
ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE EMBRYOLOGY OF *POLYGONANTHUS* (ANISOPHYLLEACEAE) AND RELATIONSHIPS OF THE FAMILY¹

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ABSTRACT

Polygonanthus is reported here to have a *Polygonum*-type embryo sac, like *Anisophyllea* but unlike *Combretocarpus* (with an *Allium*-type embryo sac). This, together with the results of comparisons of other embryological character states reported earlier, indicates an isolated position for *Combretocarpus* within the family *Anisophylleaceae*. On the basis of the available embryological data, we suggest that *Anisophylleaceae* appear to be distinct from both *Rosales* *sensu stricto* and *Saxifragales*. The family shares many embryological features with *Myrtales* and may be regarded, at least for the time being, as constituting a distinct order in that phylogenetic lineage.

In the course of our earlier study of the embryology of *Anisophylleaceae* (comprising *Anisophyllea*, *Combretocarpus*, *Poga*, and *Polygonanthus*), we were unable to determine several important characters for *Polygonanthus* (Tobe & Raven, 1987a). The collection of an additional sample of *Polygonanthus amazonicus* has made it possible for us to report supplemental embryological results here.

Although we have already discussed the embryology and the floral morphology and anatomy of *Anisophylleaceae* (Tobe & Raven, 1987a, 1988a), our new results, together with the analysis of wood anatomical characters made by Dr. Elisabeth A. Wheeler on the basis of computerized databases and the suggestion by Dahlgren (this volume) that the family belongs in his narrowly defined order *Rosales*, necessitate further analysis. We have, therefore, returned to the question of the relationships of *Anisophylleaceae* in the present paper.

The fixed female flower buds of *Polygonanthus amazonicus* Ducke used in this study were collected by Bruce W. Nelson at Maue, Amazonas, Brazil (voucher J. L. Zarucchi 3138, MO) and

fixed in FAA. Microtome sections for observations were made following the standard methods discussed in the previous paper (Tobe & Raven, 1987a).

