



RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Epitypification of the Myanmar endemic *Cinnamomum birmanicum* (Lauraceae)

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Abstract

The status of *Cinnamomum birmanicum* Kosterm., an imperfectly known species is clarified by designating an epitype. A description of the species is also provided based on the available specimens at CAL.

Keywords

amplified description; *Cinnamomum*; epitypification; Myanmar; taxonomy

Introduction

According to Kok, the genus *Cinnamomum* Schaeff. comprises of about 350 species distributed in tropical Asia, Australia and the western Pacific (1). Kostermans recognized 11 species in Myanmar (2). During our ongoing studies on the Indo-Burmese *Cinnamomum* we found that *Cinnamomum birmanicum* Kosterm. is an imperfectly known species, described with a short diagnosis on the basis of a sterile specimen collected from Myanmar by Falconer. Kostermans (2) remarked that this poorly known species should be re-examined and that it resembles *C. bejolghota* (Buch.-Ham.) Sweet, but the leaves are larger and have a more minute reticulation, moreover the main three basal nerves reach the leaf apex and the fruit cup is very deep. It may be mentioned that Kostermans (2) cited a few specimens from CAL (paratypes) but with incorrect measurements of fruits which were possibly noted down by him hastily during one of his visits to this herbarium. Thus, in its present state, the status of the species is ambiguous. Hence, a specimen in fruiting is designated here as the epitype of *C. birmanicum* as per Art. 9.9 (3) to clarify the taxonomic identity of the species. A description of the species is also added herein to facilitate its easy identification.

Taxonomy

Cinnamomum birmanicum Kosterm. in Reinwardtia 11: 213. 1998, *descr. hic amplif.*

Type: Myanmar, Tenasserim, s.d., *H. Falconer s.n.* [728-738] (holotype BO - n.v.; isotypes E00901524, L0309838, images!). Epitype (designated here): Myanmar, South Tenasserim, Pandaw Forest Circle, 24 Nov. 1904, *Forest Ranger* 1301 (CAL00000220715!, Fig. 1; isoepitypes CAL00000220714!, CAL00000220716!, CAL00000220717!).

Trees; terminal buds ovate, ca 2 mm long, tomentellous; branchlets reddish-brown to blackish, terete, angled towards apices, 2-5 mm thick, glabrous. Leaves opposite to subopposite (sometimes apparently alternate), oblong, oblong-elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, 11-22 × 3-6.5 cm, acute or sometimes rounded at base, acute, apiculate to acuminate (acumen 5-20 mm long) at apex, coriaceous, glabrous,



Fig. 1. Epitype of *Cinnamomum birmanicum* (CAL00000220715). © The Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata

glossy and green to brown above when dry, brown beneath, triplinerved; midrib slender, flat above, raised beneath; lateral primary veins slender, ascending to 100% way along the lamina (up to the base of acumen); tertiary veins obscure to prominent above and beneath, scalariform; minor venation obscure to faint above and beneath; petioles 10-25 × 2-3 mm, concave above, glabrous. *Panicles* axillary and subterminal, slender, 6-17 cm long, glabrous towards base, puberulous towards apices, peduncle 4-10 cm long; branches up to 5 cm long, bearing a few flowers. *Flowers*: greyish tomentellous, ca 4 mm long (excluding pedicels); pedicels 3-4 mm long; perianth tube ca 1 mm long; tepals 6, ovate to ovate-oblong, 2-2.5 × 1-1.3 mm, sericeous inside; stamens 9, 2-2.3 mm long, those of the third whorl with a pair of glands; filaments pilose; anthers 4-celled, oblong, 0.8-1 mm long; staminodes cordate, ca 0.5 mm long; ovary subglobose, ca 1 mm across; style ca 1.3 mm long; stigma discoid. *Fruits* subglobose, 12-18 mm in diameter; cupule cup-shaped, 8-10 mm high, 15-16 mm in diameter, stiff, glabrous; rim smooth; tepals deciduous; fruiting pedicels 4-5 mm long, slightly thickened upwards.

Flowering & fruiting: November-March.

Local names: Burmese: *Lulingyaw*, *Hmanthin*.

Habitat: Occurring in evergreen forests between 180-250 m asl.

Distribution: Myanmar - endemic.

Specimens examined: Myanmar. Tavoy dist.: Kalemaung Reserve, 13 Mar. 1925, *Sem Gyi* 953 (CAL) - fr. Papun, s.d., no collector 16994 (CAL) - fl. Tenasserim: without locality, 6 Mar. 1904, *Conservator of Forests s.n.* (CAL herb. acc. no. 383647) - fl. South Tenasserim: without locality, 6 Mar. 1904, *Forest Officer s.n.* (CAL herb. acc. no. 383649) - fl. Wun - aung - taung forest, 30 Jan. 1905, *Mg Shwe Burn (Forest Ranger)* 758 (CAL - 2 sheets).

Notes: Closely related to *C. bejolghota* (as pointed out by Kostermans (2) but clearly distinct by the subglobose rather than ellipsoid to obovoid fruits, subtended by enlarged perianth tube (cupule) devoid of indurate persistent tepals.

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Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors have equally contributed in the planning of the research and preparation of manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest: The authors declared that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethical issues: None

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