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## **The rise and fall of Sauropus (Phyllanthaceae) : a molecular phylogenetic analysis of Sauropus and allies**

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## STELLINGEN

Behorend bij het proefschrift:  
The rise and fall of *Sauropus* (Phyllanthaceae)  
A molecular phylogenetic analysis of *Sauropus* and allies  
Van Kanchana Pruesapan

1. Former *Synostemon* has to be reinstated at the generic rank.  
(*This thesis*)
2. Characters of the pistillate flower are more important than those of the staminate flower to distinguish between *Synostemon* and *Breynia* (including *Sauropus*).  
(*This thesis*)
3. Leaves in *Breynia* and *Synostemon* show the ecological preference of the species: smaller or narrower and thicker leaves in dry habitats, larger and thinner leaves in wetter surroundings.  
(*This thesis*; Van Welzen, 2003; Hunter, 2005)
4. The combination of slow and fast evolving DNA provides more resolved species relationships than the two sets separately.  
(*This thesis*)
5. Diploporate colpi are a synapomorphy for *Breynia* including *Sauropus*, but is probably homoplastic within *Phyllanthus*.  
(Sagun & Van der Ham, 2003; Webster & Carpenter, 2008)
6. It is preferred to split *Phyllanthus* into several genera rather than to synonymize *Breynia*, *Glochidion*, and *Sauropus* with it.  
(Hoffmann et al., 2006; Kathriarachchi et al., 2006)
7. Molecular data may show the blueprint of phylogeny, but morphology should always be added as this is the level at which evolution occurs.  
(Wiens, 2004)
8. *Breynia* has a fruit coat that is colourful, fleshy and dehisces tardily which makes it attractive to birds and these are probably the dispersers.  
(Webster, 1956)
9. External beauty does not always match internal beauty.