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REVIEW ARTICLE

Synopsis of the genus Cinnamomum Schaeffer (Lauraceae) in India

M P Geethakumary^{1*}, S Deepu¹ & A G Pandurangan²

- ¹Plant Systematics and Evolutionary Science Division, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695 562, India
- ²Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695 010, India
- *Email: geethatbgt@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

A checklist of the genus *Cinnamomum* in India is presented including nomenclature, a brief description, details of the publications where the detailed description and illustration of the species appeared, phenology, distribution of the species within and outside India and IUCN threat status. A total of 45 taxa (43 species and two infraspecific taxa) have been recorded here based on available information. Twenty-four taxa are found to be endemic to India. Kerala in Peninsular India records the largest number of 24 taxa and may be considered as hotspot area for this genus. The genus possesses the greatest phytogeographical affinity to China with 13 species.

Introduction

The family Lauraceae, commonly known as laurel or avocado family, is one of the most common and ecologically important woody plant families in moist tropical and subtropical forests worldwide (1). The family comprises about 56 genera and nearly 2700 species (2). The genus Cinnamomum Schaeffer is the well-known source of the cinnamon of commerce. The genus is assumed to be represented by about 250-300 species (3, 4). The species of this genus have long been acknowledged for their economic importance as the sources of camphor and other essential oils (mainly cinnamaldehyde, eugenol and safrole) and spices present in the bark, twigs, leaves, roots, flowers and fruits, phytomedicines, high-quality wood, perfume, sacrificial material, for embalming etc. (5-9). In addition, as conspicuous elements of tropical and evergreen subtropical broad-leaved Cinnamomum species are ecologically important (10-12), as the majority of the species are trees. In India, the genus is mostly distributed in the lush vegetation in the North-eastern region and the Western Ghats. Cinnamomum has an ample and pervasive fossil record, and there have been reports from the Upper Cretaceous of Asia, Europe, North America and Australasia (13–27), which makes the geographical origin ambiguous (28). However, Tropical Asia is regarded as the most important centre of species diversity for *Cinnamomum*, ensued by the Neotropics (29). There are records way back to 484–425 BC. on the collection and transportation of cinnamon. The oldest tropical herbarium material of this genus bought in the 16th century (1573–75) by Rauwolff, is at Leiden.

The genus was divided into sections differently by different workers. Blume (30) divided it into three sections: Sect. Cinnamomum, Sect. Caryophyllea and Sect. Camphora, which was done based on the smell of bark and leaves. Meissner (31) recognized two sections: Sect. Malabathrum and Sect. Camphora, which was followed by Kostermans (9). placement of Neotropical species was always a point of debate. These were initially being described in Phoebe Nees but were transferred to Cinnamomum by Molecular studies (28, 33-36) Kostermans (32). expressed doubts about the present circumscription of Cinnamomum. Phylogenetic analyses recaptured solidly endorsed monophyletic Cinnamomum group containing three well-supported subclades. It is also formulated that the formation and eventual breakup of now-extinct boreotropical paleoflora during the

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Cenozoic helped to shape the biogeographic history of the Cinnamomum group (28). However, the study disowned the previous treatment and concluded that neither the genus Cinnamomum (Cinnamomum sensu lato) nor sections Camphora and Cinnamomum are monophyletic as the analyses suggests strongly that the *Cinnamomum* group consists of three clades: sect. Camphora, sect. Cinnamomum and the Neotropical species The respectively. Paleotropical Neotropical species did not constitute a monophyletic group, but these were placed in different clades comprising exclusively of either Paleotropical or Neotropical species. Forty-four Neotropical species included in Cinnamomum and the only species of Mocinnodaphne were recently transferred to Aiouea (37).

The first significant work on the family Lauraceae, which can also be treated as a revision of this genus is by Meissner (31), and that for erstwhile British India is by C. B. Clarke in Flora of British India (38). It included 29 species, and out of which only 19 species were reported from the present political boundary of India. Subsequently, a large number of works have been carried out either at global or regional levels (3, 9, 29, 39-72), making significant changes in identification, taxonomic positions, nomenclature circumscription affinities. and However, there is no separate account of the Indian species of the genus except some scattered works (73-75). Later on, several taxa have further added to the genus Cinnamomum in India (76-93). Based on the observations made and available information, a comprehensive list of the genus Cinnamomum from India is provided here, together with a short description, phenology, distribution, conservation status as per IUCN Red List, notes if any and references for full description and illustration.

Materials and Methods

The research is based on substantial literature and herbarium examination as well as our own field have been enumerated The taxa alphabetically. For each species currently accepted name followed by basionym and important synonyms arranged chronologically along with a nomenclatural citation, brief description, phenology, distribution of the species within and outside India, and conservation status as per IUCN Red List are provided. For easy identification, details of the reference where the detailed description and illustration of a species are available is also mentioned.

