**N E L U M B O** 51 : 227-228. 2009

# THREE NEW COMBINATIONS IN *PHOTINIA ARGUTA* LINDL. (ROSACEAE)

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*Photinia* Lindl. (1821) a Rosaceous genus was treated conspecific with *Pourthiaea* Decne. (1874) by J. Vidal in 1965 and C. Kalkman in 1973 in their revisionary studies on Asiatic species and Malesian species of *Photinia* Lindl., respectively. J.D. Hooker in Flora of British India (1878) treated the genus *Pourthiaea* Decne. (1874) as a separate and good genus with one species *arguta* Decne., describing 6 new varieties under it. Vidal (1965) transferred var. *hookeri* Decne., and var. *salicifolia* Decne., to the genus *Photinia* Lindl. and var. *wallichi* Hook. f., was made synonymous to *Photinia arguta* Lindl. Here in this paper the var. *membranacea* Hook. f., var. *parvifolia* Hook. f. and var. *latifolia* Hook. f., are transferred to *Photinia arguta* Lindl., of which the former two are restricted to India (Meghalaya region) only and the last one to Myanmar and Meghalaya (India).

**Photinia arguta** Lindl., Bot. Reg. 23: t. 1956. 1837; Vidal in Adansonia 5: 228. 1965; Balakrishnan, Fl. Jowai 1: 191. 1981; Grierson & D.G. Long, Fl. Bhutan 1(3): 601. 1987; Chauhan & al., Fl. Manipur 1: 349. 2000.

Trees or large shrubs, 10-18 m tall, branches sometimes warted, lenticellate, pubescent or white woolly when young. Leaves 3.5 - 15 × 2 - 7.5 cm, oblong to elliptic-oblanceolate, cuneate at base, acuminate at apex, margin serrate to serrulate, hairy at young age; petiole 7 - 10 mm long. Inflorescence terminal corymbs with few flowers, 4 - 8 cm in diam., deciduous, woolly. Pedicels 6 - 8 mm long. Flowers 6 - 8 mm in diam. Sepals 3 mm long, triangular, glabrous. Petals 4 - 5 mm long, orbicular, white, fragrant, white pubescent at base. Styles 2 - 3, united near base, ovary glabrous. Fruits 7-8 mm in diam., ovoid, yellow when ripe. Seeds 1 - 2 per cell, up to 2 × 3 mm, ellipsoid.

Here the three varieties described by Hook. f. (1878) are keyed below with their typical variety.

*Key to the varieties*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1a. | Branches not lenticellate, leaves usually upto 12.5 × 5.5 cm, margin finely serrulate, persistently woolly beneath; flowers long pedicelled | ... 3. *P. arguta* var. *latifolia* |
| 1b. | Branches warted and lenticellate, leaves upto 15 × 4 cm, margin serrate to distantly serrate, glabrous beneath at age, flowers short pedicelled | ... 2 |
| 2a. | Leaf upto 15 × 4 cm, elliptic to oblong lanceolate, margin serrulate, petals pubescent at base | ... 1. *P. arguta* var. *arguta* |
| 2b. | Leaf upto 7.5 × 3 cm, ovate or narrowly lanceolate, margin distantly serrate, petals glabrous at base | ... 3 |
| 3a. | Leaves 3.8-6.5 cm long, narrowly lanceolate, apex short acuminate, coriaceous; flowers in contracted corymbs | ... 4. *P. arguta* var. *parvifolia* |
| 3b. | Leaves 5.0-7.5 cm long, ovate-lanceolate, apex caudate acuminate, membranaceous; flowers in lax corymbs at tip of flowering branches | ... 2. *P. arguta* var. *membranacea* |

**1.** var. **arguta**

*Pourthiaea arguta* (Lindl.) Decne., Nouv. Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 10: 147. 1874; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 382. 1878; Kanjilal & Das, Fl. Assam, 2: 223. 1938; Deb in Bull. Bot. Surv. India, 3: 259. 1961;

Date of publication : 31st December, 2009 © Botanical Survey of India, 2009

Hara & Ohashi in Fl. E. Himal. 1: 125. 1966. *Sorbus arguta* (Wall. ex Lindl.) Zabel in Bessner, Scheile & Zabel Handb. 200. 1903. *Pourthiaea arguta* (Lindl.) Decne. var. *wallichii* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 382. 1878.

*Type*: Bangladesh, Pandua, Sylhet, *Wallich* 672 (K- Holotype; Isotype- CAL, Acc. No. 154247 and 154246!).

*Distribution* : India : Sikkim, NEFA, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur. Bangladesh, Myanmar.

**2. Photinia arguta** Lindl. var. **membranacea** (Hook. f.) Ghora **comb. nov.**

*Pourthiaea arguta* (Lindl.) Decne. var. *membranacea* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 382. 1878.

*Type*: Meghalaya, Khasia, *Griffith* s.n. (K).

*Distribution* : India : Meghalaya.

**3. Photinia arguta** Lindl. var. **latifolia** (Hook. f.) Ghora **comb. nov.**

*Pourthiaea arguta* (Lindl.) Decne. var. *latifolia* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 382. 1878.

*Type*: Myanmar, Hookhoom valley, *Griffith* s.n. (K).

*Distribution* : India : Meghalaya. Myanmar.

**4. Photinia arguta** Lindl. var. **parvifolia** (Hook. f.) Ghora **comb. nov.**

*Pourthiaea arguta* (Lindl.) Decne. var. *parvifolia* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 382. 1878.

*Type*: Meghalaya, Khasia mounts at Jowai, *C.B.Clarke* s.n. (K).

*Distribution* : India: Meghalaya (Khasia at Jowai).

ACKOWLEDGMENT

The author is grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for providing the facility of the work.

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