
ARTICLE

Lectotypification of two accepted names under the genus *Podochilus* Blume (Orchidaceae)

Lectotipificación de dos nombres aceptados
del género *Podochilus* Blume (Orchidaceae)

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Abstract: LECTOTYPIIFICATION OF TWO ACCEPTED NAMES UNDER THE GENUS *PODOCHILUS* BLUME (ORCHIDACEAE). — While revising the genus *Podochilus* Blume (Orchidaceae-Epidendroideae-Podochileae) for *Flora of India*, it was found that two accepted names *Podochilus khasianus* Hook.f. and *Podochilus microphyllus* Lindl. required typification. Accordingly, lectotypes have been designated from the original material for those two names as per the latest rules of ICN.

Keywords: lectotype; nomenclature; Podochileae; revision; taxonomy.

Resumen: LECTOTIPIFICACIÓN DE DOS NOMBRES ACEPTADOS DEL GÉNERO *PODOCHILUS* BLUME (ORCHIDACEAE). — Durante la revisión del género *Podochilus* Blume (Orchidaceae-Epidendroideae-Podochileae) para *Flora of India*, se encontró que dos nombres aceptados, *Podochilus khasianus* Hook.f. y *Podochilus microphyllus* Lindl., requerían tipificación. Por consiguiente, se designaron lectotipos a partir del material original para ambos nombres, de acuerdo con las normas más recientes del ICN.

Palabras clave: lectotipo; nomenclatura; *Podochileae*; revisión; taxonomía.

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Supplementary information ↓

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Podochilus* was established by **Blume (1825)** based on single species *Podochilus lucescens* Blume. The genus is morphologically distinguished by its slender, elongated stems with equitant distichous leaves; terminal inflorescence with small, delicate flowers; lateral sepals united at base forming a sac; labellum entire or obscurely 3-lobed, often cordate-sagittate at base, movably jointed with column-foot by a short, narrow claw; unique and peculiarly elongated and curved column-foot; four waxy pollinia in two groups, each group with elongated caudicle jointed to a common hyaline viscidium. The genus is represented by 65 species worldwide (**Chase et al., 2015**; **POWO, 2026**), distributed mainly in India, China and south east Asian countries extending up to Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand. In India the genus is represented by four species [*Podochilus cultratus* Lindl., *Podochilus khasianus* Hook.f., *Podochilus malabaricus* Wight and *Podochilus microphyllus* Lindl.] (**Singh et al., 2019**). *Podochilus* is one of the most distinct and nomenclaturally stable genera under the tribe Podochileae.

During revisionary study for the genus *Podochilus* in India under the National Mission on Himalayan studies, two species occurring in India were found as associated with multiple specimens (original material) during their establishment. None of the earlier taxonomic works dealing with this genus (**Seidenfaden, 1986**; **Pearce & Cribb, 2002**) could address the typification in line with International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN). Therefore, following rules of the code (**Turland et al., 2025**), lectotypes have been designated here for two names viz. *Podochilus khasianus* Hook.f. and *Podochilus microphyllus* Lindl.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The protologues (**Lindley, 1833**; **Hooker, 1890**) were studied from the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The author names and name of the periodicals were standardized by following the International Plant Nomenclature Index (IPNI). Biography of the authors who have described the species have been searched from Taxonomic Literature 2 (**Stafleu & Cowan, 1976–1988**) for the search of the herbaria where they have worked and their specimens are supposed to be located. All the original material including type specimens were obtained from different herbaria i.e. AMES, ARUN, ASSAM, BSD, BSHC, BM, CAL, GH, K, MH, OHT, P and PBL. Nomenclature followed the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (**Turland et al., 2025**).

