

that there is another specimen of this taxon, *Helper* 6046/1, at L. But no such specimen exists there (Brinkman, in litt.). The tropical evergreen lowland forests in South Andaman remain much disturbed (N.P. Balakrishnan, personal communication). Nothing much is known about this species including the habit and specific habitat. However, as Kurz mentioned a specific locality, North Corbyn's Cove, we suggest that intensive searches be made in this area to rediscover this plant. Because only a rediscovery can prove the present existence of this species.

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CHOEROSPONDIAS AURICULATA DALI CHANDRA IS *AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA*

(MILL.) SWINGLE (SIMAROUACEAE)

P.W. Mackinnon in 1899 collected a few specimens (CAL, Acc. No. 98623, 98625 & 98626) of a tree having pinnate leaves and male flowers in terminal panicles from the Missouri hills in Uttar Pradesh and identified them in *schedule* as *Pistacia integerrima* Stewart (Anacardiaceae). Dali Chandra (1978) while revising the genus for a Flora of India account of the family Anacardiaceae found that the above noted specimens so identified by Mackinnon do not belong to the genus *Pistacia*. She however, mistook them as some undescribed species of *Choerospondias* and described the same as *C. auriculata*.

Burtt and Hill (1937) established *Choerospondias* as distinct from *Spondias* L. on the basis of seed morphology to accommodate the lone species *Spondias axillaris* Roxb. One of us (RLM) while scrutinising the manuscript of Anacardiaceae for Flora of India became sceptical about the identity of the second species of *Choerospondias* *C. auriculata* Dali Chandra described on a few specimens having only male flowers! This prompted the authors to examine the type of *C. auriculata* in CAL (P.W. Mackinnon s.n., CAL, Acc. No. 98623!). The general texture of

the ovate-lanceolate leaflets all of which are having a few, large basal teeth marked with a gland beneath, indicated that *C. auriculata* specimens are nearer to *Ailanthus* Desf. (Simaroubaceae) and not to *Choerospondias*. Further comparison with *Ailanthus* collections in CAL confirmed that Mackinnon, CAL, Acc. No. 98623, 98625 & 98626 from Missouri are neither *Pistacia* nor *Choerospondias* but are *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle. The plant is a native of China, introduced and naturalised in the hills of northwestern India up to 1800 m and is known earlier under the replaced name, *A. glandulosa* Desf. in Indian Floras.

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