

Sloanea sterculiacea (Elaeocarpaceae): a New Generic Record for Odisha, India



Botany

KEYWORDS : *Sloanea sterculiacea*, Elaeocarpaceae, Generic record, Similipal.

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ABSTRACT

Sloanea sterculiacea (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson is first time reported from Similipal Biosphere Reserve, Odisha. Detailed description, photographs, phenology, habitat and distributional note have been provided for easy identification.

Introduction:-

The family Elaeocarpaceae comprises 15 genera and about 500 species (Heywood, 2007). *Sloanea* L. is a genus that occurs in both the Old & New World and harbours 150 species (Mabberley, 2008). About 04 species are found in India, which are distributed in various type of vegetation. During botanical exploration in Similipal Biosphere Reserve, the authors collected few interesting specimens of *Sloanea* L. Based on critical examination & reference to relevant taxonomic literature (Hooker, 1874.; Haines, 1921-25; Kanjilal et al., 1934; Saxena & Brahmam, 1994 and Singh et al., 2001) it has been identified as *Sloanea sterculiacea* (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson. The identity of the specimen has been confirmed by comparing with the specimens deposited at Central National Herbarium (CAL). The specimen has been preserved at Similipal Tiger Reserve Herbarium, Baripada, Odisha. This taxon is hitherto unknown to the flora of Odisha. So it is reported here as new generic record for Odisha state. Detailed description, photographs, phenology, habitat and distributional note have been provided for easy identification.

Taxonomic treatment:

Sloanea sterculiacea (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson in Serg., Pl. Wilson. 2: 362. 1915 ; Subba Rao & Kumari in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 12: 208.1970 ; Murti in Sharma *et al.*, Fl. India 3: 566.1993. *Echinocarpus sterculiaceus* Bent in Proc. Linn. Soc. 5. Suppl. 2: 72.1861. Mast. in Fl. Brit. India 1: 400.1874.

Large evergreen trees, upto 25 m tall; branchlets sparsely tomentose. Leaves obovate or elliptic-oblong, 10-18 x 3-8 cm, subcordate at base, margins minutely serrulate, acute at apex, coriaceous, glabrous above, tomentose beneath, veins prominent beneath; petioles 2-5 cm long, puberulous. Flowers in solitary, axillary or few flowered fascicles, creamy white, 2-4 cm across; pedicels 2-4 cm long, pubescent. Sepals 4, ovate or oblong, 6-8 mm long, tomentose. Petals 4, oblong or sub-orbicular; 6-8 mm long, variously cut at apex, pubescent. Stamens numerous; filaments 2-4 mm long, puberulent; anthers 2-3 mm long, linear, shortly awned. Disc flattened. Ovary ovoid, tomentose, 4-loculed; styles upto 6 mm long, subulate, pubescent at base, twisted at apex. Capsules globose to ovoid, 4-6 x 2-3 cm; 4-5 valved, externally covered with straight, sharp, persistent spines, 1-2.5 cm long, valves upto 5 seeded. Seeds black, shiny.

Flowering: September

Fruiting: December- May

Habitat: Very Rare in moist deciduous forests above 860 m altitude.

Distribution: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India (Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal), Myanmar, Nepal.

Specimens examined: INDIA, Odisha: Similipal Biosphere Reserve, Tarinibila, 26.12. 2013, T. Kar & A.K. Nayak 705; Assam: Sadiya, 26.03.1894, G.A. Gamme 63689 (CAL); Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam Dist., Minumuluru, G.V. Subba Rao 30043 (MH); West Bengal : Jalpaiguri Dist., 07.09.81, B. Safui & Party 10406 (CAL).



Sloanea sterculiacea (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson :
a. Habit; b. Close-up view of capsules

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