NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE FAMILY LAURACEAE FROM INDIA

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While studying the family Lauraceae for Flora of India, these species viz., Beilschmiedia deomalica Bennet & Sum. Chandra, Cinnamomum nicosolsonianum Manilal & Shylaja and Phoebe hainesiana Brandis are reduced as synonyms and two new combinations viz., Cinnamomum tazia (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterm. ex M. Gangop. and Phoebe boatanica (Meisn.) M. Gangop. are proposed accordingly.

I. Beilschmiedia deomalica Bennet & Sum. Chandra was published in 1987 based on a fruiting collection from Deomali forest of Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh. Later Kostermans (1988) had rightly transferred the species to the genus Endiandra Nees. A number of specimens of Endiandra firma Nees collected from North-East India and housed in ASSAM, DD and CAL were studied and found that most of them were misidentified under the several species of the genus Beilschmiedia. Both the genera could be distinguished by simply observing the foliage characters. Species of Beilschmiedia contains non glossy leaves with laxly reticulate minor nervules, whereas species (only one in the area) of Endiandra contains prominently areolate-reticulate minor nervules and glossy leaves.

During the study it was observed that the species Endiandra firma wall. ex nees has three major types of fruits and they could be classified as:

1. Smaller fruits: ellipsoid, ellipsoid-ovoid, 3 3.6 cm long, 1.6 - 2.2 cm wide, obtuse to acute at both ends.
2. Medium sized fruits: ellipsoid, 4.5 - 4.7 cm long, 2.2 - 2.4 cm wide, tapering at both ends.
3. Larger sized fruits: oblong-cylindric to ellipsoid-oblong, 5.8 - 7 cm long, 2 - 2.8 cm wide, obtuse or tapering at both ends.

The range of variations of shapes and sizes of the fruits are unique. The other characters of the specimens are almost alike. Unfortunately there are no flowering specimens in the studied materials excepting the type collection of Dr. Wallich. Beilschmiedia deomalica was described based only on a fruiting specimen which belongs to the third group. Therefore Beilschmiedia deomalica is reduced as a synonym of Endiandra firma.

The correct nomenclature of the species is as follows:


Type: Mount Pandua, F. de Silva s.n. in Wallich, Cat. No. 2597 (CAL!).

Laurus firma Wall. Cat. No. 2597.1830, nom. nud.


Holotype: Arunachal Pradesh, Siang distr., Deomali forest division. 18.3.1982, Bennet & Chandra 3746 A (DD!); isotype: ibid., Bennet & Chandra 3746 B (DD!).


Distribution: NE. India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

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II. Manilal & Shylaja described *Cinnamomum nicosianum* in 1988 based on the specimens collected from Peruvannamuzhi, Peninsular India. They compared the new taxon with well known south Indian species *C. malabatrum* (Burm. f.) J. Presl. During the revision of the genus for Flora of India, many specimens deposited in several herbaria were examined besides the work of Kostermans (1985) and found that this commonest species of south India contains many variations and *C. nicosianum* just one of the variations of it. The distinguishing characters between the two taxa are insufficient and rather quantitative and confusing. The arrangement of leaves as stated by the authors is opposite in the new taxon but in figure it shows subopposite. The height of the tree is not a taxonomic character. The sizes of the tepal lobes of both the taxa are overlapping and the position of the panicle does not hold well. The delimitation of the species is mostly based on the characters of fruits within the genus. But in the description it was found “Fruit characters similar to those of *C. malabatrum*” It is probable that this new taxon is nothing but young flowering twigs of *C. malabatrum* as the young leaves are pubescent in various cases in the genus. The deposited type materials in CAL and MH could not be found. Therefore, *Cinnamomum nicosianum* is treated as synonym of *Cinnamomum malabatrum*.

The correct nomenclature of the species is as follows:


Type: Katou-Karua Rheede, Hort. Ind. Malabar. 5: t. 53. 1685.


Type: India Peruvannamuzhi, 2. 2.1980, Shylaja CU 26217 (MH-holotype, CAL-isotype - n.v.).

Distribution: Peninsular India: Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

III. *Laurus tadiza* Buch.-Ham. was published in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 13: 557.1822 based on the type “Habitat in montibus Emodi inferioribus ad Cosam fluvium (at Nathpur, on the Cosi River)”. N. Wallich cited the collection in his catalogue with the number 2569 F (K-WALL) and stated the place of collection as Nepal. Nees (in Wall., Fl. Asiae. Rar. 2.75.1831) treated the taxon *L. tadiza* Buch.-Ham. under *C. pasciflorum* var. β with a question mark with the characters “Foliis angustioribus, exquisite cuspidate” Later Mcin correspondence. (15(1): 17 & 503. 1864) cited the name for the variety β *tadiza* with a question mark. J.D. Hooker (Fl. Brit. India 5: 128.1886) placed *L. tadiza* Buch.-Ham. as a synonym of *C. tamala* (Buch.-Ham.) T. Nees & Eberm. Kostermans had determined the specimens collected by J.D. Hooker & T. Thomson and housed at Kew, C.B. Clarke and Wallich Cat. No. 2579 (none of them is type of *L. tadiza*) with both the names viz., *C. pasciflorum* Nees in 1972 and *C. tadiza* (Ham.) Kosterman. in 1978. The combination of *C. tadiza* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterman. was not published. The following new combination is proposed:

*Cinnamomum tadiza* (Buch.-Ham.) Kosterman. ex M. Gangop., comb. nov.


