

Neotypification of *Abutilon neelgerrense* (Malvaceae)

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Abstract

Critical examination of protologue, literature and herbarium consultation could not trace the original material of endemic Indian species, *Abutilon neelgerrense* Munro ex Wight. Therefore, the name is neotypified here.

Keywords: Endemic, Orthographic variants, Taxonomy, Typification.

Introduction

Abutilon Mill. is one of the five largest genera of the subfamily Malvoideae (tribe Malveae) of Malvaceae comprises *c.* 120 tropical and subtropical species (Mabberley, 2017). In India, 12 species are reported so far (Paul, 1993), of which seven are recorded from southern parts of peninsular India (Sivarajan & Pradeep, 1996). As a part of the ongoing taxonomic revision on the genus *Abutilon* in India, the need for neotypification of the name *Abutilon neelgerrense* Munro ex Wight was identified. The neotype is designated here according to Art. 9.8 of the ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2018). The paper also discusses the discrepancies in the usage of spelling of specific epithet in literature.

Typification

Abutilon neelgerrense Munro ex Wight, Ill. Ind. Bot. 1(1–8): 66. 1838.

Neotype (designated here): INDIA, **Andhra Pradesh**, Horsley hills, 13° 38' 45.2" N, 78° 24' 31.6" E, 1105 m, 25.12.2017, Nimbalkar 601 (CAL; Isonotypes, BAMU, BSI, BLAT, MH). **Fig. 1.**

Munro proposed the name *Abutilon neelgerrense* based on his collections from Nilgiri mountains in an unpublished manuscript. Later Wight (1838) validated this name based on Munro's unpublished manuscript and collections. According to Stafleu and Cowan (1981), Munro's herbarium and types have been housed at K, and further material at DD, E, GRA, and OXF. Our efforts to trace out the specimens in any of these herbaria are in vain. During the revision of the family Malvaceae in peninsular India, Sivarajan and Pradeep (1996) mentioned about its type as "Neelgherris, Munro

s.n. (K)". However, Noltie (2005) in his book, "The Botany of Robert Wight" stated that "No specimens at K or E". Furthermore, on request Dr. Sally Dawson, Senior Curator-Botanist, at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew have checked the holdings at K, and informed us that there is no extant of specimens in the name '*Abutilon neelgerrense*' (or '*neilgherrense*'). It is confirmed that no original material referred to *A. neelgerrense* is extant at present and it warrants the need of neotypification. According to Art. 9.8 of ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2018) one of our collections (Nimbalkar 601) of *A. neelgerrense*, which bears flowers, fruits and perfectly matching with the protologue is chosen as neotype and duplicates of the same as isoneotypes.

During the present study it was also noted that there are discrepancies in the usage of spelling of specific epithet in the publications of subsequent researchers. In the protologue specific epithet is spelled as '*neelgerrense*' whereas subsequent workers used '*neilgherrense*' (Masters, 1874; Dunn, 1915; Chandrabose *et al.*, 1979; Chandrabose, 1983; Saldanha & Ramesh, 1984; Paul & Nayar, 1988; Paul, 1993; Pullaiah & Rao, 2002; Sasidharan, 2004, 2013; Mohanan & Rao, 2005) except Sivarajan & Pradeep (1996) and Noltie (2005). Moreover, online databases (www.ipni.org; www.tropicos.org; www.theplantlist.org) also used another orthographic variant of specific epithet, '*neilgherrense*'. However, according to Art. 60.1 of ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2018), original spelling of name or epithet is to be retained and hence it is suggested to use the original spelling of specific epithet '*neelgerrense*' as used by original author in the protologue which is properly Latinized and decline with neuter gender of genus *Abutilon*.

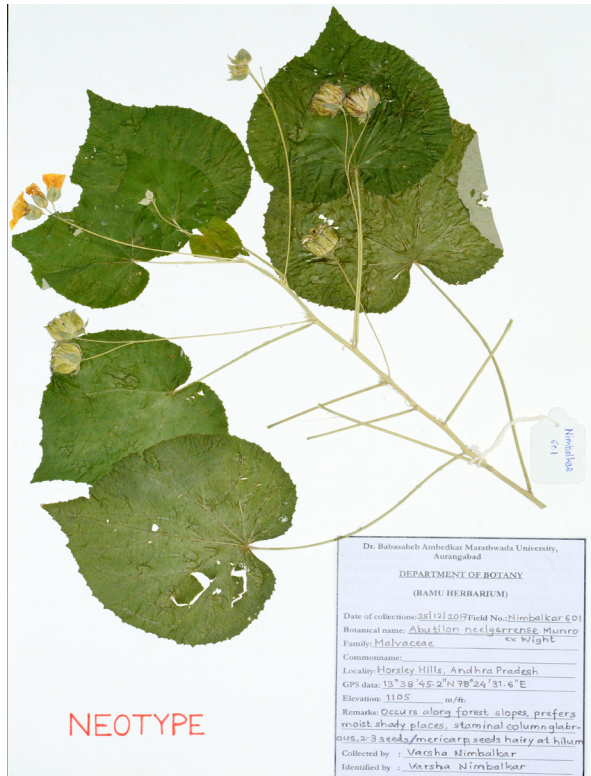


Fig.1. Neotype of *Abutilon neelgherrense* Munro ex Wight (Nimbalkar 601, CAL).

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