Results and Discussion

In the present study, 45 taxa (43 species and two varieties) of *Cinnamomum* have been recorded from India. Even though distributed throughout the country, the primary areas with the highest species diversity are the Western Ghats and the Eastern Himalayas (Fig. 1). Out of the 45 taxa distributed in India, 24 are endemic with 13 exclusive endemics in the Western Ghats. Across

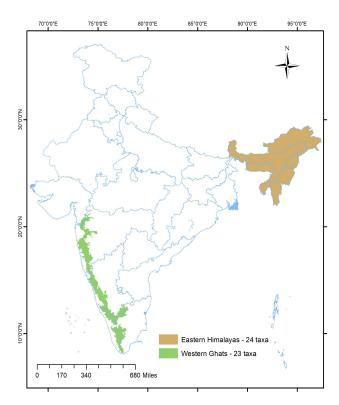


Fig. 1. Map of India showing Eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats with the number of taxa of *Cinnamomum* found.

all the Indian provinces, Kerala in Peninsular India records the largest number of taxa 24 taxa and may be considered as hotspot area for this genus, which is followed by Tamil Nadu with 18 taxa. Assam records the highest number of taxa, fifteen, in the Eastern Himalayas. As noted by the majority of workers on the affinity of Indian flora with Chinese elements, this genus has 13 species common to China. The circumscription of some species in sect. Malabathrum needs to be addressed in a more detailed way as this genus is highly polymorphic. Also, some of the taxa are lacking later collections. Hence, a thorough revision of the genus in India is considered necessary.

Taxonomic Treatment

CINNAMOMUM

Schaeff., Bot. Exped. 74. 1760, nom. cons.

1. *Cinnamomum agasthyamalayanum* Robi, Sujanapal & Udayan in Int. J. Adv. Res. 2(10): 1012. 2014.

Trees c. 8 m high. Leaves $7-14 \times 2-5$ cm lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, base acute, apex attenuate or subacuminate; petioles c. 1 cm long. Panicles 5–10 cm long. Flowers 1–1.2 cm long, greenish-yellow; pedicels c. 7 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (90)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from January to May.

Distribution:—India [Kerala]; 800–1000 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

2. *Cinnamomum aromaticum* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 74. 1831.

Trees. Leaves narrowly elliptic to sublanceolate, 8–16 \times 4–5.5 cm; petiole, 1.2–2 cm long. Panicle 8–16 cm long. Flowers white, c. 4.5 mm long; pedicels 3–6 mm, yellowish-brown tomentellous. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 10 \times 7–8 mm.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from June to December.

Distribution:—India [Cultivated], Bangladesh, Cambodia, Guatemala, Hainan, Honduras, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sumatera, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad-Tobago, Vietnam. A native of China.

3. *Cinnamomum asomicum* S.C. Nath & Baruah in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 33(3): 711. 2009. *C. assamicum* S.C. Nath & Baruah in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 25(1): 29. 2001., *auct. non* Lukman., 1889.

Trees, 6–8 m high. Leaves elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, 6.5– 14×2.5 –5.5 cm; apex acute to acuminate, base acute to obtuse; petioles 0.5–1.3 cm long. Panicles 2–8 cm long. Flowers 4–5 mm long; pedicels 1–1.5 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (78)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded from February to April.

Distribution:—India [Assam]; endemic.

4. *Cinnamomum bejolghota* (Buch.-Ham.) Sweet, Hort. Brit. 344. 1826. *Laurus bejolghota* Buch.-Ham., Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13(2): 559. 1822.

Cinnamomum sikkimense Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 12. 1889.

Trees, 5–25 m high. Leaves elliptic-oblong, 12–30 × 4–9 cm, base subrounded or attenuate, apex obtuse, acute, or acuminate; petioles 1–1.5 cm long. Panicles 13–16 cm long; peduncles 7–11 cm. Flowers yellow, c. 6 mm; pedicels 4–6 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 1.3 × 0.8 cm.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to July.

Distribution:—India [Andaman Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu (cultivated), Tripura], Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam; 600–1800 m. IUCN Red List Category:—Least Concern (95).

5. *Cinnamomum bejolghota* var. *jarainum* Baruah & S.C.Nath in Nordic J. Bot. 21(6): 572. 2002.

Trees, 6–8 m high. Leaves narrowly oblong to oblong-elliptic-lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 4.5– 14×1.8 –5 cm, base cuneate to the decurrently acute, apex obtusely acute to rarely acute. Panicles c. 13.5 cm long; peduncles 7–11 cm. Flowers yellowish-green, 5–6 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (79)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded from March to May.

