# 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
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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.