

Lectotypification of *Medinilla himalayana* (Melastomataceae)

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Abstract: The name *Medinilla himalayana* Hook.f. ex Triana is lectotypified here.

Keywords: Himalaya, Isolectotype, Sikkim, Syntype, Typification.

Introduction

The genus *Medinilla* Gaudich. ex DC. (Melastomataceae), comprising about 375 species, is one of the largest genera in dicotyledonous angiosperms distributed in the Old World from Tropical Africa, Madagascar, to India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, southern China and Taiwan, throughout Southeast Asia, New Guinea, northern Australia, Micronesia, Solomons, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Samoa (Bodegom & Veldkamp 2001; Fernando *et al.*, 2018). Clarke (1879) reported 11 species of *Medinilla* from the erstwhile British India, eight species from the present Indian region and three from Sri Lanka. In India, this genus is represented by eight species namely *M. erythrophylla* Lindl., *M. beddomei* C.B. Clarke, *M. himalayana* Hook.f., *M. pauciflora* Hook.f., *M. malabarica* Bedd., *M. sahyadrica* Sujanapal & Sasidh., *M. balakrishmanii* Jayanthi, Karthig., Sumathi & Diwakar and *M. anamalaiana* Sasidh. & Sujanapal distributed in the Himalayan and Peninsular regions (Sasidharan & Sujanapal, 2005; Jayanthi *et al.*, 2009). Species such as *M. himalayana* and *M. pauciflora* are confined to subtropical Himalayas. In course of study of Melastomataceae specimens from eastern Himalaya, as part of a project entitled “Conservation of threatened plants in Indian Himalayan region: recovery and capacity building”, it was found that the name *M. himalayana* was not typified yet. Authentic specimens, especially types

Received: 12.10.2022; Revised & Accepted: 12.02.2023;

Published Online: 02.03.2023

deposited in national herbaria and online databases of various international herbaria (digital resources) were thoroughly checked and authentic specimens associated with J.D. Hooker deposited at BM, E, GH, K, L, and P whereas specimens of J. Triana deposited at COL, BM, G, K, P and W and further material at many other herbaria viz. BR, DPU, E, F, FI, H, L, MANCH, MEDEL, MO, NY, US were screened online and in person at BSHC and CAL (Thiers, 2022 continuously updated). Online data bases such as Global Plants JSTOR (<https://plants.jstor.org>), GBIF (<https://www.gbif.org/>) were also checked and thereafter the lectotypes for the aforesaid names have been proposed here for unambiguous use in accordance with the provisions in Art. 9.3 of the ICN (Turland *et al.*, 2018).

Typification

Medinilla himalayana Hook.f. ex Triana, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 28(1): 88. 1871[1872]. *Lectotype* (designated here): INDIA, In the eastern Himalayas, Sikkim, 3000–6000 ft., J.D. Hooker s.n. (K [K000867099 digital image!]); isolecto (G [G006402 digital image!]; K [K000867098; K000867100 digital images!]).

The name *M. himalayana* was established by Triana in 1871 based on the specimens of Sir J.D. Hooker collected from Sikkim and Hooker and Thomson from Khasi Mountain. However, we have been unable to locate any specimens of Hooker and Thomson from Khasi Mountains. A search at various herbaria related to Hooker and Triana revealed four specimens collected by Hooker from Sikkim (G006402, K000867098; K000867099; K000867100 digital images). However, we have been unable to locate any specimens deposited at COL. Among them, the sheet K000867099 has the

original annotation of Hooker. This specimen is complete and agrees well with the details provided in the protologue. Hence, it is designated here as the lectotype of *M. himalayana*.

Acknowledgements

Authors are thankful to Dr. A.A. Mao (Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata) for providing necessary facilities. We express our sincere gratitude to the Director/Curators of BM, CAL, COL, G, K, MPU, P, and JSTOR Global Plant Sciences for putting the image of the type specimens online and for invaluable help in locating type specimens. Authors are also thankful to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi for financial assistance under NMHS Project and Pr. Secretary-cum- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Govt. of Sikkim for providing survey permission.

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