perrot in 1891 (*Plate I*).

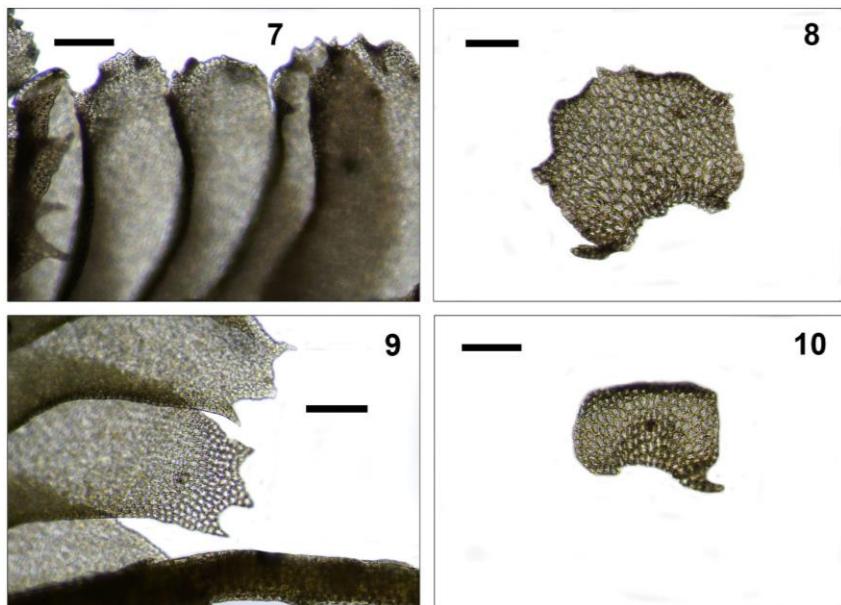
This study confirmed the recognition of *Bazzania curvidens* as a taxon subordinate to *Bazzania decrescens* instead of considering them as two different species. *Bazzania curvidens* differs from the *Bazzania decrescens* only by the incurved leaf and underleaf teeth and fits well in the original descriptions of Stephani "cum *Bazzania*



*decrecente comparanda...optima distincta dentibus numerosis in apice foliorum varieque incurvis.*" The present known distribution of the subspecies is restricted to Madagascar, we therefore consider the rank of subspecies justifiable for it.



**Plate I. Figures 1–3.** Specimen kept in the Stephani herbarium, as type of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (Perrot, G15409!) Figs. 2–3: leaf and underleaf apices showing incurved teeth **Figures 4–6.** Specimen kept in the PC herbarium, as isotype of *Bazzania curvidens* Steph. (Perrot, PC0101769!) **Figures 5–6.** leaf and underleaf apices showing incurved teeth. The scale bar in all cases 200 $\mu$ m long.



**Plate II. Figures 7–8.** *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. ssp. *curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati Figs. 7: leaf margin and 8: underleaf, Madagascar. Forêt d'Amoapaka. 8.09.1934. R. Heim 1126 (PC) **Figures 9–10.** *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. ssp. *decrescens* Figs. 9: leaf margin and 10: underleaf, Madagascar. TOAMASINA Province. Park National de Mantadia. 2.10.2018. Sass-Gyarmati 1804/A (EGR). The scale bar in all cases 200 $\mu$ m long.

## FORMAL TREATMENT

The format follows Söderström *et al.* (2012).

***Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. ssp. *curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati comb. et stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Bazzania curvidens* Steph., Bull. Soc. Roy. Bot. Belgique, Compt. Rend. 30 (2): 197, 1891 (Stephani 1891).

≡ *Mastigobryum curvidens* (Steph.) Steph., Spec. Hepat. 3: 480 (Stephani 1908)

Type: Madagascar, in sylva Alakatz. Perrot 1891. (holotype G15409!; isotypes PC0101769!, PC0101770!)

**Additional specimens seen:** *Bazzania decrescens* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Trevis. ssp. *curvidens* (Steph.) Gyarmati. Madagascar. Forêt d'Amboapaka. Sur tronc pourri. 9.09.1934, R. Heim. no. 1128a (PC).

Angavo Escarpment. Old *Eucalyptus* plantation replacing montane rainforest at the S side of main road between Ambatolaona and Mandraka. S. & T. Pócs and A. Szabó, 10 & 27. August 1998. no. 9868 (EGR).

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