BULL. BOT. SURV. INDIA
Vol. 47, Nos. 1-4 : pp. 149-150, 2005

A NEW COMBINATION IN *DOCYNIA INDICA* (WALL.) DECNE. (ROSACEAE)

CHHABI GHORA
Botanical Survey of India, Indian Botinic Garden, Howrah 711 103

Docynia (fam. Rosaceae; subfam. Maloideae Web.) was described by Decaisne (1874) with three species, *viz. Docynia indica* (Wall.) Decne., *D. griffithiana* Decne. and *D. hookeriana* Decne., from Sikkim and Khasia, Eastern Himalaya and Khasia Himalaya respectively. Some taxonomists (Hooker 1878, Grierson 1987) treated *D. griffithiana* Decne. as a synonym of *D. indica* (Wall.) Decne. During the revisionary studies of *Docynia* Decne. in India, the specimens of *Docynia indica* (Wall.) Decne. and *D. griffithiana* Decne. from India and abroad, present in Central National Herbarium (CAL) and also recorded from the cards sent from Kew herbarium mentioning the distribution, were examined and *D. griffithiana* is treated here as a variety of *D. indica* (Wall.) Decne. and keyed below.

Docynia indica (Wall.) Decne. in Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris 10: 131. t. 14.1874; Hook. f in Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 369. 1878; Kanjilal & Das, Fl. Assam, 2: 211. 1938; Deb in Bull. Bot. Surv. India. 3: 258. 1961; Shastri & *al.*, Wealth Ind. 3: 96. 1962; Biswas in Fl. Darjeeling. 321. 1966; N.P. Balakr., Fl. Jowai, 1: 190. 1981; Grierson in Fl. Bhutan, 1 (3): 603. 1987; Hazra & *al.* Mat. Fl. Arunachal. 1 : 417. 1996. Chauhan & *al.* in Fl. Manipur, 1: 347. 2000. *Pyrus indica* Colebr. ex Wall., Pl. As. Rar. 2:56, t. 173. 1831; Roxb. [Hort. Beng. 38.1814] Fl. Ind 2: 511. 1832; Kurz, For. Fl. Brit. Burma, 1: 441.1877. *Cydonia indica* (Wall.) Spach, Suite Buff. 2: 158. 1834. *Eriolobus indica* (Wall.) C.K. Schneid., Ill. Handb. Laubholzk. 1: 728. 1906. *Docynia griffithiana* Decne., Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris, 10: 131. 1874. *Popular names*: Indian crab apple, False quince (Eng.); Dieng soh-Poh (Khasi).

Trees, 3.6 to 7.6 m high; young branches whitish tomentose, lower branches stout spiny. Young leaves 3-4 lobed to lobulate, densely white woolly beneath, mature leaves 9.5 13 × 3 4.2 cm, ovate to lanceolate, cuneate to cordate at base, acute at apex, argute serrulate or distantly serrate at margin, glabrous above; petioles 2-4 cm long, white tomentose. Stipules 6 × 1 mm, linear lanceolate, reddish, margin woolly or sometimes woolly on both surfaces. Inflorescences axillary, usually 3 flowered umbels, sessile. Bracts 5 6 × 1 mm, linear. Flowers pedicellate. Pedicels 10 25 mm long. Hypanthia globose. Sepals 5, 6 7 × 1 2 mm, lanceolate, white villose on both surfaces. Petals 5, 14 20 × 11mm, oblong-obovate, white, fragrant. Stamens 45 50, filaments 8 9 mm long, filiform, anthers yellowish. Ovary 10 × 7 mm, woolly, styles 5, 10 11 mm long, long woolly from base up to half of the length, united only at base forming a cone. Fruits 2 4.5 × 2 5 cm, globose, pubescent, glabrous at maturity, green with orange spots, usually 5 celled, cells 3 seeded.

1a. Leaves distantly serrate at margin, glabrous above, densely white woolly beneath when young, glabrous at maturity. var. *indica*

1b. Leaves usually entire at margin, sometimes repand, rarely crenate in apical part, glabrous above, tomentose beneath on veins only. var. *griffithiana*

Date of receipt : 06.01.2003. Date of acceptance 14.03.2005.

var. **indica** (Wall.) Decne.