Distribution:—India [Meghalaya]; c. 390 m; endemic.

6. *Cinnamomum bhaskarii* M. Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 106. 2006.

Trees. Leaves ovate, rarely ovate-oblong, $15-19 \times 4.2-7$ cm, obtuse and then cuneate at base, subacuminate at apex; petioles 8–12 mm long. Panicles axillary, 9.5–11 cm long; peduncles 5–5.5 cm long. Flowers c. 11.5 \times 5.5 mm; pedicels 6–7 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded in April. Distribution:—India [Arunachal Pradesh]; endemic.

7. *Cinnamomum bishnupadae* M. Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 108. 2006.

Trees, c. 13 m high. Leaves usually narrow-oblong, sometimes narrow ovate-oblong, $12-16 \times 2-3.5$ cm glabrous, equally or subequally acute to obtuse at base, slightly decurrent at the extreme base, acuminate at apex; petiole 8–15 mm long. Panicles axillary, 7–18 cm long; peduncles 4–7.3 cm long. Flowers greenish-yellow, c. 7.5×2.6 mm; pedicels c. 4 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded in March.

Distribution:—India [Meghalaya]; c. 1500 m; endemic.

8. *Cinnamomum blandfordii* M. Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 110. 2006.

Trees, 10–20 m high. Leaves obovate, c. 11×4 cm, unequally acute to cuneate or acute to obtuse or obtuse to cuneate at base, decurrent to extreme base, acuminate at apex; petioles c. 25 mm long. Panicles 5–8 cm long; peduncles 3–4 cm long. Flowers greenishwhite, c. 8.5×4.5 mm; pedicels c. 4 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded from March. Distribution:—India [Arunachal Pradesh]; Myanmar; c.180 m.

9. *Cinnamomum burmannii* (Nees & T. Nees) Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 569. 1826. *Laurus burmannii* Nees & T. Nees, Cinnam. Disp. 57 (-58; t. 4). 1823.

Cinnamomum chinense Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 569.

Trees, c. 14 m high. Leaves ovate or oblong to lanceolate, $5.5{\text -}10.5 \times 2{\text -}5$ cm, base broadly cuneate, apex shortly acuminate; petioles $0.5{\text -}1.2$ cm long. Panicles $2{\text -}6$ cm long. Flowers greenish-white, c. 5 mm long; pedicels $4{\text -}6$ mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 8 \times 5 mm.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to November.

Distribution:—India [West Bengal—introduced], China, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam; 100–1400 m (2100 m in China).

10. *Cinnamomum camphora* (L.) J. Presl, Prir. Rostlin, 2: 47. t.8. 1825. *Laurus camphora* L. Sp. Pl. 1: 369. 1753.

Trees c. 10 m high. Leaves ovate, $4.5-7.5 \times 2.5-4.6$ cm, pitted at nerve axils, base acute, apex shortly acuminate; petioles c. 25 mm. Flowers c. 2.5 mm across. Fruits globose, c. 7 mm in diam.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from February to December.

Distribution:—India [Andhra Pradesh, Andaman Islands, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Nicobar Islands, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal—widely cultivated], China, Japan (Native), Korea, Vietnam and widely cultivated all over the world.

11. *Cinnamomum champokianum* Barua & S.C. Nath in Nordic J. Bot. 25: 281. Sep., 2008) [and in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 32(3): 526. Oct., 2008].

Trees, 6–7 m high. Leaves narrowly elliptic-obovate-lanceolate, rarely broadly elliptic-lanceolate, $8.5–25 \times 4–9$ cm, base cuneatly acute to rarely obtuse or rounded, apex obtusely acute to shortly acuminate; petioles 0.7–1.5 cm long. Panicles c. 25 cm long. Flowers 6–7 mm long, pale yellow; pedicels 3–4 mm long. Fruits c. 1 cm long, ellipsoid to oblong.

Description & Illustration (80)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to September.

Distribution:—India [Assam]; c. 83 m; endemic.

IUCN Red List Category:—Critically Endangered (96).

12. *Cinnamomum chemungianum* M.Mohanan & A.N.Henry in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 88: 97. 1991.

Shrubs, 3–4 m high. Leaves ovate, 3–7 \times 2–4 cm, rounded at base, caudate-acuminate at apex; petioles stout, 0.6–1 cm long. Panicles much reduced; peduncle 1.5–2 cm long, reddish. Flowers 1–1.2 cm long, dark red; pedicels 4–6 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 1.4 \times 1 cm.

Description & Illustration (77)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from August to April.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 800–1100 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Critically Endangered (97).

