

## ***Indigofera zollingeriana* Miquel (Leguminosae : Indigofereae) – a new record for the flora of Meghalaya, India**

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### **Abstract**

Present paper deals with the new distributional record of *Indigofera zollingeriana* Miquel (Leguminosae : Indigofereae) in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

**Key words:** *Indigofera zollingeriana*, Fabaceae, New record, Meghalaya

### **INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Indigofera* Linnaeus, belongs to the tribe Indigofereae, is the third largest genus of Leguminosae. The genus, comprising about 750 species, is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world with the major centers of diversity in Africa, Madagascar, Australia the Sino Himalayan region and New World (Schrire *et al.* 2009; Chauhan *et al.* 2013; Wilson *et al.* 2015; Clark *et al.* 2015).

In India the genus is represented by 60 species and 10 varieties (Schrire 1992; Sanjappa 1995; Chauhan *et al.* 2013). The genus is of considerable economic importance as the blue dye indigotin is obtained from the leaves of *Indigofera tinctoria* Linnaeus (Siva 2007)

From Meghalaya, seven species and two varieties of *Indigofera* have been recorded so far (Sanjappa 1995). During the revisionary studies of the genus in India, we came across with an interesting specimen from Meghalaya, which after critical analyses and consulting available literature, it was identified as *Indigofera zollingeriana* Miquel. Perusal of literature revealed that this species has not been reported earlier from the state of Meghalaya (Kanjilal *et al.* 1938; Joseph 1982; Sanjappa 1995). Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the legume flora of Meghalaya in Northeastern part of India.

***Indigofera zollingeriana*** Miquel, Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 1: 310. 1855; Merrill, Enum. Borneo 302. 1921 & Enum. Philippine Fl. Pl. 2: 276. 1923; Craib, Fl. Siam Enum. 1: 383. 1928; de Kort & Thijssse in Blumea 30: 142. 1984. *I. teysmannii* Miquel, Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 1: 1083. 1855; *I. benthamiana* Hance in Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. 4, 18: 219. [Fig. 1]

Small tree, 2– 3 m high, branched, stem brownish green. Leaves pinnately compound, 15 – 30 cm long; stipules 0.5 – 0.6 x 0.2 – 0.3 cm; petioles 2 – 4 cm long; rachis 12 – 30 cm long, canaliculate above, glabrescent; leaflets 14 – 20, opposite, lanceolate, 3 – 6 x 2 – 3 cm, entire, acute with mucro, obtuse rounded at base, sparsely adpressed pubescent on both surfaces. Racemes 10 – 20 cm long with 2 – 3 cm long peduncle, axillary, erect; bracts narrowly triangular, brown pubescent outside. Flowers 0.5 – 0.10 cm long, buds dark brown,



**Figure 1.** *Indigofera zollingeriana*: **A.** a plant in the habitat; **B.** a flowering branch

pedicels 0.2-0.3 cm long, pubescent; calyx dorsally pubescent, teeth deltoid, equal; vexillum ovate, 0.5 – 0.7 x 0.5 – 0.6 cm, brown, dorsally adpressed pubescent, wing petals 0.45 – 0.6 x 0.3 cm, pink, glabrous, ciliate along margins, keel petals 0.5 – 0.7 x 0.3 – 0.45 cm, fused, pink, pubescent. Pods 3 – 4 x 0.3 – 0.5 cm, spreading straight, terete, beak 0.3 – 0.5 cm long, glabrescent, 8 – 14 seeded, endocarp red spotted; seeds 0.23 x 0.24 cm, discoid, brown.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** September – November

**Habitat:** Road side, shady and moist places at an altitude of 1496 m above msl.

**Exsiccatae:** Badapani, Shillong, 1496 m, September 21, 2015, *D.S. Meena & A.K. Pandey 3212*. (DUH).

**Distribution:** INDIA (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands); CHINA; THAILAND; LAOS; VIETNAM; TAIWAN; MALAYSIA; Cultivated in Bhutan.

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