NOMENCLATURE

***Podochilus khasianus* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 81 (1890).**

Lectotype (**designated here**): [Bangladesh] “Pundooah Hills, Sylhet, August 1824, *F. De Silva* s.n.” (Wall. Cat. Numer. List No. 7335B) [K (K001127192, image!)] [Isolectotypes: K (K000974173, image!); CAL (CAL0000295646!)] [India] “Khasia Hills, Amwee, *Hooker & Thomson* s.n.” [Residual syntypes: K (K000810728, image!); (K000810729, image!); GH (barcode-00217846, image!); P (P00408419, image!)]

Notes: **Hooker (1890)** described *Podochilus khasianus* based on collections from Sylhet by F. De Silva (Wall. Cat. No. 7335B) and Khasia Mountains by J. D. Hooker & T. Thomson. Hooker did not mention or indicated any particular specimen as holotype during establishment of the *Podochilus khasianus*, so all the collections from Sylhet and Khasia Mountains are the syntypes (Article 9.6, Madrid Code) (**Turland et al., 2025**). During present study we could able to trace total seven specimens associated with the name: three specimens collected from Sylhet, Bangladesh (K001127192, K000974173, CAL0000295646) and four specimens from Khasia Hills, Amwee, India [K000810728; K000810729; GH (barcode-00217846); P00408419].

After studying the original material, one specimen from Kew (K001127192) (**Fig. 1**) has been designated as lectotype here (according to article 9.3 and 9.12 of Madrid Code) (**Turland et al., 2025**) which is attached with hand written details of the specimen and annotated with the No. 7335B which complements most the protologue.

