

Dissochaeta Blume is a genus of woody climbers found in South–East Asia. The plants typically grow in open or secondary habitats, where they climb on small trees or shrubs. The genus is characterised by its scrambling growth habit, opposite phyllotaxy with interpetiolar outgrowths, terminal or rarely axillary inflorescences, 4-merous flowers, 2-whorls of dimorphic stamens and berry-like fruits. Some species are restricted both geographically and elevationally, while others are widespread.

The circumscription of *Dissochaeta* is still disputable, should the three genera (*Dissochaeta*, *Diplectria* (Blume) Rechb. and *Macrolenes* Naudin) remain separate or should they be synonymized and perhaps be recognized at an infrageneric level. The phylogeny of the tribe *Dissochaeteae* does not preclude their recognition as the few representatives used form three lineages. *Diplectria* is now regarded as a synonym of *Dissochaeta* based on intermediate morphological characters. *Macrolenes* is regarded as a different genus from *Dissochaeta*. *Macrolenes* closely resembles *Dissochaeta* and also consists of woody climbers with a scrambling habit, but differs in some vegetative and flowering aspects.

Fifty four species and two varieties of *Dissochaeta* are recognised in this revision. Species delimitations are based on clear morphological discontinuities in more than a single character. Specific characters used for recognition are shown in the descriptions, notes and the key. We have not recognised subspecies, because no allopatric forms were found, but instead either described the infraspecific variation without any taxonomic categories or we recognised varieties when a character shows a discontinuity. An infrageneric classification is not (yet) included in this revision, a future better resolved phylogeny should form the basis for that.

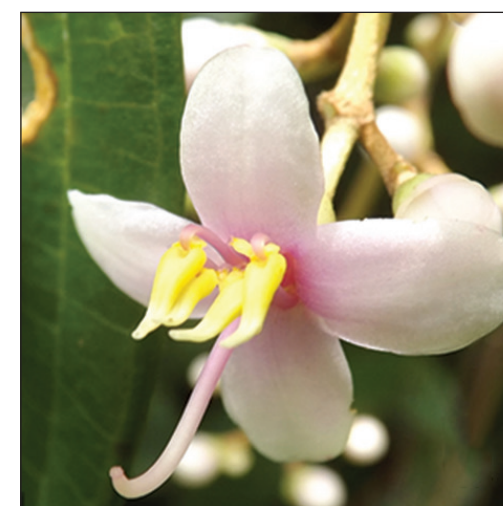


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A REVISION OF *DISSOCHAETA* (MELASTOMATACEAE, DISSOCHAETEAEE)

BY

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Dissochaeta inappendiculata Blume

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Book chapters: Mayr E (2000) The biological species concept. In: Wheeler QD, Meier R (Eds) *Species Concepts and Phylogenetic Theory: A Debate*. Columbia University Press, New York, 17–29.

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