EMBRYO SAC FORMATION IN *POLYGONANTHUS*

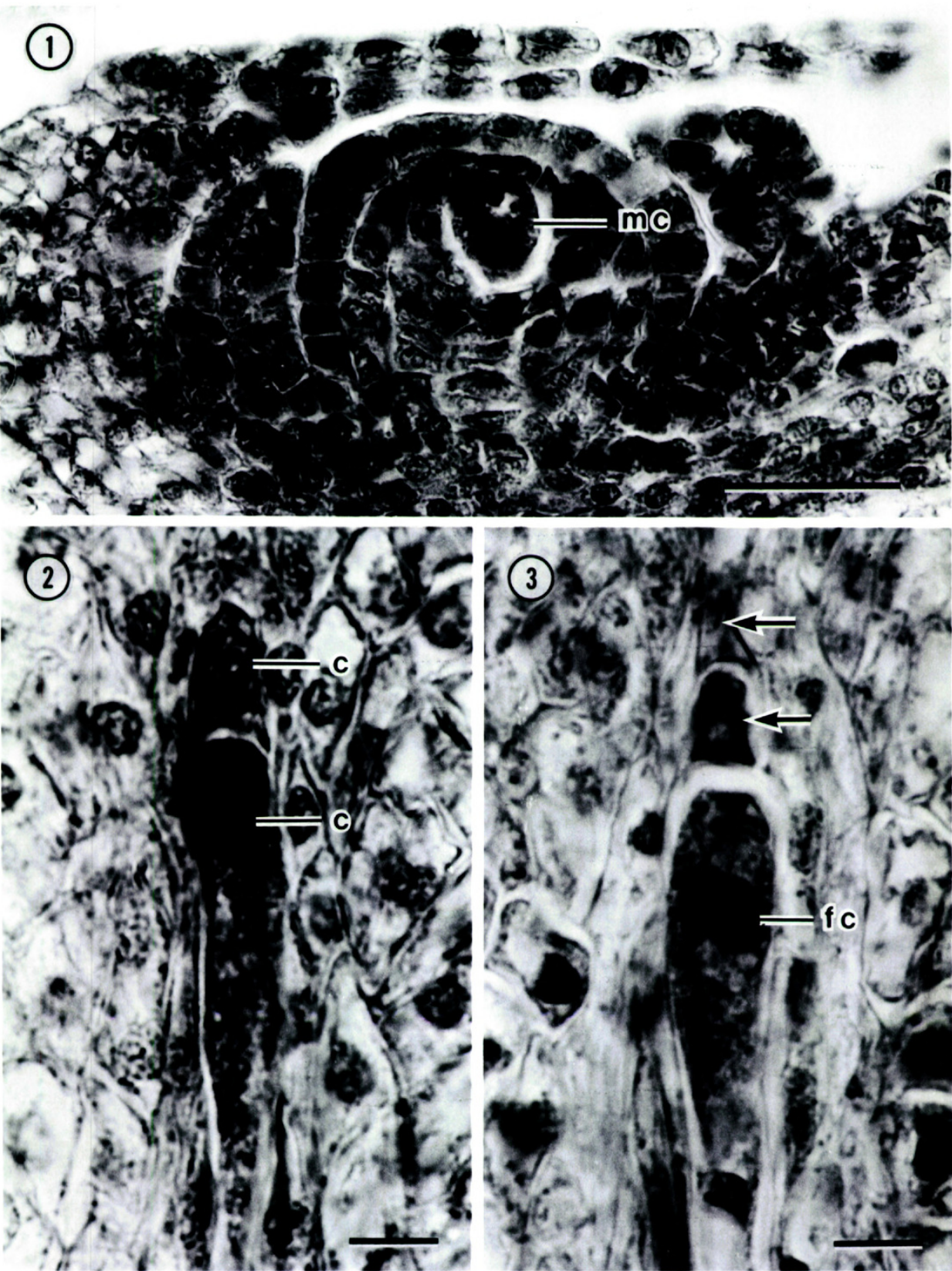
As previously reported, the ovule is anatropous and crassinucellate. At least one parietal cell is observed above a megaspore mother cell, and the occurrence of periclinal cell division in the nucellar apical epidermis is also confirmed (Fig. 1). The megaspore mother cell divides into two cells, with the upper micropylar cell much smaller than the lower chalazal cell (Fig. 2). Subsequent division occurs only in the chalazal cell, giving rise to a triad of megaspores (Fig. 3). Only the chalazal megaspore functions, developing into a monosporic eight-nucleate embryo sac; therefore, embryo sac formation of *Polygonanthus* conforms to the *Polygonum*-type, in agreement with that of *Anisophyllea* but not with that of *Combretocarpus*, which has a bisporic *Allium*-type embryo sac (Tobe & Raven, 1987a).

With respect to other embryological characters,

¹ This study was supported by grant BSR-8518902 from the U.S. National Science Foundation to P. H. Raven. We are grateful to Bruce W. Nelson for collection of the embryological material used in this study, to Pieter Baas for comments on the affinity of *Anisophylleaceae* based on wood anatomy, and to Elisabeth A. Wheeler for a computer search for the wood anatomical character state combinations of *Anisophylleaceae* in the dicotyledons.

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FIGURES 1-3. Longitudinal sections of young ovules of *Polygonanthus* showing megasporogenesis.—1. Megaspore mother cell stage.—2. Dyad of megaspores.—3. Triad of megaspores. Abbreviations: mc, megaspore mother cell; c, megaspore; fc, functioning megaspore. Arrows in Figure 3 indicate degenerating megaspores. Scale bars equal 50 μ m, 10 μ m, and 10 μ m, respectively.

Polygonanthus and *Poga* share many plesiomorphies, most of which are common even to *Anisophyllea* (see cladogram in Tobe & Raven, 1987a, fig. 71). In view of these features, the occurrence of *Polygonum*-type embryo sac formation in *Polygonanthus* (also in *Anisophyllea*) indicates an isolated position for *Combretocarpus* within the family. *Combretocarpus* is characterized by many apomorphies, including *Allium*-type embryo sac formation. *Polygonanthus*, like *Poga*, seems to be a relictual genus whose embryological features were mostly inherited from ancestral Anisophylleaceae (Tobe & Raven, 1987a).

RELATIONSHIPS OF ANISOPHYLLEACEAE

We discussed the relationships of Anisophylleaceae (and Rhizophoraceae) earlier (Tobe & Raven, 1987a, b, 1988a), as have other authors in this symposium (e.g., Juncosa & Tomlinson, this volume). Historical views on these relationships are reviewed in these papers, and it seems unnecessary to repeat them here. Instead, we shall use recent suggestions (Tobe & Raven, 1987a, 1988a; Baas, pers. comm.; Dahlgren, this volume) as our point of departure.

