

Lectotypification of *Dialium travancoricum* (Fabaceae: Dialioideae)

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Abstract: *Dialium travancoricum* Bourd. (Fabaceae: Dialioideae) is a critically endangered and endemic species of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in the southern Western Ghats, India. The name *D. travancoricum* is lectotypified here using an uncited original specimen collected by Bourdillon from Ariyankavu in Kollam district in Kerala.

Keywords: Endemic, Indian flora, Lectotype, Leguminosae, Western Ghats.

Introduction

The genus *Dialium* L. belongs to subfamily Dialioideae of Fabaceae, comprising about 33 species, and has its highest diversity in tropical Africa and Asia (Falcão & Mansano, 2020). The subfamily Dialioideae is characterized mainly by its distichous thyrsoid inflorescences, camaras fruits and a reduction in number of floral organs in most of its genera. *Dialium* species more often lost their corolla or have a single vestigial petal and only two adaxial stamens (Zimmerman *et al.*, 2013; LPWG, 2017; Falcão *et al.*, 2020). In India, the genus is represented by a single species *Dialium travancoricum* Bourd., which is critically endangered and endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats (Sasidharan, 1998; WCMC, 1998).

Bourdillon (1904) described this tree from South Travancore near Ponmudi in Kerala (India) growing between 1000 and 2000 feet of elevations.

He has provided data pertaining to wood anatomy, phenology in addition to the regular taxonomic description along with an illustration made by his wife Mary Margaret Bourdillon. Perusal of the literature revealed that Bourdillon has neither designated a type nor cited any specimens in the protologue of *D. travancoricum*. The type locality was given as ‘near Ponmudi’, a famous hill station in southern India during the colonial period. Unfortunately no specimens from Ponmudi or near Ponmudi could be located in CAL, K, MH, TBGT, L. or UCBD (herbarium acronyms according to Thiers, updated continuously). The only available collection made by Bourdillon in 1898 was from Ariyankavu (*Bourdillon 1005*) with four duplicates available, one each in K, L, CAL, and UCBD. Bourdillon had not specified clearly the collection number as 1005 and the locality as Ariyankavu in the protologue, but from other details given in the protologue and labels of the specimens of *Bourdillon 1005*, *i.e.* altitude, note and possible locality as ‘near Ponmudi’ suggest that he might have described the species based on these specimens. Even though, these specimens were not cited in the protologue, these can be considered as uncited original specimens evidently by the handwriting and signature of Bourdillon on these herbarium sheets. The time of flowering, range of altitude and habitat of the species are also matching with the protologue. Moreover, it is evident that one of these specimens (K000789103) was ably used for the illustration provided in the protologue made by Mrs. Bourdillon (see Fig. 1). Out of the five specimens (duplicates of *Bourdillon 1005*), two are available in



Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Dialium travancoricum* Bourd. (Bourdillon 1005, K000789103 <https://specimens.kew.org/herbarium/K000789103>.) © Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

K (K000789103, K000789104) and one each in CAL (CAL0000011228), L (L0018933) and UCBD. All of them bear the same collection number (Bourdillon 1005) bearing the label 'Ariyankavu' (Aryankavu). Since there is no specimen cited in the protologue, all these specimens can be considered as uncited original specimens eligible for lectotypification (Art.9.12) (Thurland *et al.*, 2018).

Among the competing uncited original materials, we here designate the specimen K000789103 (Available at <http://specimens.kew.org/herbarium/K000789103>) as the lectotype of the name *Dialium travancoricum* Bourd. as per Art. 9.12 of the ICN (Thurland *et al.*, 2018), because it matches well with the illustration and description given in the protologue and the other four specimens (K000789104, CAL0000011228, L0018933 and UCBD) can be considered as isoelectotypes.

Typification

Dialium travancoricum Bourd., Indian For. 30: 243. 1904. *Lectotype* (designated here): INDIA,

Kerala, Ariyankavu (Aryankavu), evergreen forests of South Travancore, 1000–2000 ft, 15.09.1898, Bourdillon 1005 (K [K000789103] digital image!)

Fig.1.

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