13. *Cinnamomum curvifolium* (Lour.) Nees, Syst. Laur. 80. 1836. *Laurus curvifolia* Lour., Fl. Cochinch. 252. 1790.

Trees, 3–14 m high. Leaves ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 3.5– 6.5×1.2 –2.5 cm, base broadly cuneate to subrounded, apex shortly acuminate; petioles c. 12 mm. Panicle corymbose, 2.5–5 cm long; peduncle 1.5–4 cm long. Flowers yellow-white, 4–5 mm long; pedicels 5–7 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 11×5 –5.5 mm

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to October.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Meghalaya], China, Nepal; 400–1800(–2200) m.

14. *Cinnamomum dubium* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 73. 1831; Geethakum. *et al.* in Ind. J. For. 30(1): 73. *Laurus dubia* (Nees) Wall., Numer. List No. 2571. 1830.

Cinnamomum multiflorum (Roxb.) Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 1: t. 131. 1839. Laurus multiflora Roxb. [Hort. Bengal. 89. 1814, nom. inval.], Fl. Ind., ed. Carey 2: 298. 1832.

Cinnamomum thwaitesii Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 14. 1889.

Cinnamomum villosum Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 1: t. 127. 1839.

Trees, c. 15 m high. Leaves ovate or ovate-lanceolate, $1.8-8.5 \times 1.3-3.5$ cm, base acute to rounded, apex acute or gradually acuminate; petioles c. 0.7 cm long. Flowers dark pink; pedicels c. 7 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, $9-1.3 \times 6-10$ mm.

Description & Illustration (41)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from October to April.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu], Sri Lanka, Myanmar; 750–1500 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least Concern (98).

15. *Cinnamomum filipedicellatum* Kosterm. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25: 93. 1985.

Cinnamomum gracile Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India. 5: 133. 1886.

Small trees or shrubs, c. 4 m high. Leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate or sub-ovate, $1.7-13 \times 0.5-5.7$ cm; apex broadly obtusely acuminate; base cuneate to acute; petioles c. 12 mm long. Panicles axillary or pseudo-terminal. Flowers 2–2.5 mm long; pedicel filiform, c. 7 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 9×5 mm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from December to May.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 950–1300 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (99).

16. *Cinnamomum gamblei* Geethakum., Deepu & Pandur. in Phytotaxa 326 (4): 252. 2017. *Cinnamomum macrocarpum auct. non* Hook. f., 1889: Kosterm. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25 (1–4): 100. 1983.

Trees, 8–14 m high. Leaves ovate to broadly elliptic to lanceolate, 5– 16.7×2.2 –8.5 cm; base cuneate or obtuse, apex acute; petioles 1–1.8 cm long. Panicles terminal or from the axils of terminal leaves or extra-axillary; main peduncle thickened, 3–13.5 cm long. Flowers yellowish-green, 7– 12×3 –3.5 mm; pedicels 3–7 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 2.5 cm long.

Description & Illustration (88)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from March to October.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 850–1300 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (100).

17. *Cinnamomum glanduliferum* (Wall.) Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 25. 1864. *Laurus glandulifera* Wall. in Act. Soc. Med. Phys. Calc. 1: 45. 1825.

Trees c. 20 m high. Leaves elliptic to ovate-elliptic or lanceolate, $6-15\times 4-6.5$ cm; petiole 1.5-3 cm long. Panicles 4-10 cm long; peduncles 2-4 cm long. Flowers c. 3 mm long, yellowish; pedicels 1-2 mm long. Fruits black, globose, c. 1 cm in diam.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to September.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura], Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Tibet; 1500–2500 (–3000) m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least Concern (101).

18. *Cinnamomum glaucescens* (Nees) Hand.-Mazz in Oesterr. Bot. Z. 85: 214. in obs. 1936. *Cecicodaphne glaucescens* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 70. 1831.

Cinnamomum cecidodaphne Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 25. 1864.

A medium to large-sized tree with spreading crown. Leaves alternate, elliptic-lanceolate or broadly elliptic, $5-10\times2-5$ cm. Panicles 4-6 cm long. Fruits ellipsoid or oblong, 1.5-3.0 cm long.

Description (75)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from February to November.

Distribution:— India [Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, West Bengal], Bangladesh, Bhutan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam.

19. *Cinnamomum goaense* Kosterm. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25: 94. 1985.

Trees, 6–9 m high. Leaves sub-ovate or ovate-oblong or ovate-lanceolate, 7– 26×5.2 –7.3 cm, acute at base, gradually acuminate at apex; petioles c. 1.6 cm long. Panicles axillary or pseudo-terminal, many-flowered; main peduncle slender, 8–18 cm long. Flowers pale yellow, 5–8 × c. 5 mm. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 10×6 mm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from March to September.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra]; c. 600 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (102).

