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LINDERA CERCIDIFOLIA HEMSL. (LAURACEAE) A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

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During the course of herbarium studies of family Lauraceae for Flora of West Bengal at Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India (CAL), the author came across a specimen of *Lindera cercidifolia* Hemsl. from Darjeeling district of West Bengal identified by C.G.J. Kostermans during his visit to CAL in 1971. The species is so far not recorded from India. The species is distributed in China and has been recently reported from Myanmar (Kress & al., *loc. cit.*). The following details are given for easy identification of the species in the field field.

Lindera cercidifolia Hemsl. in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 26: 387. 1891; Gamble in Sargent, Pl. Wilson. 2: 85. 1914; Kress & al., Checklist Trees Shrubs Herbs Climbers Myanmar 278. 2003.

Trees, up to 8 m tall; ultimate branches thick, rigid and glabrous. Leaves simple, subcoriaceous, often obscurely trilobate but rarely distinctly and shortly trilobate, 5 - 9 cm long, orbicular - ovate, rotundate at base, often cordate or slightly subtruncate, acuminate at apex, shining above, yellowish below, veins three from the base, lateral veins distinct; petioles slender, much longer than the blade, 15 30 cm long. Flowers yellow, appearing before the leaves, densely clustered, bracts ovate - rotundate, numerous, sessile, in fascicles, deciduous; pedicels c. 1.25 cm long, sericeo pilose; calyx segments petaloid, 4 6 mm long, spathulate, glabrescent; stamens 9, filaments hairy at base; ovary glabrous. Berries dark red.

Flowering & Fruiting : May September.

Habitat : Grows in hills up to 2600 m.

Distribution : China; Myanmar; India.

Specimens examined : India : West Bengal, Darjeeling district, Tonglo, 10080 ft.; Nov. 1874, *Gamble*? 472/4024.

Illustration : See Chen, Y. III. Man. Chinese Trees, ed. 2 : 358. 1957.

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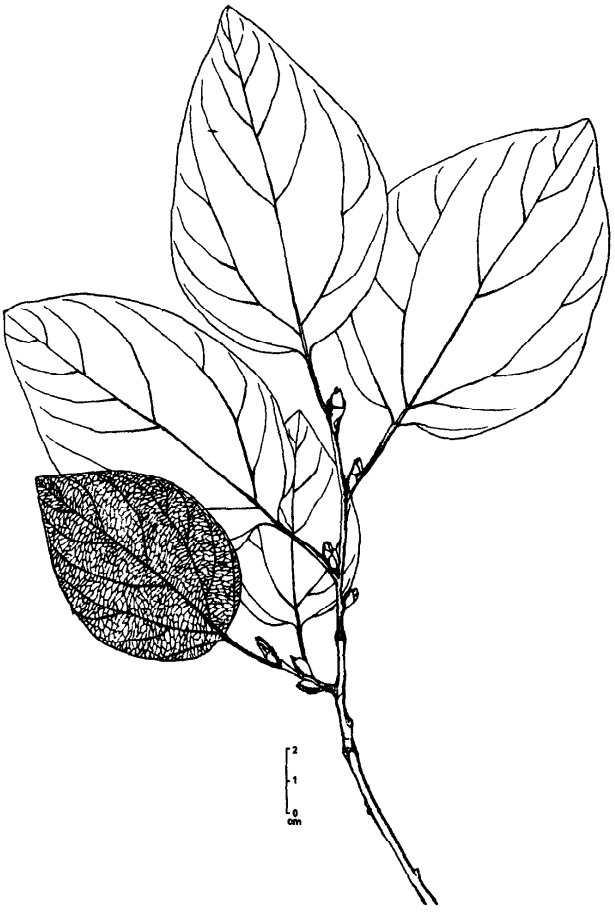


Fig1. *Lindera cercidifolia* Hemsl.

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