

A NEW COMBINATION IN *SORBUS CUSPIDATA* (SPACH) HEDLUND
(ROSACEAE)

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In connection with the revisionary studies of the genus *Sorbus* L. (Rosaceae) the specimens of *S. cuspidata* (Spach) Hedlund present in Central National Herbarium (CAL) were studied. *Pyrus vestita* Wall. ex G. Don var. *khasiana* Hook.f. is treated here as a variety of *Sorbus cuspidata* (Spach) Hedlund and a new combination is made as *Sorbus cuspidata* (Spach) Hedlund var. *khasiana* (Hook.f.) Ghora comb. nov. The specimens deposited in Kew herbarium (K) also recorded from the Kew cards deposited in Central National Herbarium (CAL) for distributional records.

Sorbus cuspidata (Spach) Hedlund in Svenska Vet Akad. Handl. 35 : 89. 1901; Rehder, Man. ed. 2. 380. 1940; Chadha & al, Wealth. India, 9: 436. 1972; Ohashi in Hara & al., Enum. Fl. Nep. 2 : 147. 1979; Naithani, Fl. Chamoli, 1 : 210. 1984; Hazra & al., Mat. Fl. Arunachal. 1 : 443. 1996; Singh & al., Fl. Manipur, 1: 368. 2000. *Crataegus cuspidata* Spach, Hist. Nat. Veg. 2 : 106. 1834; Loddiges Cat. 1814, nom.nud. *Sorbus vestita* (Wall. ex G. Don) Schau. in Otto & Ditr. Allg. Garteng. 17: 84. 1849; Long in Fl. Bhutan 1 (3) : 595. 1987. *Pyrus vestita* Wall. ex G. Don, Gen. Syst. 2 : 647. 1832; Wall. Num. List. 679. 1829; Hook.f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2 : 375. 1878; Brandis, Indian. Tree, 291. 1906; Biswas in Pl. Darj. Sikkim. 325. 1966.

Popular names : Mauli (Hind.); Himalayan white beam, clothed white beam tree (Eng.); Tenga (Bhutan).

Tree, 6-9 m high. Leaves simple, rarely lobed; lamina ca 12-19.5 × 4-9.5 cm, elliptic-ovate or lanceolate-oblongate, margin regularly crenate or serrulate, or serrate at apical part only, base cuneate, apex acute to acuminate, white tomentose on both surfaces at young, glabrous above, white tomentose or woolly beneath at maturity, veins 10-12 pairs, prominent on both surfaces. Petals 5, woolly inside, white. Styles 5, distinct, woolly at base. Fruits subglobose ca 2 cm across, red or yellowish green with red tinge. Petioles up to 2 cm long, white tomentose. Inflorescences paniculate corymbs, 5-10 cm across, rachis and branches white tomentose. Flowers 6 mm across. Sepals 5 × 2 mm, white woolly on both surfaces.

KEY TO THE VARIETIES

- 1a. Leaves ovate-elliptic, 12-19.5 × 4-9.5 cm, apex acute, margin crenate to serrulate, glabrous above, coriaceous; petioles up to 2 cm long, white tomentose beneath ...1a. var. *cuspidata*

- 1b. Leaves lanceolate-oblongate, 8.5 × 11 × 2–3 cm, apex acuminate, entire towards base, glabrescent above, margin distantly dentate serrate, very membranous; woolly beneath, petioles up to 1.5 cm long ...1b. var. *khasiana*

1a. var. *cuspidata*

Fl.: April–May. *Fr.*: May–Oct.

Ecology : Grows at 2440-3050 m alt.

Distribution : India : Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Manipur; Nepal; Bhutan; Yunnan.

Note : Fruits are sweet, edible.

1b. var. *khasiana* (Hook. f.) Ghora comb. nov.

Pyrus vestita G. Don var. *khasiana* Hook.f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2 : 375. 1878; Kanjilal & Das. Fl. Assam, 2 : 217. 1938. Type : India: Meghalaya, Khasia, alt. 5-6000 ft., *Hook. f. & Thoms. s.n.*

Tree, young branches greyish woolly. Leaves 8.7-11 cm, lanceolate to oblongate, base cuneate, acuminate apex, distantly serrate, entire towards base, glabrescent above, densely tomentose beneath, lateral veins 10-12; petioles 7-15 mm long. Hypanthia woolly, persistent, turbinate, sepals short. Stipules linear, 9-10 mm long. Inflorescences woolly corymbose panicles. Flowers 6-7 mm across. Petals woolly inside. Styles 3-5, pubescent at base. Fruits up to 17-18 mm across, globose or pyriform.

Fl.: May–June. *Fr.*: Oct.–Nov.

Ecology : Grows at 1520-1820 m alt.

Distribution : India (Meghalaya).

Note : Kanjilal & Das (*l.c.*) mentioned “there are no specimens at Sibpur” (CAL). They mentioned a specimen from “Khasi hills, 5000 ft. *Mann s.n.*” (ASSAM) and quoted “there is no record from our area”. The description of the variety is based on Kanjilal & Das, (*l.c.*).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for rendering the facilities.