20. *Cinnamomum heyneanum* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2:76. 1831.

Cinnamomum burmanni forma *heyneanum* (Nees) H.W. Li in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 16(2): 90. 1978.

Cinnamomum linearifolium Lecomte in Nouv. Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat. sér.5, 5: 79. 1913.

Trees, 5–7 m high. Leaves linear-oblong or linear-lanceolate, 9–13 \times 1.2–2.5 cm, base attenuate-acute, apex attenuate-acuminate. Panicles c. 6.5 cm long; peduncle 4–5 cm long. Flowers c. 4 mm long; pedicels 1–5 cm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 12 \times 7 mm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from November to March.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala], China, Vietnam; 200–600 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (103).

21. *Cinnamomum impressinervium* Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 21. 1864.

Cinnamomum albiflorum Hook.f. & Thomson ex Meisn. in DC., Prodr.15(1): 21. 1864.

Cinnamomum cacharense R.Parker in Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 31: 126. 1932.

Trees, c. 15 m high. Leaves opposite or sub-opposite; elliptic or ovate-elliptic, $8-20 \times 3-5$ cm, base cuneate,

apex acuminate; petioles 7–12 mm. Panicles 6–10 cm long, pubescent. Flowers whitish-yellow, 2–3 mm long; pedicels 3–4 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, 10–12 mm long.

Description (75)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from July to December.

Distribution:—India [Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim], Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal.

IUCN Red List Category:—Vulnerable (104).

22. *Cinnamomum iners* Reinw. ex Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 570. 1826.

Cinnamomum eucalyptoides Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 73. 1831.

Cinnamomum rauwolfii Blume in Rumphia 1: 36. 1836.

Cinnamomum aromaticum Zoll. in Syst. Verz. Ind. Archip. 2: 112. 1854, nom. illeg.

Cinnamomum griffithii Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 19. 1864.

Cinnamomum curtisii Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 19. 1889.

Camphora lanceolata Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 22. 1889.

Trees, c. 20 m high. Leaves ovate or elliptic, $12-35 \times 5.5-8.5$ cm, base broadly cuneate to suborbicular, apex obtuse or emarginate; petioles 1–3 cm long. Panicles 6–26 cm long; peduncles 3–10 cm long. Flowers greenish, 4–5 mm long; pedicels 2.5–5 mm long. Fruits ovoid, 9–10 × c. 7 mm, apiculate.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to June.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Tripura], Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Jawa, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Thailand, Tibet, Vietnam; 100–1000 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least Concern (105).

23. *Cinnamomum keralaense* Kosterm. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25: 98. 1983 (1985).

Cinnamomum litseaefolium auct. non Thwaites, 1861: Gamble, Fl. Madras 1224. 1925.

Trees, c. 10 m high. Leaves opposite and subopposite, elliptic to lanceolate-elliptic, base cuneately decurrent into the petiole, apex obtuse; petioles 1–1.8 cm. Panicle axillary and terminal, 7–11 cm long; peduncle 2–4.5 cm long. Flowers c. 1.2 cm long; pedicel 7 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 15×9 mm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from April to December.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Status:—Endangered (106).

24. *Cinnamomum litseifolium* Thwaites, Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 253. 1861. ("litseaefolium"); Geethakum. *et al.* in Rheedea 22(2). 2012.

Cinnamomum willdenowii Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 15. 1889.

Trees, c. 20 m high. Leaves opposite, ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate, $4-9 \times 2-4$ cm, base rounded or

subacute, apex blunt or subacute; petioles 1.2–1.8 cm long. Panicles 5.5–8 cm long; peduncle 1.7–3.5 cm long. Flowers greenish-white, c. 1.2 cm long; pedicels c. 5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, 0.8–2 cm long.

Description & Illustration (41)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from March to October.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu], Sri Lanka; c. 1100 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Vulnerable (107).

25. *Cinnamomum lohitensis* M.Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 112. 2006.

Trees, c. 30 m high. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, oblong-elliptic or ovate, 13– 18 \times 3– 4.3 cm, glabrous, base attenuate, apex appearing acuminate; petioles 10–15 mm long. Panicles pseudo-terminal, 6.5–8 cm long; peduncles 2.5–3 cm long. Flowers yellowish-green c. 7 \times 3 mm; pedicels c. 4 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded in March.

Distribution:—India [Arunachal Pradesh]; endemic.

26. *Cinnamomum macrocarpum* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 133. 1886.

Trees 15-25 m high. Leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, $10-35 \times 2-4.5$ cm, base acute, apex acute to obtuse; petioles c. 2 cm long. Panicles 8–14 cm long; pedicel slender. Flowers 0.9-1cm; pedicel c. 2.8 mm long. Fruits oblong; c. 1.6 cm long.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from November to May.

