



The lectotypification of *Syzygium bourdillonii* (Gamble) Rathakr. & N.C. Nair (Myrtaceae)

Based on two collections of Thomas Fulton Bourdillon (1849–1930) (nos. 596 & 859), made during 1895 on the Merchiston estate in the erstwhile Travancore State, James Sykes Gamble (1847–1925) erected a new species, *Jambosa bourdillonii* Gamble, in 1918. N. C. Rathakrishnan and N. C. Nair (1983) later proposed the combination, *Syzygium bourdillonii*. There was no other collection made until the rediscovery of the species from Agasthyamala of the Kerala region after 94 years (Mohan, 1996). Subsequently, Murugan & Manickam (2006) recorded its occurrence in Tamil Nadu. Neither Gamble nor any subsequent authors designated a lectotype from the two known syntypes preserved in K (*T.F. Bourdillon* 596 & 859) and MH (*T.F. Bourdillon* 596). The Kew sheet of 596 (K000793900!) is designated here as lectotype and the duplicate at MH as an isolectotype.

Ahmedulla and Nayar (1986) categorised *Syzygium bourdillonii* as “rare and threatened”. However, Nayar and Sastry (1987) treated it as “endangered or possibly extinct”. Later, Gopalan and Henry (2000) included this species in the “critically endangered category”. Based on all these data, IUCN (2013) treated it as “endangered”.

During the course of plant exploration trips, the author collected specimens of *Syzygium bourdillonii* from Attayar and later from the type locality in the Thiruvananthapuram District. Both populations consist of only a limited number of individuals in various isolated ecological niches. The present collection from Merchiston is the first new collection of the species from the type locality to have been made.

Syzygium bourdillonii (Gamble) Rathakr. & N.C. Nair

J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 4: 287. 1983.

Basionym: *Jambosa bourdillonii* Gamble, *Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew* 1918: 239. 25 Nov 1918.

Lectotype (designated here): INDIA, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram District, Merchiston, Travancore, 2000 ft. elev., 2 Apr 1895, *T.F. Bourdillon* 596 (K!, bar code no. 000793900, fig. 1); isolectotype: MH!

Syntype: *ibid.* *T.F. Bourdillon* 859 (K!, bar code no. 00100406!).

Tree, evergreen, to 10 m high; bark smooth, grayish-white with a dark brown blaze. **Branchlets** subterete, slender. **Leaves** opposite; petiole to 7 mm long, grooved above; blade elliptic to oblanceolate, 7–12.5 × 2.3–4 cm, coriaceous, glossy above, punctate on both sides, attenuate basally, acuminate apically, with an acumen to 1.5 cm long; midrib prominent and raised beneath, grooved above; lateral nerves 6–10 pairs, curved upwards and meeting in a looped intramarginal vein, prominent on both sides, usually 3–5 mm away from the margin, faintly reticulate. **Inflorescence** a terminal corymbose cyme, 3–5-flowered; peduncle 1–2.5 cm long, angular; pedicels up to 10 mm long; bracts and bracteoles caducous. **Flowers** 1.5–2 cm across, white; hypanthium campanulate, 0.8–1 cm long, 4-lobed, broadly orbicular or semilunar, 1.5–2.3 × 2–3 mm, with hyaline margins, obtuse apically; petals 4, white, gland-dotted, orbicular-ovate, ca. 7 × 6 mm, caducous. **Stamens** many, free; filaments filiform, 5–10 mm long; anthers ovate, ca. 0.25 mm across, medifixed. **Ovary** inferior, globose or campanulate, ca. 5 mm long; style to 1–5 cm long; stigma subulate, acute apically. **Fruits** 1.5–2 × 1.2–1.5 cm, hemispheric or campanulate, with a prominent calyx ring bearing persistent lobes.

Additional specimens examined: INDIA, Kerala, Kollam District, Colatoorpolay (=Kulathupuzha), 26 Feb 1896, *T.F. Bourdillon 113* (MH); Thiruvananthapuram District, Attayar on Agasthyamala, ca. 700 m, 3 Apr 1989, *N. Mohanan 5537* (TBGT); Kallar, ca. 500 m, 29 Oct 2010, *M.P. Geethakumary 69623* (TBGT); Attayar on Agasthyamala, ca. 700 m, 13 Jan 2012, *S.M. Shareef 70627* (TBGT); Merchiston, ca. 650 m, 7 Jun 2012, *S.M. Shareef 76142* (TBGT).

Flowering & Fruiting: February-June.

Distribution: Endemic to evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of southern Western Ghats of Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Idukki districts) and Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli District) between 660–1100 m.

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to the Director and the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for permitting reproduction of the type image of *Syzygium bourdillonii*. The author is also grateful to Dr. P.G. Latha, Director, JNTBGRI, Palode, for constant encouragement. Many thanks to the anonymous reviewer for clarification.

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Submitted: 29 May 2014, Accepted: 23 July 2014
Sectional Editor: James L. Reveal

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PLATE 6



Figure 1: Lectotype of *Syzygium bourdillonii* (K!, barcode no.: 000793900); © Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.