



A new variety of *Phanera glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinioideae) from India

RAMESH KUMAR¹, SUBIR BANDYOPADHYAY*² & SACHIN SHARMA¹

¹ Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong 793003, Meghalaya, India.

² Botanical Survey of India, Central National Herbarium, Howrah 711103, West Bengal, India.

*Corresponding author: subirbandyopadhyay@yahoo.com

Abstract

A new variety, *Phanera glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* var. *murlenensis*, is described from Mizoram, India.

Key words: *Phanera glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* var. *murlenensis*, New taxon, Mizoram, India

Introduction

A *Phanera* Lour. (1790: 37) collected from Mizoram was found to belong to ser. *Corymbosae* in *Bauhinia* subgen. *Phanera* sect. *Phanera* subsect. *Fulvae* (Wunderlin *et al.* 1987) but it could not be matched with any of the taxa known in this series. It has been described here as a new variety of *Phanera glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* (Watt ex Clarke) Schmitz (1977: 14) because recent phylogenetic studies based on DNA sequence data (Lewis & Forest 2005; Sinou *et al.* 2009) suggest that *Bauhinia* subgen. *Phanera* (Wunderlin *et al.* 1987) should be recognised as a genus distinct from *Bauhinia*.

Taxonomic treatment

Phanera glauca subsp. *tenuiflora* var. *murlenensis* Ram.Kumar, Bandyop. et S.Sharma, var. nov.

(Figs. 1 & 2)

Type:—INDIA. Mizoram: Murlen National Park, in the buffer region of the Park between Vapar to Ngur, ca. 1400 m, 11 April 2013, Ramesh Kumar & party 128363 (holotype CAL0000026092!; isotype ASSAM!).

Differs from *Phanera glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* in having ovate leaves, retuse at apex or nearly so; inflorescence relatively small; hypanthium smaller than their respective pedicels. In subsp. *tenuiflora* leaves are ovate-orbicular, 1/9–1/5 bifid at apex, inflorescence relatively large; hypanthium longer than their respective pedicels.

Lianas with tendrils, ca. 10 m in height; hairs ferruginous when dry; tendrils flattened, pubescent. Leaves 3.7–7.7 × 3–7 cm, ovate, 9-nerved, retuse at apex or nearly so, truncate to subobtusate or shallowly cordate at base, glabrous above, pubescent beneath, particularly on the nerves, later glabrescent excepting the nerves; petioles 1.3–1.9 cm long, glabrescent. Stipules 5–9 mm long, linear-oblong. Racemes corymbose, axillary or terminal, pubescent. Flower buds 4–5 × 3–3.5 mm, ovoid, pubescent, particularly at apex. Hypanthium 8–9 mm long, tubular, striate in dried specimens, pubescent. Pedicels 2–2.4 cm long, slender, pubescent. Bracts 7–9 mm long, linear-oblong, pubescent; bracteoles 6–9 mm long, filiform, situated near the middle of pedicel. Flowers ca. 1.8 cm across. Calyx 2–3-lobed. Petals 7–9 × 4–8 mm, white, obovate to broadly obovate, obtuse at apex, veined, glabrous inside, glabrescent outside, particularly in the median zone; claw 2–2.5 mm long, glabrescent. Fertile stamens 3; filaments 7–8 mm long, green, glabrous; anthers 2.5–3 mm long, reddish, ellipsoid. Reduced stamens 5, 1.5–2.5 mm long, with rudimentary anther at tip, swollen and connate at base; bases bright yellow. Staminodes 2, in between

TABLE 1: Comparative account of some morphological features between *P. glauca* subsp. *glauca*, *P. glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* and *P. glauca* subsp. *tenuiflora* var. *murlenensis*.

Characters	<i>Phanera glauca</i> subsp. <i>glauca</i>	<i>Phanera glauca</i> subsp. <i>tenuiflora</i>	<i>Phanera glauca</i> subsp. <i>tenuiflora</i> var. <i>murlenensis</i>
Leaf	Ovate-orbicular, often broader than long, 1/3 – 1/2 (– 4/5) bifid at apex	Ovate-orbicular, 1/9 – 1/5 bifid at apex	Ovate, retuse at apex or nearly so
Inflorescence	Short dense corymbs	Elongate corymbs	Intermediate between subsp. <i>glauca</i> and <i>tenuiflora</i>
Flower bud	Ovoid; glabrous or with some pubescence at top	Ovoid; pubescent	Ovoid; pubescent
Hypanthium	1 – 1.5 cm in length, shorter than their respective pedicels, glabrous or sparsely pubescent	2.5–3.2 cm in length, longer than their respective pedicels, pubescent	8–9 mm in length, shorter than their respective pedicels, pubescent

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