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Lectotypification of *Wallichia nana* (Arecaceae)

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Abstract: A lectotype for *Wallichia nana* Griff. is designated here based on the examination of the protologue and type materials.

Keywords: Assam, Griffith, Palm, Type.

Introduction

In January 1845, Griffith published "The palms of British East India" where he enumerated three species of *Wallichia* Roxb. (Arecaceae) and under this genus three synonyms *viz., Harina* Buch.- Ham., *Wrightea* Roxb. and *Orania* Blume were included. The species of *Wallichia* mentioned in Griffith's study were *Wallichia caryotoides* Roxb. (with synonyms *Wrightea caryotoides* Roxb. and *Harina caryotoides* Buch.-Ham.), *Wallichia oblongifolia* Griff. (with synonyms *Harina caryotoides* H.B.C. non Roxb. and *H. densiflora* Mart.) and *Wallichia nana* Griff. Among these three species, *W. oblongifolia* and *W. nana* were described as new species (Griffith, 1845). After the unfortunate death of William Griffith on the 9th of February, 1845 in Malacca (Anonymous, 1845), his posthumous papers on "Palms of British East India" was arranged by John McClelland, and was later published in 1850 (Griffith, 1850). In this publication, three species of *Harina* were included *viz., Harina caryotoides* Roxb. (with synonyms *Wrightea caryotoides* Roxb. and *Harina caryotoides* Buch.-Ham.), *Harina oblongifolia* Griff. (with synonyms *Harina caryotoides* H.B.C. non Roxb. and *Harina densiflora* Mart.), and *Harina nana* Griff. without any synonym.

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Wallichia nana was described based on collections of Major Jenkins from "woods about Gowahatty" (now Guwahati) in Assam in India, but without designation of any type (Griffith, 1845). The collector's name and place of collection for *W. nana* and *Harina nana* were the same, but there are two additional plates associated with the protologue (Griffith, 1850) of *H. nana i.e.,* CCXXXVIII (A and B). Henderson (2007) mentioned that the holotype of *W. nana* is housed at CAL and isotypes at A, K, NY and P, but he did not see the holotype. There is no record of type information of this species in CAL and in NYBG. According to Reveal and Nixon (2013), the type of *W. nana* is probably at BR and BH and they stated that "The fragment at BH was removed from a sheet in the Martius herbarium at BR". There are two herbarium specimens housed at BR *viz.,* a sheet with the barcode BR0000006876920 labelled as "*Wallichia* (*Orania*) *nana* Griff." with the place "Assam" and another sheet with the barcode BR0000006877255 labelled as "*Wallichia nana*" with the place "Assam". The sheet BR0000006876920 is actually representing materials of both the plates of *Harina nana* cited by Griffith(1850) *i.e.,* CCXXXVIII A and CCXXXVIII B, whereas the sheet BR0000006877255 represent only a part of the plate CCXXXVIIIA. One terminal portion of a leaf in the plate CCXXXVIIIA is not present in the BR materials, which is probably the part present in BH as mentioned by Reveal and Nixon (2013).

The information included in both *Wallichia nana* (Griffith, 1845) and *Harina nana* (Griffith, 1850) was similar. Probably the contents of *Harina* included in the posthumous papers (Griffith, 1850)

was transferred by Griffith to *Wallichia* and published long back in 1845 (Griffith, 1845). It may be justified by the fact that the genus *Harina* was placed as synonym of *Wallichia* by Griffith (1845) but no synonym was mentioned under *Harina* (Griffith, 1850). Griffith's plates were associated with the protologue of *Harina nana* (Griffith, 1850), but no such plates were associated with the protologue of *Wallichia nana* (Griffith, 1845). Most probably, out of many collections of *Wallichia nana* by Major Jenkins, some materials were used to describe *Harina nana*. These materials were the herbarium specimens housed at BR and BH which best reflects and represents the plates associated with the protologue of *Harina nana.* This clarifies that the materials at BR and BH are actually type material of *H. nana* and not of *W. nana*.

Examination of the protologue of *W. nana* (Griffith, 1845), visitation of the Central National Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India (CAL), browsing and screening of virtual herbaria through the GBIF portal, personal communications with herbaria (BH, BR, CAL and NYBG) and based on other relevant studies (Henderson, 2007; Mehmud & Roy, 2021), we conclude that the materials collected by Jenkins from Assam associated with *Wallichia nana* were housed in different herbaria, *i.e.,* one each in A, K, L, M, P. Griffith (1845) did not designate the holotype hence all the specimens are syntypes (Turland *et al*., 2018, Art. 40 Note 1). The specimen P [P00491422 digital image!] exhibits stem, leaf and a complete inflorescence suitable for identification of the species, hence selected to serve as lectotype.

Typification

Wallichia nana Griff., Calcutta J. Nat. Hist. 5: 488. 1845.

Lectotype (designated here): INDIA, **Assam**, *s.d*., *Jenkins s.n.* (P [P00491422 digital image!]); isolecto A [00421704 digital image!], K [K000400177 digital image!], L [0042007 digital image!], M [0208609 digital image!]).

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