

# Studies in Macaranga V: *M. lowii*

by

T. C. WHITMORE

*Forest Research Institute, Kepong, Malaya*

The following brief note brings the taxonomy of the Malayan species up to date for vol. 2 of the new *Tree Flora of Malaya*, now in press. Unfortunately this discovery was made too late for inclusion in part IV of these studies (Kew Bull. 25, 1971, 237-42).

***Macaranga lowii*** King ex Hk. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 5 (1887) 453.

*M. auriculata* (Merr.) Airy Shaw, Kew Bull. 19 (1965) **syn. nov.**

*M. lowii* is the commonest member of section *Pseudorottlera* in Malaya, and numerous new collections have been made from all over the country in the last few years. These collections completely break down the subtle distinctions Airy Shaw uses to distinguish *M. auriculata* from *M. lowii*. There is indeed a form with the leaves drying rather grey-green with rather distant secondary nerves (e.g. *FRI* 4772, 5520, 6010, 6043, 10514, 10555) and some do have sparse spreading hairs on the base of the midrib below (e.g. *FRI* 38159). There are also sheets of *M. lowii* with leaves drying reddish brown with rather closer secondary nerves (e.g. *FRI* 3442, 3986, 5415, 8549, 8898). But numerous intermediates occur with these characters in different combination (e.g. *FRI* 5366, 7700, 8338, 10669, 12009). In the circumstances I reduce the later described species to synonymy.