Type: “Habitat in montibus Emodi inferioribus ad Cosam fluvium (at Nathpur, on the Cosi river)” in Wall. Cat. No. 2569 F (K).

*Type:* Wallich Cat. No. 2579 (K-photol!).

*Cinnamomum pauciflorum* Nees var. *tazia* (Buch.-Ham.) Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 15(1): 17, 503. 1864.

*Type:* Wallich, Cat. No. 2569 F (K).

*Cinnamomum pauciflorum* Nees var. *β* Nees, l.c. 75. 1831.

*Type:* Wallich, Cat. No. 2569 F (K).


*C. pauciflorum* var. *β* *tazia* Meisn., *non* (Buch.-Ham.) T. Nees & Eberm., 1831.

*Distribution:* NE India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

*Specimens examined:* India. Meghalaya: Churra Poongee, May 1824, F.deSilva 36 in Wallich, Cat. No. 2579; *ibid.*, 12.5.1960, G.Panigrahi 19300 (ASSAM); Cherra valley, c.1700 m, 1878, Geo. Mallatly 227; Cherra punji to Maumluk, 27.9.1956, G.Panigrahi 3568 (ASSAM); *sine loc. exact.* 24.4. 1963, S.K.Kataki 32745 (ASSAM); Litumkhars, 30.4.1963. G.K.Deka 31759 (ASSAM); Elephant falls, Shillong, 8.5.1959, H. Deka 18329 (ASSAM); *ibid.*, 26.9.1956, G.Panigrahi 3387 (ASSAM); Shillong, c.1350 m. Aug. 1890, H. Collett 84; *ibid.*, 2000 m, 10.10.1890, H.Collett s.n., acc. nos. 383714 & 383724; *ibid.*, c.1700 m, May 1878, G. Mann 827; *ibid.*, 1350 m, 26.7.1886, C.B. Clarke 44272 B; *ibid.*, April 1920, H.G.Carter 1143; *ibid.*, 25.10.1924. Coll. illeg. 109 (BSIS); Khasia, W.Griffith s.n., acc. no. 383708; 1350 m, J.D.Hooker & T.Thomson s.n., acc. no. 385109; Khasi hills, D.Robertson s.n., acc. no. 383120; 1000-1700 m, May & June, 1876, G.Mann 201; S.Kurs s.n., acc. no. 383719; Shampung, 1350 m, May 1890, B. Khan s.n., acc. no. 383707; Valley of rocks, 1500 m, 8.5.1886, C.B. Clarke 43702 B; *ibid.*, c.1700 m, Sept. 1886, C.B.Clark 45825 A; Maosingkve, 1500 m, 27.8.1886, C.B.Clare 44697 A; Pynursla, 25.11.1956, G.Panigrahi 4549(ASSAM); *ibid.*, Laukar dam village, 21.5.1972, S.Chandra & al. 1103 (BSIS); Jowai, near bride of Jarain, 26.1.1957, G.K.Deka 5176 (ASSAM); Assam: *sine loc. exact.* Simon 2: S.N.Bal 109; Coll illeg. 21001. *Since loc. exact.* 1350 1700 m, June 1874, G.Mann s.n., acc. nos. 383701 & 383702; *ibid.*, 1700 m, July 1898, G.Mann 1066; *ibid.*, Collector illeg. s.n., acc. nos. 383700, 33711 & 384313. Bangladesh. *Sine loc. exact.* W.Griffith 4239; Silhet, 1830, Wallich s.n. in Cat. No. 2579.

IV. The poorly known species *Machilus boothanica* was published by Meisner (1864) based on the collections of Griffith from Bhutan. Later Kostermans (1962) transferred the species from *Machilus* to the genus *Persea*. The type specimen is deposited in Kew. The specimen is with flowers only and the fruits are so far unknown. D.G. Long (1984) had included the species in his *Flora* but without any additional specimens from Bhutan. During the present study, two flowering specimens of the species were found in CAL which were collected by Griffith from the East Himalayas (without exact locality).

*Phoebe hainesiana* Brandis was published in 1906 based on specimens collected by Haines from West Duars. The species commonly occurs in Sikkim and West Bengal and rarely in Nagaland. During the study it was found that both the taxa are same and the fruits of *P. hainesiana* matched the genus *Phoebe* as it bears the clasping indurate tepal lobes below the fruits rather than reflexed tepal lobes below the fruits as occurs in *Persea*. Therefore, a new combination is proposed here.

*Phoebe boothanica* (Meisn.) M. Gangop., *comb. nov.*


*Type:* Bootan, Griffith 2483 (K-photol!).


**Type:** West Duars, May 1893, *H.H. Haines* 303 (K-photo!).

**Distribution:** India: Nagaland, Sikkim, West Bengal; Bhutan.


**Note:** The distribution of the species in Nagaland is somewhat disjunct. The specimen from Nagaland bears closer lateral veins in leaves and slightly larger fruit.

**REFERENCES**


