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NOTE

Lectotypification of *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble (Memecylaceae DC.)

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ABSTRACT: The Lectotype of *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble is designated here.

KEY WORDS: Lectotypification, *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble, Memecylaceae.

INTRODUCTION

The species *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble was described by J. S. Gamble (1919) under Melastomataceae Juss. – Memecyleae based on his own collections from the evergreen shola forest of Kundahs country of Nilgiri Hills, in the vicinity of Avalanche and Sispara under elevations of 2300–3460 m. The status of 'Memecyleae' has been under much discussion in the past and present (APG II, 2003; Renner, 2004; APG III, 2009; Takhtajan, 2009). In the present paper the 'Memecyleae' is maintained as a distinct family Memecylaceae DC. after the treatment of Renner (2004) and Takhtajan (2009). The family has close affinities to the Melastomataceae but differs in cryptocotylar germination of seedlings, leaf venation, presence of sclerids in leaves, stomatal nature, number and size of the seeds, presence of an elliptic terpenoid-producing gland on the staminal connective and fibrous endothecium.

Memecylon flavescens is very close to *Memecylon lushingtonii* Gamble described from Tamil Nadu. Both the species are small tree with knobby, 4-angular branchlets and have similar sized leaves, axillary flower clusters, very short (1–2 mm) pedicels, obscure disc rays and blue petals but the former is distinguished from *M. lushingtonii* by its small, oblanceolate, pale yellowish leaves.

In the protologue of *M. flavescens,* Gamble cited four specimens viz., *Gamble 14268*, *Gamble 16161*, *Gamble 16168* and *Gamble 20581* but did not designated the Holotype. Thus these specimens are to be treated as syntypes. All these specimens are kept in K (acronym after Holmgren *et al*., 1990). However, in the course of study of different herbaria, one set of duplicate of the former three are found in CAL (!) (acronym after Holmgren *et al*., 1990) and that of the last one is located in MH(!) (acronym after Holmgren *et al*., 1990). After careful study of all syntype materials in accordance to the Art 9.2 & 9.10 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (McNeill *et al*., 2006), *Gamble* 14268 (K) is designated here as the Lectotype of *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble. This specimen is most complete and better preserved specimen along with a hand drawing of a floral dissection on the herbarium sheet made by Gamble himself. The isolectotype at CAL is in a comparatively poor state.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Memecylon flavescens Gamble, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1919: 226.1919 & Fl. Pres. Madras 1:503. 1919 (1: 355. 1957, rep. ed.).

Syntypes**:** India, Tamil Nadu: Nilgiris District, above Sispara, 7000 ft. (2100 m), May,1884, *Gamble* 14268 (K, CAL); l.c., Avalanche, 7500 ft., May 1885, *Gamble* 16161(K, CAL); l.c., 7500 ft., May 1885, *Gamble* 16168 (K, CAL); l.c., Kundahs, 7000 ft., May 1889, *Gamble* 20581 (K, MH).

Lectotypus: (designated here) (Fig. 1). *Gamble* 14268 (K, CAL, isolecto.)

Flowering and fruiting: February–May.

Distribution: India: W. Ghats: Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari, Nilgiris; Kerala, Avalanche, Kundah, and Sispara, 1500-3460m (Gamble, 1919; Murugan *et al*., 2002). Grows in evergreen forests and sholas (Fig. 2).

Note: This species is endemic to Western Ghats, Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. It is under the Endangered (EN) category of IUCN due to habitat destruction (Ahmedullah and Nayar, 1986; Nayar and Sastry, 1990; Murugan *et al*., 2002). However, updating of current conservation status of the species in the places of distribution is an urgent need.

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Fig.1. Lectotype image of *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble (Memecylaceae).

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Fig. 2. Black dots showing the distribution of *Memecylon flavescens* Gamble.

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Memecylon flavescens（谷木科）的選定模式

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摘要：本文指定*Memecylon flavescens*的選定模式。

關鍵詞：選定模式、*Memecylon flavescens*、谷木科。

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