



Article

***Pandanus martinianus* (Pandanaceae), a new endemic species from northeastern India**

RAHUL L. ZANAN¹ & ALTAFHUSAIN B. NADAF¹

¹Department of Botany, University of Pune, Pune 411 007, India; e-mail: rahulzanan@unipune.ac.in, abnadaf@unipune.ac.in

Abstract

A new species, *Pandanus martinianus* (Pandanaceae), from the foothills of West Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh and Dhimaji District of Assam of North-Eastern region of India is described and illustrated. The new taxon is distinguished from other *Pandanus* species by the dimensions and shape of its syncarp and the arrangement and shape of its drupes and stigmas. A discussion is provided of its morphological affinities, as well as a conservation assessment based on IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

Key words: IUCN Red List, *Pandanus unguifer*

Introduction

A total of 21 *Pandanus* Parkinson (1773: 46) (Pandanaceae) species are reported from India, with ten species known from southern India and ten from the northeastern regions of the country; *Pandanus foetidus* Roxburgh (1832: 177) is the only species known from both South and Northeast (St. John 1965, 1972, Vartak 1981, Karthikeyan *et al.* 1989, Keller 2001, Srivastava & Chaudhary 2007). In the process of a complete revision of the Indian *Pandanus* species, we have gathered c. 70 collections of *Pandanus* from the country. Several species described by H. St. John are doubtful and a complete review of the native species of Indian is underway. From among our collections we have recently described two new species of *Pandanus* from southern India: *P. palakkadensis* Nadaf, Zanan & Wakte (2011: 183) and *P. mangalorensis* Nadaf & Zanan (in Zanan & Nadaf 2012: 555).

In NE India we have been able to study all the eleven species currently known. We recognize only five of these: *P. diversus* St. John (1972: 245), *P. emarginatus* St. John (1972: 247), *P. foetidus*, *P. nepalensis* St. John (1972: 254) and *P. unguifer* Hooker (1878: tab. 6347). A complete review of the taxonomy of these species will be published separately by the authors. During our fieldwork in NE India, we came across a remarkable species of Pandanaceae that is morphologically distinct from all other *Pandanus* species. This new species is part of a group of sub-acaulent species growing at mid-elevation in open forests and along streams in South China, Viet-Nam, Thailand and Laos (Stone 1983a). *Pandanus martinianus* Nadaf & Zanan is here therefore described as a new species, occurring in eleven localities of Dhimaji and Golaghat District of Assam and West Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh (Fig. 1). The new species is illustrated and compared with its morphologically closest species, *P. tonkinensis* Martelli ex Stone (1983a: 322), *P. unguifer* and *P. urophyllus* Hance (1868: 349), and provided with its conservation assessment following IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN 2001).