

Lectotypification of three names and a new synonymy in *Alseodaphne* (Lauraceae) of India

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Abstract: Lectotypes are designated here for *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *angustifolia* Meisn., *A. semecarpifolia* Nees var. *macrocarpa* Hook.f. and *A. semecarpifolia* Nees var. *parvifolia* Wight ex Hook.f. based on critical examination of the protologues and original materials. *A. semecarpifolia* Nees var. *macrocarpa* is reduced to the synonymy of *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *angustifolia*, as the diagnostic characters used to distinguish the former fall within the morphological variation observed in the latter.

Keywords: Lectotype, New synonym, Syntype

Introduction

The genus *Alseodaphne* Nees (Lauraceae) comprises 53 accepted species (POWO, 2026) and is widely distributed across South and South East Asia, including India, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka (Kosterman, 1973; van der Werff, 2001). In India, the genus is represented by seven species, among which, *A. semecarpifolia* Nees and *A. habrotricha* Kosterman occur in Peninsular India (Hooker, 1886; Gamble, 1925; Kosterman, 1973; Robi & Udayan, 2017). Hooker (1886) recognized four varieties under *A. semecarpifolia*, namely. var. *angustifolia* Meisn., var. *macrocarpa* Hook.f., var. *parvifolia* Wight ex Hook.f. and var. *rufa* Hook.f.. Of these, *A. semecarpifolia* var. *angustifolia*,

var. *macrocarpa* and var. *parvifolia*, were published without proper types. To resolve the typification issues associated with these names, the protologue and relevant literature were critically examined. Image of type specimens housed at B, BM, BR, E, FR, K, MEL, MH, NY, P, PDA and US were consulted to clarify the nomenclature. Accordingly, lectotypes for the names are designated here following article 9.3 of the Madrid Code (Turland *et al.*, 2025).

Typification

***Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *angustifolia* Meisn.** in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 28. 1864. *Lectotype* (designated here): SRI LANKA [Ceylon], *s.d.*, G.H.K. Thwaites C.P.2269 (P[P01752635 digital image!]); *Residual syntypes*: SRI LANKA [Ceylon], *s.d.*, G.H.K. Thwaites C.P.2269 (B [B100699391 digital image!], BM [BM000950978, BM000950979 digital images!], FR[FR0031145 digital image!], K [K000778937, K00407535 digital images!], MEL [MEL2386480 digital image!], NY [NY00354820 digital image!], P [P01752636 digital image!], PDA [PDA00000296, PDA00000297 digital images!], US [US00099158 digital image!]); SRI LANKA [Ceylon], *s.d.*, G.H.K. Thwaites C.P.2272 (K [K000778938 digital image!]).

Fig. 1

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Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *angustifolia* Meisn. (P [P01752635 digital image]). © Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (reproduced with permission).

A. semecarpifolia Nees var. *macrocarpa* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 144. 1886. **syn. nov.** Lectotype (first step designated by Kostermans, 1973; second-step designated here): SRI LANKA [Ceylon], s.d., G.H.K. Thwaites C.P.2269 (BR [BR000000517618 digital image!]); Residual syntype: SRI LANKA [Ceylon], s.d., G.H.K. Thwaites C.P.2269 (K [K000778936 digital image!], P [P01765068 digital image!]). **Fig. 2**

Notes: Meissner (1864) described *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *angustifolia* by citing "Thwaites cat. n. 2269! 2272!", based on the collection from Ceylon. Subsequently, Kostermans (1973) cited "Typus: Thwaites C.P.2269 (BO, BR, P) and 2272", thereby indicating original material, but without restricting the type to a single specimen, hence a lectotypification is necessary in accordance with Art. 9.3 of ICN. A thorough examination of



Fig. 2. Lectotype of *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *macrocarpa* Hook.f. (BR [BR000000517618 digital image!]). © Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (reproduced with permission).

materials at BO, BR and P, revealed no specimen corresponding to 'Thwaites C.P. 2269' could be traced at BO, whereas two specimens were traced at P. The only specimen located at BR (BR000000517618) agrees with the diagnostic features of var. *macrocarpa* and is treated under that name. In addition, eleven specimens bearing the collection number C.P.2269 were located at B, BM, FR, K, MEL, NY, PDA and US. All examined specimens annotated as 'C.P.2269', collected by Thwaites from Sri Lanka (Ceylon), conform well to the protologue.

Hooker (1886) later recognized *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* var. *macrocarpa* based on "Ceylon, Thwaites (C.P.2269)". Kostermans (1973) cited "Typus: Thwaites C.P.2269 (BO, BR, P)" for var. *angustifolia* and var. *macrocarpa*. All sheets bearing



Fig. 3. Lectotype of *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* Nees var. *parvifolia* Hook.f. (K [K004075257]). © The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (reproduced with permission).

