

**AN ENUMERATION OF COLLECTIONS OF *BAUHINIA* SUBGEN. *PHANERA*
(LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE) FROM BANGLADESH IN
CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM (CAL), INDIA**

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The fascicles of the Flora of Bangladesh with detailed taxonomic accounts of the angiospermic families are being published in series of numbers and the latest of them is by Khan and Khanam (2003).

In this paper the collections of *Bauhinia* subgen. *Phanera* from Bangladesh in Central National Herbarium (CAL), India have been enumerated with a view to draw the attention of the researchers engaged in the preparation of detailed taxonomic account of the subgenus in Bangladesh.

The enumeration is as follows:

1. ***Bauhinia nervosa*** (Wall. ex Benth.) Baker in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 283. 1878. *Phanera nervosa* Wall. ex Benth. in Miq., Pl. Jungh. 262. 1852.

Representative specimen: Mt. Sillhet, Wall. Cat. no. 5777, herb. acc. no. 137449.

Note: Wall. Cat. no. 5777 is the type of *P. nervosa*. The Wallichian specimens having no. 5777 are also in K, photo. – CAL! and K-W, photo. - CAL!

2. ***Bauhinia ornata*** Kurz var. ***kerrii*** (Gagnep.) K. Larsen & S. S. Larsen in Aubreville & Leroy (eds.), Fl. Cambodge, Laos & Vietnam 18: 208. 1980. *B. kerrii* Gagnep. in Lecomte, Not. Syst. 2: 173. 1912. *Phanera rufa* Benth. in Miq., Pl. Jungh. 263. 1852. *Bauhinia rufa* (Benth.) Baker in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 280. 1878, '*rufa* Grah.', non Steud. (1840).

Representative specimen: M. Sylhet, Wall. Cat. no. 5798, herb. acc. no. 137237.

Note: Wall. Cat. no. 5798 is the type of *P. rufa*. The Wallichian specimens having no. 5798 are also in K, photo. – CAL! and K-W, microf. - CAL!

3. ***Bauhinia scandens*** L., Sp. Pl. 374. 1753. *B. anguina* Roxb., Pl. Coromandel 3: 82, t. 285. 1820.

Representative specimens: Chittagong, J. D. Hooker & T. Thomson s. n., herb. acc. no. 137692; Chittagong, Bariadhala, 10.10.1905, D. Hooper 25919; Silhet, Wall. Cat. no. 5773a, herb. acc. no. 137701; Silhet, Wall. Cat. no. 5773A, herb. acc. no. 137702.

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Note: The collection of *D. Hooper* 25919 is with immature inflorescence and identified as *Bauhinia integrifolia* Roxb. on the herbarium label. In an additional strip of paper there is a note saying “Not recorded in Fl. Br. Ind for Chittagong-Burma area nor in the Calc Herbarium (Fl. Br. Ind p 279) Nos. 14-16. It is not *B. retusa* Ham which is ecirrhose, & is confined to the Western Himalayas. It is not *bidenta(ta)* which has leaves longer than broad”. The given identity is, however, not correct. Ms. S.S. Larsen (pers. comm. 1997), Aarhus University, Denmark has kindly identified it for me as *B. scandens*.

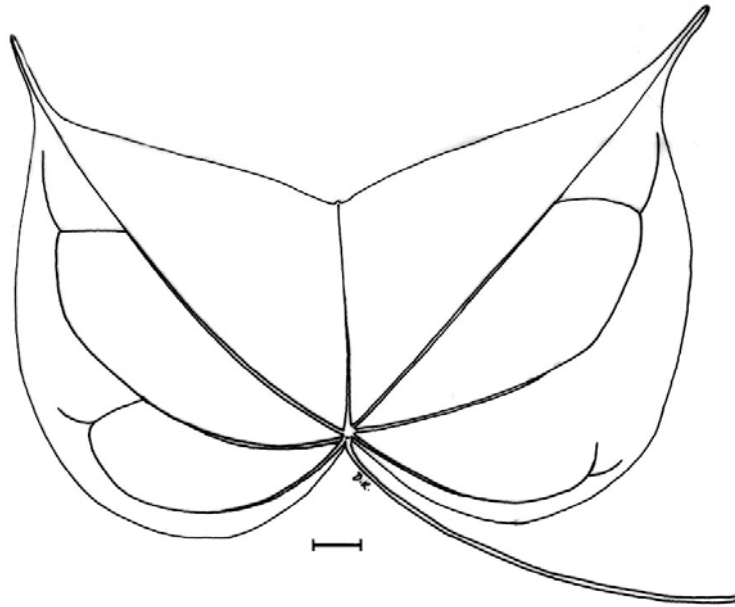


Fig. 1. *Bauhinia* sp.: A leaf from *J. L. Lister s.n.* with widely diverging lobes at apex. [Scale = 1 cm]

The sheet having *Wall. Cat. no. 5773a* has a flowering collection of *B. scandens* and three leaves of *B. roxburghiana* Voigt. The latter species, however, occurs in India, Nepal and Pakistan, but not in Bangladesh.

4. ***Bauhinia wallichii*** J. F. Macbr. in *Contrib. Gray Herb. Harvard University* (n.s.) 3(59): 23. 1919. *Phanera macrostachya* Benth. in *Miq., Pl. Jungh.* 262. 1852. *Bauhinia macrostachya* (Benth.) Benth. in *Benth. & Hook.f., Gen. Pl.* 1: 576. 1865, non Benth. (1840).

Representative specimens: *Wall. Cat. no. 5774a*, herb. acc. no. 137352; *Silhet, Wall. Cat. no. 5774A*, herb. acc. no. 137351.

Note: *Wall. Cat. no. 5774* is the type of *P. macrostachya*. The Wallichian specimens having no. 5774 (see Bandyopadhyay, 2001: 10) are also in K, photo. – CAL! and K-W, photo. - CAL!

Another specimen *S.K. Mukherjee 79* collected from Chittagong Hill Tracts in Feb. 1940 and labeled as *Bauhinia macrostachya* Wall. exists in CAL, but the identity of this sterile specimen could not be determined.

In addition to the afore-mentioned collections, two other collections (East Pakistan, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mynimukh forest, 25.12.1956, *M. S. Khan 244*; Chittagong Hill Tracts, Myani mukh, Feb. 1876, *J. L. Lister s.n.*, herb. acc. no. 137356) identified as *Bauhinia divergens* Baker / *Phanera divergens* (Baker) Thoth. are in CAL. This species, however, do not actually exist in nature. Larsen and Larsen (1979) has pointed out that the type (Birma, *Griffith 1895* - K, photo. - CAL!) of *B. divergens* Baker represents a mixed collection: “flowers and young pod from *Bauhinia variegata* L., while a sterile branch with leaves probably belongs to *B. scandens* L.”. Many such collections were examined with leaves having widely diverging lobes at apex, typically as in *J. L. Lister s.n.* (Fig.1), from Eastern and North-Eastern India and some adjacent countries in CAL having the names *B. divergens* / *P. divergens* but all of them were sterile. Mr. M. K. Pathak who is working on the flora of Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh, India informed (pers. comm. 2006) that during his field studies he had seen such type of leaves in some plants in two localities in Arunachal Pradesh, namely, in Kornu-Difunala and near the helipad in Roing. The plants were 3-4 m in length and were creeping on the forest floor or climbing up on the trees. Their stems were terete, about 5 mm in diameter but the plants were, however, without flowers or fruits. More field observations are necessary to see that to which species the leaves actually belong to.

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