

SORBUS SUJOYI GHORA (ROSACEAE) — A NEW SPECIES FROM
NORTH EAST INDIA

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During the course of the revisionary studies of the genus *Sorbus* L. (Rosaceae Juss. subfam. Maloideae Webb.), in connection with the Flora of India Project the author came across some interesting specimens in CAL which are allied to *Sorbus wallichii* (Hook.f.) Yu.

The specimens on critical examination were found to belong to a new species. The keys characters differentiating it from *Sorbus wallichii* along with description, latin diagnosis and line drawing are provided here.

- 1a. Branchlets lenticellate. Leaves 4-5 cm long; leaf rachis winged; leaflets 13-19, 2- 4 × 0.5- 0.7 cm, linear to oblong, acute at apex, densely white pubescent beneath, entire at margins. Corymbs compact, 4- 7.5 cm across. Styles 3. ... *S. wallichii*
- 1b. Branchlets smooth. Leaves 8-10 cm long; leaf rachis not winged; leaflets 11-13, 2.5-3.5 × 0.8-1.0 cm, oblong, mucronate at apex glabrous. Flowers in lax corymbs, up to 2 cm across. Styles 4. ... *S. sujoyi*

***Sorbus sujoyi* Ghora sp. nov.**

Pyrus wallichii Hook.f. var. *japvoensis* Watt in Sched.

Differt a species *Sorbus wallichii* foliis 8-10 cm longis, foliolis 11-13, oblongis, marginibus integris, apice serrationibus 3-8, apice mucronatis, corymbis usque ad 2 cm diametro, stylis 4.

Typus : India, Manipur (Naga Hills), Japvo, 9500 ft, May 15th, 1882, *G. Watt* 6882 (fruiting) (Holotypus, CAL!). *G. Watt* 6882 (Isotypus, K). Naga Hills, Japvo, 8500 ft, May 1895, *Watt* 11439 (flowering) (Paratypus, CAL!)

Allied to *Sorbus wallichii* (Hook.f.) Yu, but differs from it in having leaves 8-10 cm long, leaflets 11 to 13, oblong, margin entire, 3-8 serrations at apical tip, apex acute, corymbs up to 2 cm across, styles 4.

Small tree, young branches pubescent, glabrescent at maturity. Leaves 8-10 cm long, 11-13 foliolate, 2.5-3.5 × 0.8-1.0 cm, oblong, terminal leaflets obovate, oblique at base, mucronate at apex, margin with 3-8 serrations towards apex, glabrous, veins 10- 11 pairs, obscure. Inflorescences axillary or terminal lax corymbs, up to 2 cm diam., rachis tomentose. Inflorescences corymbs, up to 2 cm across, tomentose; hypanthia 3 mm high. Pedicels 3-8 mm long, pubescent. Flowers 5-7 mm across. Sepals 5, 2 × 1 mm. 8 serrations in apical part, entire at basal part, glabrous on both surfaces, veins 10-11 pairs, very faint. Petals 3 × 1 mm. Stamens many, filaments 2-3 mm long. Styles 4, 4-5 mm long, joined up to 2 mm from base, free part 3 mm long, glabrous. Pomes 4-5 × 3-4 mm, globose. (Fig.1).

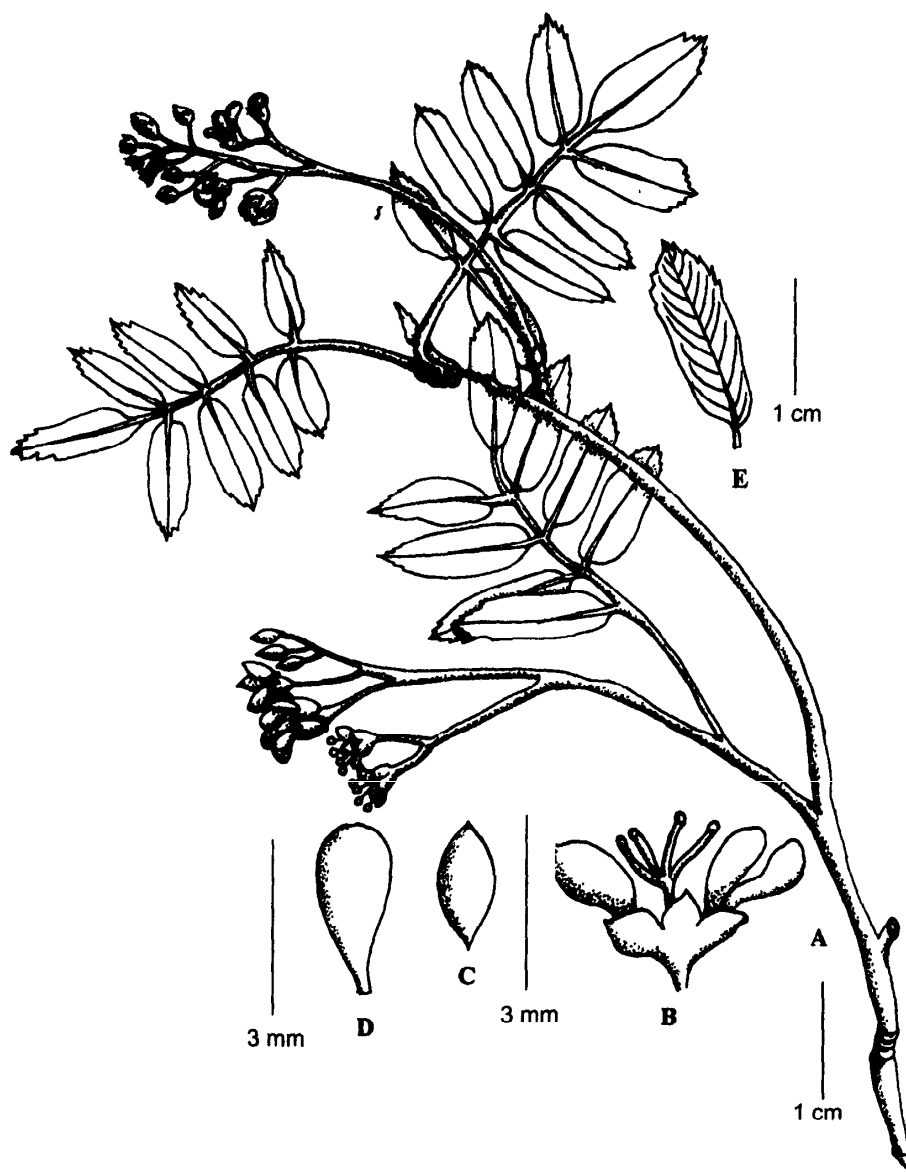


Fig. 1. *Sorbus sujoyi* Ghora : A. Part of the plant; B. Flower; C. Sepal; D. Petal & E. A leaflet (G. Watt11439, CAL).

Fl.: April May. *Fr.*: May.

Distribution : India (Manipur).

Note : In the herbarium specimen of Watt 6882 (CAL) from Naga Hills (Japvoensis, Manipur, India) *Pyrus wallichii* Hook. f. var. *japvoensis* Watt was written by pencil only which was not published. The specific epithet is named after author's deceased son Sujoy Ghora.

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