

# Lectotypification of *Thunbergia hawtayneana* (Thunbergioideae: Acanthaceae)

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**Abstract:** The name *Thunbergia hawtayneana* Wall. is lectotypified.

**Key words:** India, Nomenclature, Thunbergieae, Typification.

## Introduction

The erect or twining woody plant genus *Thunbergia* Retz. is placed under the tribe Thunbergieae Dumort. of Acanthaceae (Manzitto-Tripp *et al.*, 2021). The genus represents *c.* 100–150 taxa distributed mainly in the tropical and subtropical regions of Asia, Australia, Africa and Madagascar with a representation of 13 species from India (Adhikari *et al.*, 2013).

While investigating the taxonomy of the Indian species of *Thunbergia*, the need of the lectotypification of the name *T. hawtayneana* Wall. was found. Wallich (1826), under his observations for his new Nepalese species *Thunbergia coccinea* Wall., included a description of *T. hawtayneana*, a new species from southern India. Wallich wrote: “I have lately got possession of a new and exceedingly interesting species, with deep purple flowers, yellow within the tube, which was discovered on the Nilghirry by my worthy friend the Venerable Archdeacon Hawtayne, and by him introduced into the botanic garden in 1824, where it blossomed soon afterwards, during the cold season. At the moment I write these lines, in January 1826, it is extremely ornamental, being covered profusely with flowers, as well as with unripe capsules”. Thus, although no herbarium specimens are cited, it is evident that Wallich used collections from ‘Nilghirry’ (Nilgiri Mountains, Tamil Nadu) and the botanic garden in Calcutta (Kolkata) when describing this species.

The specimens Wallich used while describing *T. hawtayneana* were listed in the *Wallich Catalogue* under entry number 769: 769.1 was the material sent by Hawtayne from the Nilgiri Mountains to grow in the Calcutta garden in 1824; and 769.2 was the material collected from the plants grown from these seeds in ‘H.B.C.’ (*Hortus Botanicus Calcuttensis*). Thus, the original material for *T. hawtayneana* should include the top set of these two collections held in the EIC Herbarium, now at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K-W, see K001111859) and the duplicates sent out in Wallich’s great distribution which may include universities, museums, societies and individuals across Europe.

According to Stafleu and Cowan (1988), the herbarium and type materials of Wallich are at K (K-W); further materials at A, AWH, B, BM, BR, C, CGE, CAL, DBN, DD, DPU, DS (CAS), E, FI, G, G-DC, GJO, FH, H, KIEL, L, LE, LINN, LIV, M, MANCH, MICH, MO, NY, OXF, P, PH, PR, ROST, S, SING, TCD, TO, TU, US, W, WRSL and WU (abbreviations by Thiers, updated continuously). Nees Von Esenbeck was the primary recipient of Wallich’s specimens of Acanthaceae and his specimens of *T. hawtayneana* are now housed at GZU. After consulting all the correspondents of these mentioned herbaria, we could locate three relevant sheets of *T. hawtayneana*, one at K (K001111859) and two at GZU (GZU000251663, GZU000251664). The K sheet is an assemblage of two specimens from each of the two gatherings, 769.1 and 769.2. Two labels were pasted on this sheet where the top left label is the cut-out portion of the Wallich Catalogue and the top right label is the herbarium label that says the specimen was collected in the botanic garden, Calcutta, from the Nilghirry introduced by Hawtayne (pers. comm. Mark Watson, RBGE).

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Presumably, this act was missed by previous workers and the whole sheet was attributed as 769.1. The fruit capsule and a paper packet is pasted below the specimen at the left-hand side. Only the specimens sent by Hawtayne include mature fruit, hence, it is most likely that the left-hand plant on the K-W sheet is a collection from Nilghirry (pers. comm. Mark Watson, RBGE). Furthermore, pencil drawn citations of “Nilghirry” and “Hawtayne” just below the specimen have strengthened this fact. To avoid further confusion, we have tagged the left hand side specimen along with the loose pieces of flowers as A (K001111859-A) and the right hand specimen as B (K001111859-B). The specimens at GZU are from each gathering (GZU000251663 from ‘H.B.C.’, 769.2, and GZU000251664 from ‘Nilghirry’, 769.1). All these materials contain leafy twigs with reproductive parts along with all relevant references which match well with the protologue. Therefore, these three specimens are considered as syntypes according to Art. 9.6 (Turland *et al.*, 2018).

The sheet K001111859 *pro parte* (tagged as K001111859-A by us) is designated here as lectotype for the name *Thunbergia hawtayneana* in accordance with Art.9.3 (Turland *et al.*, 2018), because it best represents all the components (having complete reproductive parts *i.e.*, flower and fruit) and information cited in the protologue and is also well preserved.

## Typification

***Thunbergia hawtayneana*** Wall., Tent. Fl. Nepal. 2: 49. 1826, in obs. *Lectotype* (designated here): INDIA, **Tamil Nadu**, Nilghirry, ‘*Thunbergia hawtayneana* Wall.’, *s.d.*, *Hawtayne s.n.* (K [K001111859-A digital image!]); isolecto GZU [GZU000251664 digital image!]; residual syntypes K [K001111859-B], GZU [GZU000251663 digital image!]. **Fig. 1**

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**Fig. 1.** Lectotype of *Thunbergia hawtayneana* Wall., *Hawtayne s.n.* (K001111859-A). © The Board of Trustees of the RBG, Kew. Reproduced with permission.

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