



RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Notes on the taxonomic status and typification of *Litsea nicobarica* (Lauraceae)

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Abstract

The name *Litsea nicobarica* Bhuinya & P.Singh is lectotypified and is synonymized under *L. glutinosa* (Lour.) C.B. Rob.

Keywords

Taxonomy; lectotypification; India; new synonym

Introduction

Litsea nicobarica Bhuinya & P.Singh (1) was described from Great Nicobar Island, India based on a single gathering in male flowering by N.P. Balakrishnan, housed at PBL. The collection, *Balakrishnan* 3075, cited as the type (1) has three duplicates at PBL but none of them was annotated by the original authors as the holotype. Thus, these duplicates are syntypes under Art. 40.2 Ex. 3 (2). Hence the best specimen out of these three is designated here as the lectotype of the name. Furthermore, in the protologue (1), *L. nicobarica* was differentiated from *L. glutinosa* (Lour.) C.B. Rob. and *L. ghatica* C.J. Saldanha by the larger, ovate, elliptic-ovate to obovate leaves with 9-10 pairs of lateral nerves and presence of four tepals in the male flowers. It may be mentioned that *L. ghatica* was a bad choice for diagnosis because this peninsular Indian endemic is clearly distinct by the sub-verticillate leaves arranged towards the tips of the branchlets, unlike *L. nicobarica*. Interestingly, there are a number of specimens of the element available from the type locality which were not studied or ignored by Bhuinya & Singh (1). The present studies on such ample specimens from the type locality of *L. nicobarica* (Great Nicobar Island) revealed that the differences elucidated by the original authors do not stand good at all because they fall well within the range of variation of the widespread and variable species, *L. glutinosa* (3-6). Hence it is necessary to unite *L. nicobarica* under *L. glutinosa*, as given herein.

Taxonomy and typification

Litsea glutinosa (Lour.) C.B. Rob. in Philipp. J. Sci., C 6: 321. 1911. – *Sebifera glutinosa* Lour., Fl. Cochinch. 638. 1790.

Type (lectotype designated by Kok [5], p. 125): Cochinchina [Vietnam], without date and locality, *Loureiro* s.n. (BM000951058, digital image!). Additional original material: Cochinchina [Vietnam], without date and locality, *Loureiro* 786-1 (P00150844, digital image!).

= *Litsea nicobarica* Bhuinya & P.Singh in A.A. Mao & S.S. Dash, Fl. Pl. India, Annot. Checkl., Dicotyledons 2: 442. 2020 & in M.Bhaumik & A.A. Mao, Fl. India 22: 595, f. 137. 2024, **syn. nov.**

Type (lectotype designated here): India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Great Nicobar Island, Campbell Bay, 24 Aug. 1975, *N.P. Balakrishnan* 3075 (PBL0000016904!, **Fig. 1**; isolectotypes PBL0000016867!, PBL0000016974!).



Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Litsea nicobarica* (PBL0000016904) (© Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata).

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Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interest.

Authors' contributions

All authors have equally contributed in the planning of the research and preparation of manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards

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