Pyrus indica Colebr. ex Wall., Pl. As. Rar. 2: 56, t. 173. 1831.

Type: Bangladesh: "in montosis Syllet Bengalae Orientalis", *Colebrooke s.n.* (K- WALL).

Distribution: India (Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal); Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, China.

Representative specimens examined at CAL : Sikkim: Sureil, 25 Mar. 1908, Ribu 679; *Dr. S.K. Mukherjee* 2107 (Acc. No. 553696); Yoksam, 1700 m, 16 May 1960, *H. Hara, H. Kanai & al.* 6459. West Bengal: Kalimpong, 1520, March, 1875, *s,l,* 1121D (Acc. No. 153558); Kalimpong, 1520 m, *J.S. Gamble s.n.;* Kalimpong, 1520 m, March 1875, *Gamble?* 671 (Acc. No. 153560). Assam: *Kurz s.n.* (Acc. No. 153569). Meghalaya: Khasi Hills, 1520 m, Kurz 417; Khasi Hills, Jowai Road, Mar. *1918, H.G. Carter* 776; Khasi Hills, Nongpum, June 1920, *H.G. Carter* 1541 (two sheets); without locality *s.l. s.n.* (Acc. No. 153581); Khasi Hills, Laitumkra, 1520 m, 5 Sept. 1913, *U. Kanjilal* 2473; Shillong, *s.l.* 22; 1824 m, *s.l. s.n.* (Acc. No. 153574); Khasi, May 1874, *s.l., s.n.* (Acc. No. 153575). Humid corner to the north of Markasa Market. Nongotam area, Khasi & Jayantia hill dist., 18 June 1958, *G. Panigrahi* 16414 (two sheets). Manipur: Mao, 1824-2128 m, 22 Feb. 1882, *G. Watt* 6157; Bishenpur 1520 m, Feb. 1906, *A. Meebold* 5617a. Kanpokpi, 1033.6 m, 16 Aug. 1953, *D. B. Deb* 954. Nagaland: Kohima, 1886, *Dr. D. Prain s.n.* (Acc. No. 153583); Naga Hills, Aug. 1846 *s.l. s.n.* (Acc. No. 153582). Arunachal Pradesh: Kameng F.D. (NEFA), Kolaktang North, 12 May 1958, *G. Panigrahi* 15446 (two sheets).

var. **griffithiana** (Decne.) Ghora, *comb. nov.*

Docynia griffithiana Decne. Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris, 10: 131. 1874.

Type : Himalaya Oriental, *Griffith* 2082 (Holotype K, photo CAL! Isotype East Himalaya, Bhutan, *Griffith* 2082, CAL Acc. No. 153563!)

Distribution : India (Manipur, West Bengal); Bhutan.

Note : Hooker (1878) observed that *"D. Griffithiana* from Bhutan is only *D. indica".*

Representative specimens examined at CAL : Manipur : Ligli village, 1520 m, 7 Jan. 1882, *G. Watt* 5052 (Acc. No. 153585); Khongui valley, 1216 1520 m, 27 Apr. 1882, *G. Watt* 6781 (Acc. No. 153586). West Bengal: Darjeeling, Lloyd Bot. Garden, 1976 m, 17 Apr. 1961, Indo-Russian Expedition to E. Himal. & N. Bengal, *s.l.* 118.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks are due to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for providing facilities for the work.

REFERENCES

Balakrishnan, N.P. Flora of Jowai, 1: 190. Botanical Survey of India. Howrah. 1981.

Biswas, K. Flora of Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalaya, Government Press, Alipore, West Bengal. 1966.

Decaisne, J. Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris, 10: 131-132.t. 14 t. 15. 1874.

Grierson, A. J. C. In : A.J.C. Grierson & D.G. Long. Flora of Bhutan. 1 (part III): 603. Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. 1987.

Hazra, P. K., D. M. Verma and G.S. Giri. Materials for the Flora of Arunachal Pradesh, Vol. 1 : 417. Botanical Survey of India. Kolkata. 1996.

Hooker, J. D. The Flora of British India. Rosaceae 2: 307-388. Reeve & Co. Ltd., Kent, London. 1878.

Singh, N.P., A.S. Chauhan and M.S. Mondol (eds.). Flora of Manipur. 1: 347. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata. 2000.