



Lectotypification of three names in *Gaultheria* L. (Ericaceae)

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Abstract

Lectotypification of *Gaultheria discolor* Nutt. ex Hook., *G. griffithiana* Wight and *G. semi-infera* (C.B.Clarke) Airy Shaw are provided along with images of selected lectotypes.

Key words: Ericaceae, *Gaultheria*, lectotypification

Introduction

The genus *Gaultheria* L. (Ericaceae), consisting of some 134 species (Mabberley 2008), is distributed across the world from Europe to eastern and southeastern Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia), northern and southern America, and in southeastern Australia (including Tasmania) and New Zealand. In India, the genus is represented by 21 species (Panda 2008) where it is restricted to the Himalayas (mostly in the eastern Himalaya), northeastern India (excluding present-day Assam and Tripura), and the hilltops of southwestern Ghats. During post-revisionary study of Ericaceae in India for ‘Flora of India’ and UGC-sponsored projects, it was discovered that *Gaultheria discolor* Nutt. ex Hook., *G. griffithiana* Wight, and *G. semi-infera* (C.B.Clarke) Airy Shaw required lectotypification (cf. Art. 9.2, 9.9, 9.10 and 9.12; McNeill et al. 2006).

Taxonomic treatment

Gaultheria discolor Nutt. ex Hook. (1858: ad t. 5034).

Type—In cultivation, Nutgrove near Rainhill, Lancashire, England, 1856, *T. Nuttall* s.n. (lectotype: K-Hook.! [lower right corner plant, barcode no. K000442407], designated here). ≡ *Diplycosia discolor* C.B.Clarke (1882: 459). Fig. 1.

W. J. Hooker (*l.c.*) cited ‘Nuttall, Mss.’ in the protologue as this species was raised by Thomas Nuttall from the seeds collected by Thomas J. Booth in temperate Bhutan in the Himalaya region. The published image closely resembles one of three collections on a single sheet in William J. Hooker’s herbarium (now identified by the barcode no. K000442407), namely the specimen in the lower corner of the sheet which represents a sample of the plant grown by Nuttall. The remaining two collections on K000442407 are Booth specimens and as such represent syntypes.