A NEW NAME FOR HUPERZIA ARUNACHALENSIS (LYCOPODIACEAE) FROM INDIA

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Abstract: Type specimens of Urostachys vorwerkii were detected in CAL herbarium. These specimens clarified that Urostachys vorwerkii is actually a synonym of earlier name Huperzia ceylanica. Due to illegitimacy of the name Huperzia arunachalensis, a replacement name is proposed.

Key words: Huperzia arunachalensis, India, Isotypes, Lycopodiaceae, nomen novum, Urostachys vorwerkii.

1. Introduction


Mazumdar (2015) noticed the name Urostachys vorwerkii Nessel (synonym: Huperzia vorwerkii (Nessel) Holub). Nessel (1934) in the protologue mentioned that the holotype specimen of Urostachys vorwerkii was collected from Himalayan region of India by King’s Collectors. Due to resemblance of Nessel’s photo (t. 170) in the protologue and the type locality Himalayas, Mazumdar (2015, 2016) treated Huperzia arunachalensis as synonym of earlier name Urostachys vorwerkii and typified with a specimen of Huperzia arunachalensis from Eastern Himalayas.

During a recent visit to CAL herbarium, a herbarium sheet in CAL (India. Tamil Nadu: Parampare Swamp, Annamalai Hills, 7500 ft, 2 April 1912, C.E.C. Fischer 3317, Accession no. 29156) is reexamined. This sheet carries two specimens of Huperzia ceylanica (Spring) Trevis. in lower part. There was a specimen in upper part, but cut out and annotated as “sent to H. Nessel, 1929”. The other two specimens closely matched with Nessel’s photo of the protologue of Urostachys vorwerkii.

Thus holotype specimen that Nessel (1934) used to describe his new species Urostachys vorwerkii actually came from South India, not Himalayas as Nessel thought and wrote. This sheet clarifies that Urostachys vorwerkii is actually a synonym of Huperzia ceylanica.

Huperzia arunachalensis is a distinct species having close affinity with Huperzia herteriana (Kümm.) T.Sen & U.Sen. But Huperzia arunachalensis (D.D.Pant & P.S.Pandey) Fraser-Jenk. is an illegitimate later homonym of Huperzia arunachalensis Mazumdar & R.Mukhop. Thus a replacement name (nom. nov.) is proposed here after present second author for his contribution on taxonomy of Indian Lycopodiaceae.

1. Taxonomy

1.1. Huperzia mazumdariana Chandan Das, nom. nov.


1.3. Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura).


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3. References


