

NOTES ON THE NEWLY PUBLISHED SPECIES *PERSEA HIMALAYAENSIS* M. GANGOP. (LAURACEAE)

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Gangopadhyay (2006) described a new species, *Persea himalayaensis*, by elevating an unnamed variety of the species *Machilus odoratissima* Nees, *â* Nees (in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 70. 1831). The type specimens cited are the same as that of the variety *â*, Wall. Cat. 2607A (as 2601A), *pro parte* (CAL); 2607B (CAL); 2607F (CAL) and not specified name of the type. In addition to this, many specimens from different localities of India, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan were listed.

The name *P. himalayaensis* was not validly published because no single type was designated for this new binomial as per Art. 37.1 (ICBN, 2006) which defines the type of the name must be indicated on or after 1st January 1958. Further, Art. 37.6 states that the name of a new taxon published on or after 1st January 1990, indication of the type must include one of the words holotypus or its abbreviation, or its equivalent. According to Art. 9.1, a holotype is the one specimen used by the author, or designated by the author as nomenclatural type.

Although this species is described recently, Hooker (1886) doubted the amalgamation of more than one species in *Machilus odoratissima* and its syntypes Wallich Catalogue numbers 2607A-F by stating, "I am very much puzzled with this plant, and suspect that it consists of several species other form is Wallich's 2607B from Kumaon, with glabrous panicles with oblong fruit". Since the specimen of Wallich Catalogue number 2607B is more pertinent to the diagnostic characters provided by Gangopadhyay (*l.c.*), the same is designated here as lectotype.

***Persea himalayaensis* M. Gangop. ex M. Gangop. & V. S. Kumar sp. nov.** *Machilus odoratissima* Nees in Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 70. 1831, *pro min. parte, quoad* var. *â* Nees; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 139. 1886, *pro parte*.

P. odoratissimae (Nees) Kosterm. affinis, sed differt inflorescentis glabris, fructibusque oblongis, ovoideo-oblongis vel ellipsoideo-oblongis.

Lectotype: India, Uttarakhand, Montes Prope Dehra Dhoon (probably from Kumaon, Herb. *Strachey and Winterbottom*), Wall. Cat. no. 2607B (CAL, designated here; K-W, microfiche seen at MH).

Syntypes: Nepal, *sine loc. & coll.*, 1821, Wall. Cat. no. 2607A (CAL; K-W, microfiche seen at MH, *pro parte*, only LH specimen); ? Singapur, *sine loc. & coll.*, 1822, Wall. Cat. no. 2607F (CAL; K-W, microfiche seen at MH).

Paratypes: All the specimens cited by Gangopadhyay (*l.c.* 136, Wallich specimens excepted).

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