Anisophylleaceae have traditionally been assigned to Rhizophoraceae as a subfamily or a tribe. The close resemblance with Rhizophoraceae (particularly with *Carallia*) has been strongly supported by evidence from wood anatomy (van Vliet, 1976; Baas, pers. comm.). Additionally, the result of the computer search by Dr. Wheeler, which incorporated wood anatomical data of about 5,000 dicotyledonous species representing all major and many minor woody genera, confirms that Anisophylleaceae agree completely with *Carallia* and largely with *Crossostylis* and *Gynotroches*; all three of these genera are Rhizophoraceae sensu stricto. In terms of wood anatomy, therefore, Rhizophoraceae undoubtedly agree most closely with Anisophylleaceae, and Baas (pers. comm.) suggested that this evidence rules out many other families as close relatives. Nonetheless, overall evidence from many other lines of investigation, including embryology, makes it absolutely clear that Rhizophoraceae and Anisophylleaceae belong to different evolutionary lines (Tobe & Raven, 1987a, 1988a; Dahlgren, this volume).

What then are their relatives? Dahlgren (this volume) proposed that Rhizophoraceae be placed in Celastrales along with Celastraceae and Elaeocarpaceae, and we agreed with this suggestion on the basis of embryological evidence (Tobe & Raven, this volume). It seems, therefore, to be the

best available hypothesis. Concerning the affinities of Anisophylleaceae, we proposed Myrtales on the basis of embryological evidence (Tobe & Raven, 1987a); in contrast, Dahlgren (this volume) suggested that they belonged in Rosales sensu stricto. On the basis of our analysis (Tobe & Raven, 1988a), Dahlgren concluded that the floral structure of Anisophylleaceae agreed completely with that of Rosales sensu stricto.

Rosales sensu Dahlgren (= Rosales sensu stricto in the following discussion), for comparison with Anisophylleaceae, comprise Crossosomataceae, Rosaceae, Malaceae, Neuradaceae, and Amygdalaceae (Dahlgren, 1983, this volume). Crossosomataceae have often been placed in Dilleniales (e.g., Melchior, 1964; Takhtajan, 1980). On the basis of embryological evidence, Kapil (1970) supported this traditional treatment and rejected the inclusion of Crossosomataceae in Rosales. Despite this, we are not aware of any essential difference in embryological features between Crossosomataceae and Rosaceae, and therefore disagree with Kapil's view. Except for Crossosomataceae, these families are closely related; they are often grouped into a broadly defined family Rosaceae (e.g., Thorne, 1983). Among them, Crossosomataceae, Rosaceae, and Malaceae are relatively well known embryologically, but Neuradaceae and Amygdalaceae are poorly known. The embryological features of Rosales sensu stricto, on the basis of available data, are surveyed in our paper on the embryology of Rhabdodendraceae (Tobe & Raven, 1988b), which is also assigned by Dahlgren (1983) to Rosales sensu stricto. If we compare the embryological features of Anisophylleaceae (see Tobe & Raven, 1987a, for data) with those of Rosales sensu stricto (see Tobe & Raven, 1988b, for data), we find that although Anisophylleaceae share many embryological features with Rosales sensu stricto, the family is distinguished from Rosales sensu stricto in having vascularized integuments, no hypostase, no persistent nucellar tissue in the mature seed, a two-cell-layered thin inner integument (mostly thicker in Rosales sensu stricto), no obturator, and no endosperm in the mature seed. These embryological features suggest strongly that Anisophylleaceae, even though there are some points of similarity to Rosales sensu stricto, do not belong in that order.

We have searched for combinations of embryological features similar to that found in Anisophylleaceae among groups related to Rosales sensu stricto such as Saxifragales sensu Dahlgren. This order comprises 11 families, including several families of "Glossulariineae," a group to which Cronquist (1981, 1983) considered Anisophylleaceae



Tobe, Hiroshi and Raven, Peter H. 1988. "Additional Notes on the Embryology of Polygonanthus (Anisophylleaceae) and Relationships of the Family." *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 75, 1425–1428.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/2399293>.

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