Distribution:—India [Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu], Myanmar; 600–1000 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Vulnerable (108).

27. *Cinnamomum malabatrum* (Burm.f.) J.Presl, Prir. Rostlin 2: 46. 1825. *Laurus malabatrum* Burm.f., Fl. Indica 92. 1768.

Laurus malabathrica Roxb. [Hort. Bengal. 30. 1814, nom. inval.] Fl. Ind., ed. Carey 2: 297. 1832, orth. var. *Cinnamomum malabathricum* (Roxb.) Lukman., Nomencl. Icon. Cannel. 8. 1889.

Cinnamomum nicolsonianum Manilal & Shailaja in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 28: 111. 1988.

Trees, c. 20 m high. Leave elliptic to oblong to subovate elliptic, c. $30 \times 5-8.5$ cm, base acute to shortly attenuate, apex acute to shortly attenuate or caudate acuminate; petioles c. 1.5-2 cm long. Panicles c. 20 cm long. Flowers yellowish-green, 1-1.2 cm long; pedicels 3-5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 1 cm long.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from September to April.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; endemic.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least Concern (109).

28. *Cinnamomum mathewianum* Remya Kr., E.S.S. Kumar, Radhamany, Valsalad. & R. Jagad. in Int. J. Advanced Res. 2(7): 29. 2014.

Trees, c. 5 m high. Leaves ovate-elliptic, $11-15.5 \times 4.5-6.2$ cm, base acute or obtuse, margin undulate, apex gradually acuminate; petioles c. 1.5 cm long. Panicles 4.5–9 cm long. Flowers maroon, pedicels 1–1.5 cm long, light green. Fruits bluish-black, ellipsoid, c. 1 cm long.

Description & Illustration (92)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from November to February.

Distribution:—India [Kerala]; 700–1000 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

Note:—This species is given as a synonym of *Cinnamomum verum* J. Presl (94). However, this species differed from the later in its floral characters and Betel scented leaves and treated in this list as a distinct species.

29. *Cinnamomum mathewianum* var. *ponmudianum* Remya K.R., E.S.S. Kumar, Radhamany & Valsalad. in Int. J. Bot. Studies 1(3): 40. 2016.

Trees. Leaves ovate to lanceolate, 4– 12×1.5 –5.0 cm, with strong smell of betel leaves, rounded to cuneate at base, long acuminate to caudate at apex; petioles 0.7–1.5 cm long. Panicles 2.5–5 cm long, peduncles slender, 2.0–3 cm, pink. Flowers c. 2.5–3 mm long, dark maroon; pedicels to 4.5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, 15×11 mm.

Description & Illustration (93)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from January to March.

Distribution:—India [Kerala]; c.700 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

30. *Cinnamomum mohananianum* Gangapr., S.P.Mathew & R.Jagad. in Int. J. Advanced Res. 2(9): 611–612. 2014. ("mohanensis").

Erect shrubs or small trees, c. 4 m high. Leaves $2-9 \times 1-4$ cm, ovate to lanceolate to elliptic, acuminate at apex, obtuse to cuneate at base, petioles 2-6 mm long. Panicles axillary or extra-axillary, 4-10 flowered; pedicels c. 4 cm long. Fruits oblong ovoid, $8-10 \times 6-7$ mm

Description & Illustration (89)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from April to August.

Distribution:—India [Kerala]; c. 20 m; endemic.

31. *Cinnamomum nilagiricum* Geethakum., Pandur. & Deepu in Phytotaxa 224(3): 283. 2015.

Trees, 8–12 m high. Leaves ovate to elliptic to lanceolate, 7.5– 12.5×2.6 –4.3 cm; base shortly attenuate, apex acute to long acuminate to caudate; petioles 0.5–1.0 cm long. Panicles terminal or from the axils of terminal leaves or extra axillary; peduncle 3.5–7 cm long. Flowers greenish-white, 9–12 mm long; pedicels 4–5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 8 mm long.

Description & Illustration (87)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from November to March.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 100–1000 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

32. *Cinnamomum ovalifolium* Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 1: t. 125. 1839; Robi *et al.* in Nelumbo 60(2): 111. 2018.

Trees, c. 12 m high. Leaves broadly ovate or orbicular, $4-8\times 1.5-3.5$ cm, base acute, apex obtuse; petioles 6–10 mm long. Panicles c. 4 cm long, axillary, near apex of the branches. Flowers white; pedicels 1–2 mm long. Fruits ovoid or ellipsoid, c. 10 mm long.

