



Lectotypifications of some Indian *Ceropegia* (Apocynaceae: Ceropegieae)

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Abstract

Eight binomials of six recognized species of *Ceropegia* are lectotypified: *C. albiflora* Hooker f., *C. fantastica* Sedgwick, *C. lanceolata* Wight, *C. mysorensis* Wight, *C. pubescens* Wallich, *C. pusilla* Wight & Arnott, *C. sphenanantha* Wight, and *C. walkerae* Wight.

Keywords: Asclepiadoideae, binomials, endemic

Introduction

Ceropegia Linnaeus (1753: 211) is represented by 244 taxa worldwide (cf., The Plant List 2013 & Kambale & Yadav 2014), distributed mainly in Africa, Australia, Canary Islands, India, Madagascar, New Guinea, Southeast Asia, and tropical Arabia. Presently, sixty species, two subspecies and five varieties are found in India. Of the forty-two species and five varieties occurring in the Western Ghats, thirty-seven species and two varieties are endemic (Diwakar & Singh 2011, Kambale & Yadav 2014). The level of endemism suggests the Western Ghats as one of the centres for evolution and diversification of *Ceropegia*. In revising Indian *Ceropegia*, I realized the necessity for typification of some names and therefore lectotypify eight binomials in the present paper. While designating these lectotypes, I followed the guidelines of Art. 9.2 of the Melbourne Code (McNeill *et al.* 2012).

Taxonomy

Apocynaceae (Asclepiadoideae)

1. *Ceropegia elegans* Wallich (1830: 3015).

Type:—INDIA. Wallich, Bot. Mag. 57: t. 3015. 1830 (lectotype inadvertently designated by Ansari 1984).

Ceropegia mysorensis Wight (1845: 4 & t. 846).

Type:—INDIA. Karnataka: Mysore, December 1834, Wight 2203 (lectotype K-000894256!, here designated; isolectotypes E-00179762!, K-000894255!, NY-00318546!).

Ceropegia sphenanantha Wight & Arnott (1834: 31).

Type:—INDIA. Tamil Nadu: Neelgherry (Nilgiri), *s.d.*, Wallich *asclep.* no. 6. (lectotype E-00179556!, here designated).

Syntype:—INDIA. Tamil Nadu: Neelgherries (Nilgiri), *s.d.*, Wight *cat. n.* 1513 (E-00179557!).

Distribution:—Bhutan, China, India (Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal), Myanmar, and Nepal.

Notes:—When *Ceropegia lanceolata* was published, the gathering *Wallich asclep. n. 12* from Nepal was cited in the protologue, but no specific herbarium sheet was designated as holotype. This gathering contains at least two sheets, one at E and another at K. The best one, K-000857830, is designated here as the lectotype, as it agrees well with the protologue.

5. *Ceropegia pubescens* Wallich (1831: 187).

Type:—NEPAL. Chandaghiry, June 1821, *Wallich asclep. no. 10*. (lectotype K-000014465!, here designated; isolectotype K-000014463!).

Distribution:—Bhutan, China, India (Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and West Bengal), Myanmar, and Nepal.

Notes:—Wallich (1831) described *Ceropegia pubescens* on the basis of specimens collected from Chandaghiry, Nepal. Within the protologue, Wallich gave the precise locality but did not provide the date and number of the collection. Three specimens from Nepal, *Wallich asclep. no. 10*, were traced, two at K (K-000014463 and K-000014465) and one at E (E-00288771!). The best one, K-000014465, is designated here as the lectotype as it agrees well with the protologue.

6. *Ceropegia pusilla* Wight & Arnott (1834: 31).

Type:—INDIA. Tamil Nadu: Neelgherries (Nilgiri), *s.d.*, *Wight cat. n. 1514* (lectotype E-00179559!, here designated).

Distribution:—India [endemic and rare (Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu)].

Notes:—Wight & Arnott (1834) described *Ceropegia pusilla* based on two gatherings from Neelgherries (Nilgiri), *Wight cat. n. 1514* and *Wallich asclep. no. 7*. Of these, only one specimen of the former, E-00179559, is extant and is chosen here as the lectotype. The gathering *Wight cat. n. 1932* with four specimens—one each at M (M-0175136), K (K-000857818), P (P-03899239), and S (S12-11997)—mentioned as isotypes by Ansari (1984) and Huber (1957) is not cited in protologue.

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