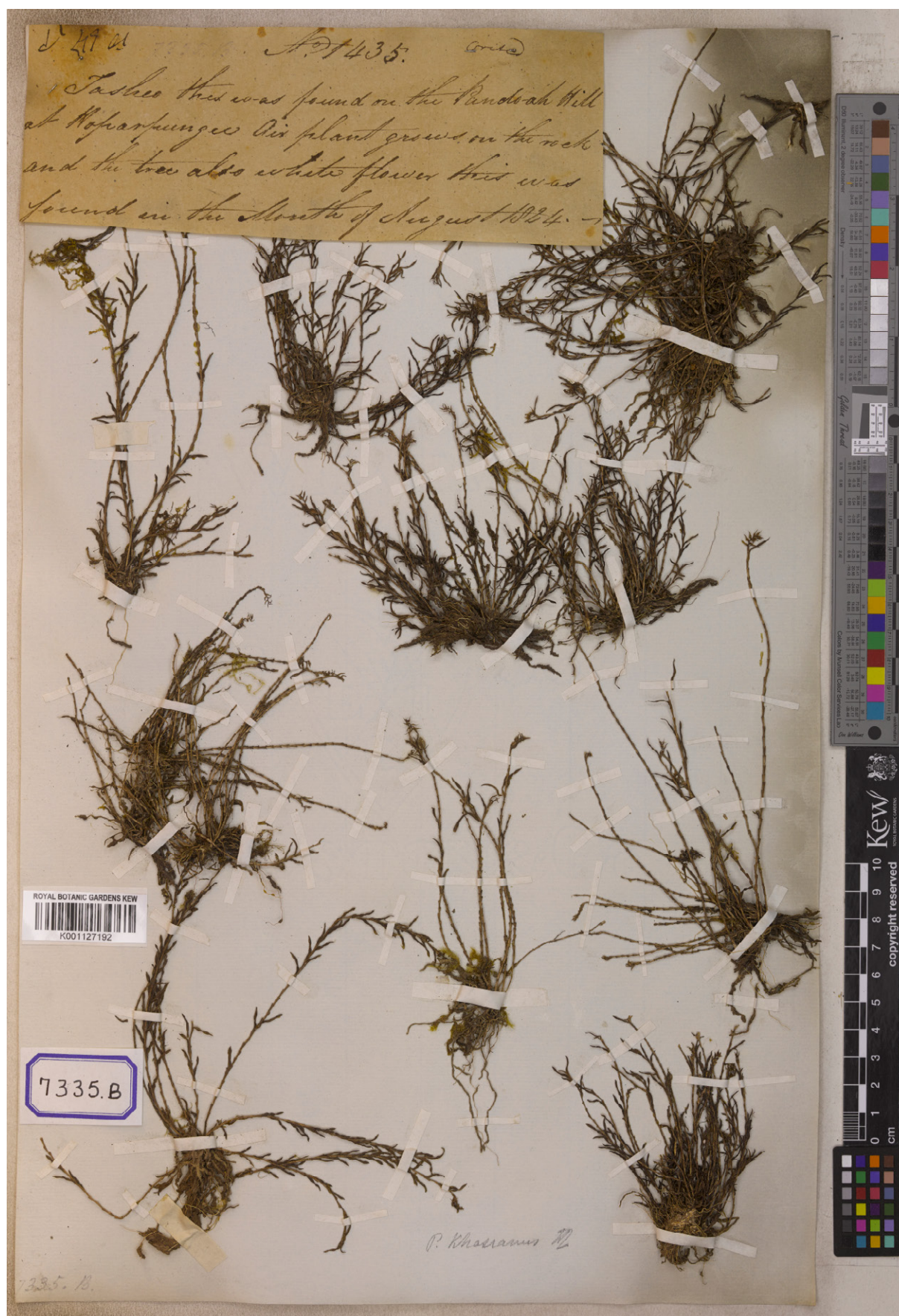


Figure 1. Lectotype of *Podochilus khasianus* (K001127192) ©RBG, Kew. Reproduced with permission.
<http://specimens.kew.org/herbarium/K001127192>.

Podochilus microphyllus Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl.: 234 (1833).

Lectotype: [Malaysia] “Penang, *G. Porter* s.n. (Wall. Cat. Numer. List No. 7335A)” [K (1st step lectotypification) inadvertently designated by: Seidenf., Opera Bot. 89: 144 (1986) (as ‘Type’); 2nd step lectotypification: (K001127191, image!), **designated here**]; [Isolectotypes: K (K000974174, image!); (K000974175, image!); CAL (CAL0000075030!)]].

Notes: Initially, **Wallich (1828)** incorporated two distinct collections under the name *Podochilus microphyllus* in ‘The Wallich Catalogue’: one from Penang by G. Porter (Wall. Cat. No. 7335A) and another from Sylhet by F. De Silva (Wall. Cat. No. 7335B). **Lindley (1833)** validly published the name based on both specimens. Later **Hooker (1890)** recognized specimen from Sylhet as a new species, *Podochilus khasianus*. So, collections from Penang by G. Porter can be treated as the original material for the name *Podochilus microphyllus* but Wallich did not clearly mention that G. Porter collected single or multiple specimens. During the study, three specimens [K001127191, K000974174 and K000974175] collected by G. Porter from Penang could be located at Kew and one specimen at CAL [CAL0000075030]. Though **Seidenfaden (1986)** only mentioned ‘Penang (Porter, Wall. No. 7335a)’ as ‘type’ without indicating any herbarium where it is deposited, 1st step lectotypification (inadvertently designated) is to be credited to **Seidenfaden (1986)** but as he did not precisely indicate the ‘type’, 2nd step lectotypification is required.

After the study of all original material, specimen from Kew with barcode K001127191 (**Fig. 2**) designated here as lectotype (according to article 9.3 and 9.12 of Madrid Code) [**Turland et al., 2025**] which fits best with the description provided in the protologue.



Figure 2. Lectotype of *Podochilus microphyllus* (K001127191) ©RBG, Kew. Reproduced with permission. <http://specimens.kew.org/herbarium/K001127191>.

Supplementary information ↑**Funding sources**

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Supplementary material

Not applicable.

Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

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Authorship contribution statement

Shuvadip Sarkar: Conceptualization (equal); Investigation (equal); Writing – original draft (equal). Dinesh Kumar Agrawala: Investigation (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing – review and editing (equal). Debabrata Maity: Investigation (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing – review and editing (equal).

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Statement on the use of Artificial Intelligence

Not applicable.

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