Description & Illustration (41)

Phenology:—Flowering is reported during May. Distribution:—India [Kerala], Sri Lanka; c. 1500 m.

33. *Cinnamomum parthenoxylon* (Jack) Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 26. 1864. *Laurus parthenoxylon* Jack in Malayan Misc. 1(5): 28. 1820. *Camphora parthenoxylon* (Jack) Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 72. 1831.

Laurus porrecta Roxb. [Hort. Bengal. 30. 1814., nom. nud.] Fl. Ind., ed. Carey 2: 308. 1832. Cinnamomum porrectum (Roxb.) Kosterm., J. Sci. Res. (Jakarta) 1: 27. 1952.

Trees, c. 50 m tall. Leaves elliptic to elliptic-ovate or elliptic-obovate, 4– 17×2 –8 cm, base cuneate, apex acute to acuminate; petioles 1.5–3 cm long. Panicles 2.5–10 cm long; peduncles 3–5.5 cm long. Flowers cream to green-yellow, c. 3 mm long. Fruits globose, 4.5–8.5 mm diam.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to October.

Distribution:—India [Assam], Borneo, Cambodia, China, Bhutan, Indonesia, Jawa, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sumatera, Thailand, Vietnam; below 2000 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least concern (110).

34. *Cinnamomum perrottetii* Meisn. in DC. Prodr. 15(1): 22, 504. 1864. ("perrothetti").

Trees c. 8 m high. Leaves ovate-elliptic to elliptic, 2.5–5.5 \times 4–6 cm, base acute to rounded, shortly acuminate, apex obtuse, young leaves both sides with a dense fulvous, woolly indumentum, petioles 1–3.5 cm long. Panicles in the axils of upper leaves, 2–10 cm long; peduncle stout. Flowers c. 7 mm long; pedicels 2–3 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, bluish-black.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from March to September.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 1600–2100 m; endemic.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (111).

35. *Cinnamomum riparium* Gamble in Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1925: 128. 1925.

Trees, c. 6 m high. Leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, $3-7 \times 1-2$ cm, base acute, both ends tapered; petioles 8–10 mm long. Panicles c. 8 cm long; peduncle slender. Flowers c. 5 mm long; pedicel 5–8 mm long. Fruits ovoid, 0.5–0.7 cm long.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from December to March.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 250–1400 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (112).

36. *Cinnamomum sanjappae* M.Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 114. 2006.

Trees. Leaves broad ovate, $18-23 \times 7.7-8.5$ cm, base acute, slightly decurrent to extreme base; petioles 15–20 mm long. Panicles terminal, 3.8–8.5 cm long; peduncle 2–3.5 cm long. Flowers c. 9×6 mm; pedicels 4.5–5 mm long. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Phenology:—Flowering is recorded in April.

Distribution:—India [Arunachal Pradesh]; endemic.

37. *Cinnamomum sulphuratum* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 74. 1831.

Trees, c. 10 m tall. Leaves ovate-elliptic to lanceolate-elliptic to elliptic, 4– 13×3.2 –5.5 cm, base cuneate to obtuse, apex shortly tapered to shortly obtusely acuminate; petioles c. 1.2 cm long. Panicles c. 15 cm long, lax, densely, minutely fulvous sub-tomentellous. Flowers 7–8 mm long; pedicels, c. 5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, c. 1.5×1 cm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from January to October.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu], Myanmar; 700–2000 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Vulnerable (113).

38. *Cinnamomum suvrae* M.Gangop. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 48(1–4): 116. 2006.

Branchlets terete, lenticellate. Leaves elliptic, obovate-elliptic or oblong-elliptic, 7–12 \times 2.8–3.5 cm, base acute or acuminate, apex acuminate; petioles 10–15 mm long. Panicles pseudo-terminal, 3–6 cm long; peduncles 1.5–2 cm long. Flowers c. 6 \times 3.2 mm; pedicels c. 2 \times 1 mm. Fruits not known.

Description & Illustration (82)

Distribution:—India [Meghalaya]; endemic.

39. *Cinnamomum tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) T. Nees & Eberm. Handb. Med.-Pharm. Bot. 2: 426. 1831. *Laurus tamala* Buch.-Ham. in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13(2): 555. 1822.

Cinnamomum tamala var. elliptifolium Baruah & S.C.Nath in Nordic J. Bot. 26: 203. 2008.

Trees, c. 20 m tall. Leaves ovate, oblong, or lanceolate, $10-15 \times 2.5-6$ cm, base acute or broadly cuneate, apex acuminate; petioles 7–13 mm long. Panicles 5–10 cm long; peduncles 1–4 cm. Flowers greenish-white, c. 6 mm long; pedicels 4–6 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid, 10-14 mm long.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from April to August.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, West Bengal], Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Vietnam; 1100–2000 m.

