Summary: *Sambucus chinensis* Lindl. (*Adoxaceae*) is regarded here as a form of *S. javanica* Blume, because it is distinguishable from the latter only by the red fruits instead of black or blackish purple fruits of the typical form. *Sambucus chinensis* var. *formosana* (Nakai) H. Hara, having slender extrafloral nectaries and var. *pinnatifidobata* G. W. Hu with pinnatifid leaflets were recognized at the rank of form of *S. javanica*.

*Sambucus chinensis* Lindl. (*Adoxaceae*) has been considered as distinct from *S. javanica* Blume. This view by Nakai (1917) has been followed widely in Japan (Hara 1952, 1983, Ohwi 1965a, 1965b, Kitamura 1981, Ohba 1988, Hu et al. 2008), China (J. Q. Hu 1988, Hu et al. 2008), and Taiwan (Yang and Chiu 1998). The lectotype of *S. chinensis* Lindl. was designated with a photograph by Hu et al. (2008). However, the species has sometimes been treated as conspecific with *S. javanica* (Kern and Steenis 1951, Fukuoka 1987, Yang and Boufford 2011, Acharya and Mukherjee 2014). *Sambucus chinensis* was distinguished from *S. javanica* by the difference in color of their mature fruits: red in the former but black or blackish purple in the latter. However, color of fruits often varies in *Sambucus* and those variants in fruit-color are recorded as distinct taxa at the rank of form. For example, *Sambucus racemosa* L. subsp. *sieboldiana* (Miq.) H. Hara [f. *sieboldiana*] has typically dark-red fruits, but f. *aurantiaca* (Nakai) H. Hara is characterized in having orange-yellow fruits and f. *nakahana* Murata has yellow fruits. Therefore, *S. chinensis* should be treated as a form of *S. javanica*.

There are two varieties of *Sambucus chinensis*. Var. *formosana* (Nakai) H. Hara has slender extrafloral nectaries as illustrated by Hara (1983) and Yang and Chiu (1998), but the shape of nectaries of *S. chinensis* and *S. javanica* varies in rounded or somewhat cylindric. Yang and Chiu (1998) included *S. formosana* Nakai in *S. chinensis*. The variety is considered to be a form of *S. javanica*.

*Sambucus chinensis* var. *pinnatifidobata* G. W. Hu was found in Hunan Province in China and was characterized in having pinnatipartite or pinnatisect leaflets (Hu et al. 2008). A similar pattern of variation is known in *S. racemosa* and recognized at the rank of forma, i.e., f. *lacera* (Nakai) H. Hara and f. *dissecta* Murata. Var. *pinnatifidobata* should be treated as a form of *S. javanica*.


f. *chinensis* (Lindl.) H. Ohashi, stat. nov.


*S. javanica* subsp. *chinensis* (Lindl.) Fukuoka
Distr. Japan (introduced?), Taiwan, China, N. Myanmar, Bhutan to Nepal and India (Assam).

f. *formosana* (Nakai) H. Ohashi, stat. nov.


Distr. Japan (Ogasawara, S. Kyushu, and the Ryukyus), Taiwan and the Philippines.

*S. chinensis* var. *pinnatilobata* G. W. Hu in Novon 18(1): 63, fig. 2A–B & fig. 3 (2008).

Distr. China (Hunan).

References
Fukuoka N. 1967. *Sambucus* and *Viburnum* of Thailand.