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# LECTOTYPIFICATION OF *TETRAPHYLLUM BENGALENSE* C.B. CLARKE (GESNERIACEAE)

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**ABSTRACT:** Lectotype for *Tetraphyllum bengalense* C.B. Clarke is designated.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Tetraphyllum* Griff. is represented by only one species in India, *T. bengalense* C.B. Clarke (Chauhan *et al.*, 1996; Giri *et al.*, 1998). The plant is easily identifiable by the 2 pairs of leaves at the stem apex, rest portion being leafless; 2 perfect stamens, 2 with spirally twisted filament and the capsules splitting both loculicidally and septicidally into 4 valves, leaving 2 main ribs united to the persistent style base. The species was described by C. B. Clarke in *Monographiae Phanerogamarum* (1883), based on five specimens collected from Assam (India) and Chittagong (Bangladesh). Later this plant was variously treated in different literatures by C. B. Clarke, Burkill and Prain for being a part of flora of Assam and Chittagong (presently Bangladesh). More recently Chauhan *et al.*, 1996, and Giri *et al.* 1998 have also included this plant in the flora of Arunachal Pradesh. However there has been no attempt to define a nomenclatural type of this species. This paper designates the lectotype of *Tetraphyllum bengalense* C.B. Clarke.

**Typus:** INDIA, Assam, Cachar, 1 June, 1873, K.L. Keenan s. n. (K, Lectotype K000901033, photo!) designated here.

The selected herbarium sheet matches perfectly with the description of the plant, the locality on the label also matches with the type locality as mentioned in the protologue. Another label added

by Keenan himself provides a brief description of the plant along with the habitat, and the locality as "Shapore". The description annotated matches with the protologue, but the type locality is only stated as Cachar, the locality name Shapore is not addressed. Presently Shahapore is a village in Cachar district of Assam. Thus this sheet can perfectly serve as the nomenclatural type.

Clarke (1883) also referred to the following specimens while describing the species: the collections by Griffith s. n. (K000901030, K000901034) from upper Assam and KD 3830 (K000901029) from Mishmee, Namroop (Arunachal Pradesh) and that by Clarke 19814 A (K000901027) from Chittagong (Bangladesh). All these specimens are deposited at K. A duplicate of the collection by Clarke from Chittagong is at CAL. Clarke also referred to a Wallich collection also from upper Assam deposited at Berol. Perhaps a duplicate of the same specimen is at K (K000901028). All these specimens cited in the protologue are in late fruiting stage, therefore the collection by Keenan which is in flowering condition is chosen as the lectotype.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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