IUCN Red List Category:—Least concern (114).

40. *Cinnamomum tazia* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterm. ex M.Gangop. in Nelumbo 53: 214. 2011. *Laurus tazia* Buch.-Ham., Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13(2): 557. 1822.

Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 75. 1831.

Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees var. tazia (Buch.-Ham.) Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 17,503. 1864.

Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees var. β Nees in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 75. 1831.

Shrubs or small trees c. 4 m high. Leaves opposite, elliptic-lanceolate to broadly elliptic, $5-10\times2.5-5$ cm, base cuneate, apex acute; petioles 0.5–1 cm long. Panicles 4–6 cm long. Flowers yellow, 3–5 mm across. Fruits ellipsoid or oblong, 1.5–3 cm long, red.

Description (70)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from March to October.

Distribution:—India [Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram], Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal; 1000–1700 m.

41. *Cinnamomum tenuipile* Kosterm. in Reinwardtia 8(1): 74. 1970.

Alseodaphne mollis W. W. Smith in Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 13: 153. 1921.

Trees, c. 16 m high. Leaves alternate, obovate or sub-elliptic, $7.5-13.5 \times 4.5-7$ cm, lateral veins 6 or 7 pairs, base broadly cuneate or subrounded, apex rounded or obtuse or shortly acuminate; petioles 1–1.5 cm long. Panicles 4.5-8.5(-12) cm long; peduncles c. 3 cm long, densely grey tomentose. Flowers yellowish, c. 3 mm long; pedicels 3–5 mm long. Fruits subglobose, c. 1.5 cm in diam., red-purple when mature.

Description & Illustration (46)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is recorded from February to October.

Distribution:—India [Assam], China, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam; 500–2100 m.

42. *Cinnamomum travancoricum* Gamble in Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1925: 128. 1925.

Trees, 5–6 m high. Leaves ovate or broadly ovate, elliptic or subovate-elliptic, 7.5–12 × 3–6.5 cm, base acute, apex acute or shortly acuminate; petioles c. 1.5 cm long. Panicles 3–9 cm long; peduncles slender. Flowers 3–5; pedicels c. 2 mm long. Fruits not known. Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering is observed from January to March.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; c. 1200 m; endemic.

IUCN Red List Category:—Critically Endangered (115).

43. *Cinnamomum verum* J.Presl, Prir. Rostlin 2: 36. t. 7. 1825. *Laurus cinnamomum* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 369. 1753.

Cinnamomum zeylanicum Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 568. 1826.

Trees, c. 8 m high. Leaves elliptic or oblong or ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 4–13 × 2.2–6.8 cm, acute to shortly acuminate, base acute or rounded; petioles stout, c. 1–1.8 cm long. Panicles c. 18 cm long. Flowers yellowish-green or greenish-white, c. 1.2 cm long. Fruits ellipsoid or oblong-ovoid, c. 16 mm long.

Description & Illustration (41)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from December to June.

Distribution:—India [Widely cultivated], Brazil, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Myanmar, Philippines, Seychelles, Taiwan, Tanzania, Vietnam; also cultivated in many other countries in Asia, Native to Sri Lanka.

44. *Cinnamomum walaiwarense* Kosterm. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25: 119. 1985.

Trees, c. 12 m high. Leaves ovate to oblong-lanceolate or elliptic, c. 18×8 cm, base acute, apex acuminate; petioles c. 1.5 cm long. Panicles axillary, c. 10 cm long. Flowers c. 5 mm long; pedicels c. 4 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from March to September.

Distribution:—India [Kerala, Tamil Nadu]; 800–1000 m; endemic to the Western Ghats.

IUCN Red List Category:—Critically Endangered (116).

45. *Cinnamomum wightii* Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 11. 1864.

Cinnamomum ovalifolium Gardner ex Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 11 1864, auct. non Wight, 1839.

Trees, c. 8 m high. Leaves broadly elliptic, elliptic to ovate, rarely sub-obovate, $2.5-7.5 \times 2-3.5$ cm, base conspicuously cuneate, apex obtusely shortly acuminate; petioles 1–2 cm long. Panicles 6–14 cm long; peduncles stout. Flowers 5 mm long; pedicel c. 5 mm long. Fruits ellipsoid; c. 1.5×1 cm.

Description & Illustration (73)

Phenology:—Flowering and fruiting is observed from October to May.

Distribution:—India [Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu]. 1500–2200 m; endemic.

IUCN Red List Category:—Endangered (117).

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Authors' contributions

MPG and DS carried out the study. AGP conceived the study and participated in its design and coordination. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of interests

Authors do not have any conflict of interest to declare.

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