‘C.P.2269’ examined across the different herbaria appear to represent single gathering by Thwaites, as indicated by their uniform label data (‘Ceylon, G.H.K.Thwaites’, without date) and consistent handwriting. Examination of the thirteen sheets revealed complete morphological concordance with var. *angustifolia*, while the characters used by Hooker to distinguish var. *macrocarpa*, namely glaucous leaves, rounded leaf apices, and thick peduncles, fall within the morphological variation observed in var. *angustifolia*. No stable diagnostic character could be identified to support recognition of var. *macrocarpa* as a distinct taxon. Accordingly, *A. semecarpifolia* var. *macrocarpa* is here reduced to the synonymy of *A. semecarpifolia* var. *angustifolia* in accordance with Art. 11.4 of the ICN.

Meissner (1864) also cited “Thwaites cat.no. 2272” in the protologue of *A. semecarpifolia* var. *angustifolia*. Notably, this collection number had previously been associated with *Actinodaphne*

molochina Nees by Thwaites, based on Wight’s illustration (Icones no: 1843), and was subsequently cited by Meissner under *A. molochina*. This suggests that C.P.2272 had been interpreted under different taxonomic concepts by earlier authors. Examination of herbarium material at K revealed that specimens K000778938 and K000778937 are mounted on same sheet. Of these, K000778938 mounted above, bears fruiting twigs matching with the protologue var. *angustifolia* and carries annotation “C.P. 2272”. A handwritten annotation slip attributable to J.D. Hooker reads “C.P. 2269 et 2272!”. No specimen attributable to *A. molochina* and annotated as C.P. 2272 could be traced. These collections are therefore treated as original material of var. *angustifolia*. Among the available specimens, P01752635 is the most complete, with mature flowers, fruits and leaves, and matches the protologue well. It is therefore designated here as lectotype of *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* var. *angustifolia*.

Hooker (1886) described *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia* var. *macrocarpa* based on “Thwaites cat.n.2269” from Ceylon. Kostermans (1973) by citing “*Typus: Thwaites C.P.2269* (BO, BR, P)” inadvertently effected a first step lectotypification under Art. 7.11 of the ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2025). A thorough search of BO, BR, and P revealed that no relevant specimen is traced at BO, whereas one specimen each was traced at BR (BR000000517618) and P (P01765068). An additional specimen at K (K000778936) annotated as var. *macrocarpa*, was also examined. All three specimens, collected by Thwaites from Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and annotated as C.P. 2269, correspond well with the protologue and exhibit the characters cited by Hooker for var. *macrocarpa*, including glaucous leaves, rounded leaf apices and thick peduncles. Among these, BR000000517618 is the best-preserved specimen and matches the protologue most closely. It is therefore designated here as the second-step lectotype according to the provisions of the Code (Turland *et al.*, 2025).

Alseodaphne semecarpifolia Nees var. **parvifolia** Wight ex Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 144. 1886. *Lectotype* (first step designated by Kostermans, 1973: 129; second-step designated here): INDIA, Tamil Nadu, Courtallam, *s.d.*, R. Wight *s.n.* (K [K004075257 digital image!]; *isolecto* K [K004075258 digital image!]). *Residual syntypes*: Tamil Nadu, [Courtallum], *s.d.*, R. Wight *s.n.* (E [E01092642, E00850285, E01067912, E01067913 digital images!], MH [MH00002469 digital image!]).

Fig. 3

Notes: Hooker (1886) described this taxon based on an illustration and specimens collected by Robert Wight from Courtallam. Subsequently, Kostermans (1973) cited “*Typus*: Wight *s.n.*, Coutallam (K)”, thereby inadvertently effecting a first step lectotypification under Art.7.11 of the ICN (Turland *et.al.*, 2025).

Two relevant specimens of Wight from Courtallam are preserved at K (K004075258 and K004075257), both apparently representing a single gathering. Since Kosterman did not specify a particular sheet, the lectotypification requires a second step designation. In addition, four specimens were traced at E (E01092642 [Wight 714, 1835], E00850285 [Wight 858, 1836], E01067912 [Wight 714, 1835], E01067913 [Wight 858, 1836] digital images!) and one specimen at MH (MH00002469), all bearing the original label “Herb. Wight Propr.”. The specimens at E uniformly indicate Courtallam as the locality. Among the available material, K004075257 match more closely with Wight’s illustration (Icones no: 1827) and matches perfectly with the protologue, is designated here as the second step lectotype.

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