

Lectotypification of *Mansonia dipikae* C.S. Purkayastha [Sterculiaceae] with a note on its distribution

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Abstract

Mansonia dipikae Purkayastha C.S. Purkayastha [Sterculiaceae] has been lectotypified and its distribution has been discussed.

Key words: *Mansonia dipikae*, lectotype, endemic, India

INTRODUCTION

Mansonia dipikae (Sterculiaceae) was first described by C.S. Purkayastha, a working plan officer of Assam Forest Department in 1947 from Dhansiri Reserve of Nowgong and Rangapahar Reserve of Naga Hills districts of Assam. It is the only species under the genus *Mansonia* Prain occurs in India and is endemic to Northeastern region and its allied species *Mansonia altissima* occurs in West Africa. It is interesting to note that after C.S. Purkayastha's own collections in 1945 and in 1947 from the type locality there is no other collection exists in Indian herbaria including CAL and ASSAM. K.C. Malick (1993) did not include this genus in Sterculiaceae for 'Flora of India'. Chowdhery *et al* (1996) mentioned this species from Arunachal Pradesh as "insufficiently known materials". However, Singh *et al* (2009) mentioned it as a common timber yielding tree species in Nagaland. Gupta (2011) recorded this species from Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Bongaigaon districts of Assam and also reported as one of the dominant tree species from Hoollonagapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Jorhat district, Assam (www.Kajiranga.co.in/gibbon.php). Economically it is a good timber yielding plant with durable heartwood and takes a good polish (Purkayastha, *op cit*).

TYPIFICATION:

Mansonia dipikae C.S. Purkayastha in Ind. For. 73: 14. 1947(Jan.)

Lectotype (Designated here): INDIA: Assam: Naga hills, Rangapahar (khapanala areas) 21.6.1945, C.S. Purkayastha 21868, Acc. no. 2896 (ASSAM); **Isolectotype:** Acc. no. 2899 (ASSAM).



PLATE - I. *Mansonia dipikae* C.S. Purkayastha, photograph of the Lectotype [ASSAM]

In the protologue the author cited the type locality as “common in the Dhansiri reserve of Nowgong and Rangapahar reserve of Naga Hills district. Altitude - 500-700 ft.” and regarding type specimen he mentioned “the type specimen is in the forest herbarium, Shillong”. But he did not mention the specimen details in his publication. The ‘Assam Forest herbarium’, Shillong was nonfunctional for a long time and all the 45000 herbarium specimens had been received by the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong (ASSAM) which was established in 1956 (Barbhuiya & Gogoi 2010). C.S. Purkayastha’s collection of this species are now in ASSAM and few in CAL, K and according to him he also sent the two fruiting specimens to DD and Lloyds Botanic Garden, Darjeeling. The specimens and images of this species have been studied. In the ASSAM herbarium there are five specimens of *Mansonia dipikae* marked with “Type” seems to be original materials marked by the author upon which the diagnosis validating the name was based. So, the lectotypification of this species is needed. All these specimens were collected by C.S. Purkayastha from the type locality i.e. Rangapahar reserve of Naga Hill districts. These specimens are C.S. Purkayastha 21865 collected on January 1945 (2 sheets), C.S. Purkayastha 21868 collected on 21.6.1945 (2 sheets) and C.S. Purkayastha 21866 collected on 4th July, 1945. The two specimens with Field no. C.S. Purkayastha 21865 are in fruiting stage and C.S. Purkayastha 21866 is having immature flowers. Only the specimen C.S. Purkayastha 21868, Acc. no. 2896 (ASSAM) bears good flowering materials matching well with the protologue and written as “Type” by author is being chosen here as **lectotype** and its duplicate (Acc. no. 2899) would be considered as **isolectotype**.

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