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Authors: Bandyopadhyay, Subir, and Pathak, Mithilesh Kumar

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Neotypification of *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (Fabaceae)

Subir Bandyopadhyay & Mithilesh Kumar Pathak

Abstract

BANDYOPADHYAY, S. & M. K. PATHAK (2013). Neotypification of *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (Fabaceae). *Candollea* 68: 193-195. In English, English and French abstracts.

A neotype is designated for *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (= *Piliostigma malabaricum* (Roxb.) Benth.) (Fabaceae).

Key-words

FABACEAE – CAESALPINIOIDEAE – *Piliostigma* – Neotypification

Résumé

BANDYOPADHYAY, S. & M. K. PATHAK (2013). Néotypification de *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (Fabaceae). *Candollea* 68: 193-195. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Un néotype est désigné pour *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (= *Piliostigma malabaricum* (Roxb.) Benth.) (Fabaceae).

Address of the authors: Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, P.O. Botanic Garden, Howrah - 711103, West Bengal, India.

Email (SB): subirbandyopadhyay@yahoo.com

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ROXBURGH (1832: 321) in the protologue of *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (*Fabaceae: Caesalpinioideae*) stated “[a] pretty large tree, a native of Malabar, in the Botanic garden at Calcutta, young trees four or five years old from the seed, are about twenty feet high, their stems about as thick as a man’s thigh; coma very ramous, with its numerous, smooth, slender, flexuose branchlets, drooping. It begins to blossom in October and November.” We referred to STAFLEU & COWAN (1983) who have stated Roxburgh’s main collection to be at K. Substantial duplicate sets are also at BM, BR, E, G, and LIV and small sets at A, B-W, C, DBN, E, FI, NY, OXF, P, PH, and UPS. Consultation of the publication of FORMAN (1997) reveals that there is no Roxburgh collection of *B. malabarica* at K. We communicated with the curators of all the other aforesaid herbaria and found that there are Roxburgh collections of *B. malabarica* only in E, BM and P.

The herbarium sheet of *B. malabarica* at E [E00499899] has a small label with the name Roxburgh written on it. This specimen comprises two mature and a few immature leaves, besides, two separate leaves and two separate pods mounted on the sheet. They are, however, not on *B. malabarica*, and are likely to be from a specimen of *B. purpurea* L. There is an inscription on the sheet written in pencil: “*B. malabarica*” accompanied by a question mark, this annotation probably by David Prain. The herbarium sheet at BM [BM001001035] has a label on which is written: “India Orientalis – Dr. Roxburgh (1813)” with the name “*Bauhinia malabarica*” written on a separate piece of paper. There are three specimens mounted on this sheet and all of them are of *B. malabarica*. The top specimen is sterile (leaves only). The middle and bottom specimens have male inflorescences and leaves. Although ROXBURGH (1832: 321) in his protologue of *B. malabarica* described only male flowers, there is no evidence that he used these specimens to describe *B. malabarica* nor that any of them represent a duplicate of the specimen(s) actually used by him. The handwriting on the sheet does not match that of Roxburgh (see FORMAN, 1997). The herbarium sheets at P [P02744676 and P02744679] carry labels on which is written: “Roxburgh, India” together with “*Bauhinia malabarica*” on separate slips of paper. The handwriting style of “*Bauhinia malabarica*” on specimen P02744676 is very similar to that on BM [BM001001035] and does not match that of Roxburgh.

There is no Roxburgh’s “Flora Indica” drawing of *B. malabarica* at K (SEALY, 1956) or CAL (SANJAPPA & al., 1994).

Due to the lack of any conclusive evidence that any of the above mentioned specimens are part of the original type material we here propose as a neotype of *B. malabarica* Roxb. a specimen which was originally part of Roxburgh’s herbarium.

Bauhinia malabarica Roxb., Fl. Ind. ed. 1832: 321. 1832.

= *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb., Hort. Bengal.: 31. 1814 [nom. nud.].

= *Piliostigma malabaricum* (Roxb.) Benth. in Miq., Pl. Jungh.: 261. 1852.

Neotypus (designed here): **INDIA:** India Orientalis, 1813, *Roxburgh s.n.* (BM [BM001001035], arrow) (Fig. 1).

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Fig. 1. – Neotype of *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb. (designated by an arrow).

[Roxburgh s.n., BM] [© Natural History Museum, London. Reproduced with permission]