

Comment on Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitory Activity of Volatile Oil from *Peltophorum Dasyrachis* Kurz Ex Bakar (Yellow Batai) and Bisabolane-Type Sesquiterpenoids

I read with interest the paper by Fujiwara et al. in *J. Agric. Food Chem.* (2010, 58 (5), 2824–2829).¹ This paper is quite interesting, and the authors should be complimented for the significant amount of work they have done. The purpose of this letter is to call attention to the need for some clarification on the name of the plant described in that paper. Fujiwara et al. state “*Peltophorum dasyrachis* Kurz ex Bakar (Fabaceae) is a one of the Thai traditional herbs found throughout the tropics in moist area, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos, and Vietnam”.¹ I have been studying the pharmacotoxicological properties of the medicinal plants of Asia and the Pacific for the past 15 years and *Peltophorum dasyrachis* Kurz ex Bakar does not exist.^{2–7} One could argue that the plant named *Peltophorum dasyrachis* Kurz ex Baker is reported both in the Herbarium, Trinity College, Dublin (TCD), TCD0016264, and in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K), K000756942, and reported by Burkill and Corner.^{8,9} Besides, it could also be argued that many references on this species both in books and in many theses concerning the uses of *Peltophorum dasyrachis* Kurz ex Baker in the traditional medicine of Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos, and Vietnam are available.^{10,11}

However, one ought to know that the sole official name of the plant is *Peltophorum dasyrhachis* (Miq.) Kurz first described by Wilhelm Sulpiz Kurz in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Part 2. Natural History* (1876, 45 (2), 128).¹² It has two synonyms, id sunt, *Caesalpinia dasyrhachis* Miq.¹³ and *Peltophorum dasyrhachis* (Miq.) Baker.¹⁴ In light of the aforementioned taxonomical evidence, the name used by Fujiwara et al. and other papers as “*Peltophorum dasyrachis* Kurz ex Bakar” is therefore incorrect and ought to be replaced by *Peltophorum dasyrhachis* (Miq.) Kurz. Besides “Stem barks have been used in traditional medicine for the treatment of antidiarrheic, carminative, and antidiarrhea” is not acceptable as the sole Asian medicinal member of the genus *Peltophorum* (Vogel) Benth. (1840) (family Fabaceae Lindl.) is *Peltophorum pterocarpum* (DC) Baker ex Heyne used in Indonesia and Malaysia as an astringent.⁴

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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