



Lectotypification of three names in *Gaultheria* L. (Ericaceae)

SUBHASIS PANDA¹ & JAMES L. REVEAL²

¹ Taxonomy & Biosystematics Laboratory, Post-Graduate Department of Botany, Darjeeling Government College, P.O. North Point, Darjeeling-734101, India. E-mail: bgc.panda@gmail.com

² L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Department of Plant Biology, 412 Mann Library Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853-4301, U.S.A.

Author for correspondence: James L. Reveal, jlr326@cornell.edu

Abstract

Lectotypification of *Gaultheria discolor* Nutt. ex Hook., *G. griffithiana* Wight and *G. semi-infera* (C.B. Clarke) Airy Shaw are provided along with images of selected lectotypes.

Key words: Ericaceae, *Gaultheria*, lectotypification

Introduction

The genus *Gaultheria* L. (Ericaceae), consisting of some 134 species (Mabberley 2008), is distributed across the world from Europe to eastern and southeastern Asia (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia), northern and southern America, and in southeastern Australia (including Tasmania) and New Zealand. In India, the genus is represented by 21 species (Panda 2008) where it is restricted to the Himalayas (mostly in the eastern Himalaya), northeastern India (excluding present-day Assam and Tripura), and the hilltops of southwestern Ghats. During post-revisionary study of Ericaceae in India for ‘Flora of India’ and UGC-sponsored projects, it was discovered that *Gaultheria discolor* Nutt. ex Hook., *G. griffithiana* Wight, and *G. semi-infera* (C.B. Clarke) Airy Shaw required lectotypification (cf. Art. 9.2, 9.9, 9.10 and 9.12; McNeill et al. 2006).

Taxonomic treatment

Gaultheria discolor Nutt. ex Hook. (1858: ad t. 5034).

Type—In cultivation, Nutgrove near Rainhill, Lancashire, England, 1856, *T. Nuttall* s.n. (lectotype: K-Hook.! [lower right corner plant, barcode no. K000442407], designated here). ≡ *Diplycosia discolor* C.B. Clarke (1882: 459). Fig. 1.

W. J. Hooker (*l.c.*) cited ‘Nuttall, Mss.’ in the protologue as this species was raised by Thomas Nuttall from the seeds collected by Thomas J. Booth in temperate Bhutan in the Himalaya region. The published image closely resembles one of three collections on a single sheet in William J. Hooker’s herbarium (now identified by the barcode no. K000442407), namely the specimen in the lower corner of the sheet which represents a sample of the plant grown by Nuttall. The remaining two collections on K000442407 are Booth specimens and as such represent syntypes.

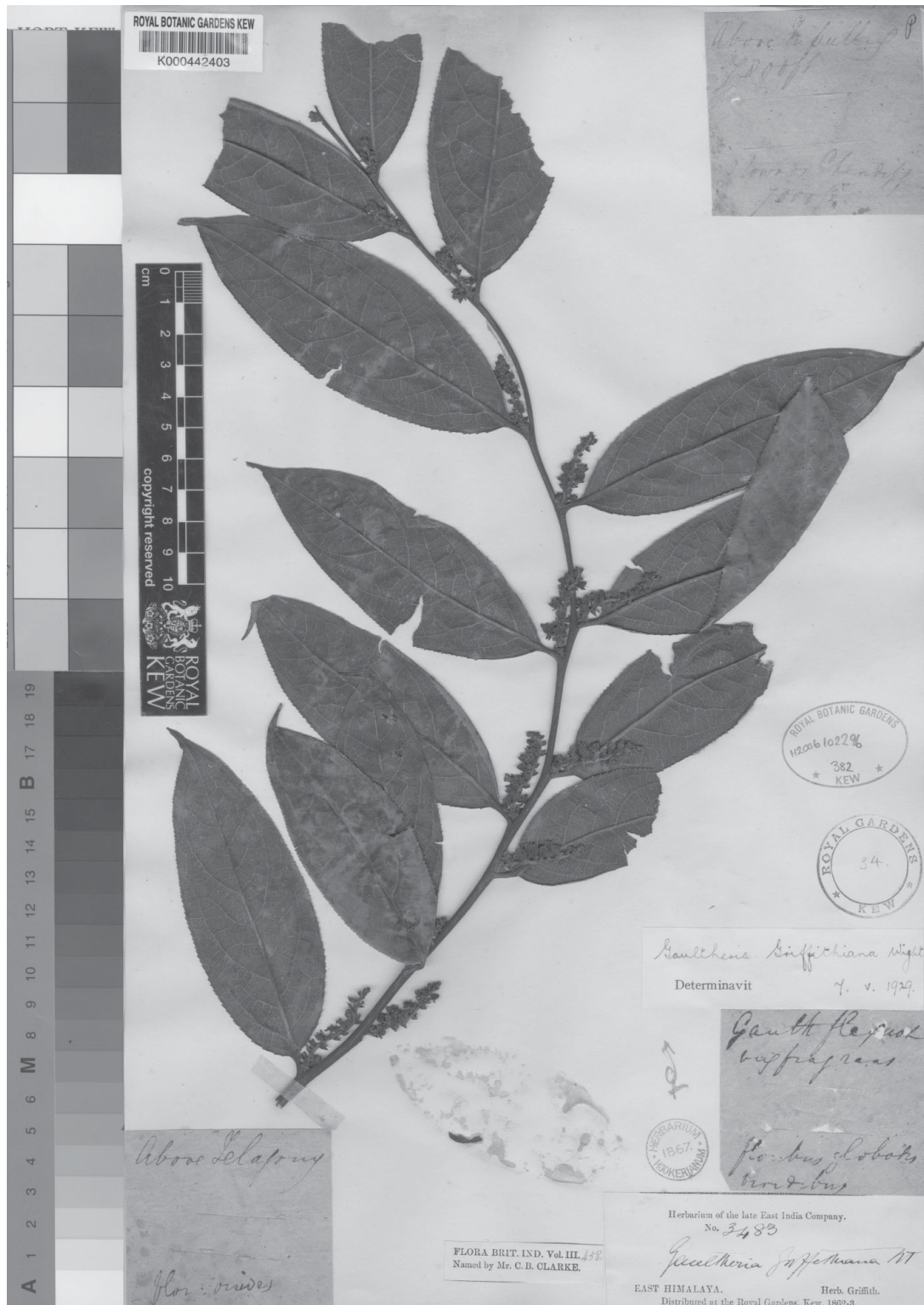


***Gaultheria griffithiana* Wight (1847: 176).**

Type—Bhutan, 7000–7800 ft, sin. dat., *W. Griffith s.n.*, Kew distrib. no. 3483 (lectotype: K-Hook.!, barcode no. K000442403, designated here). Fig. 2.

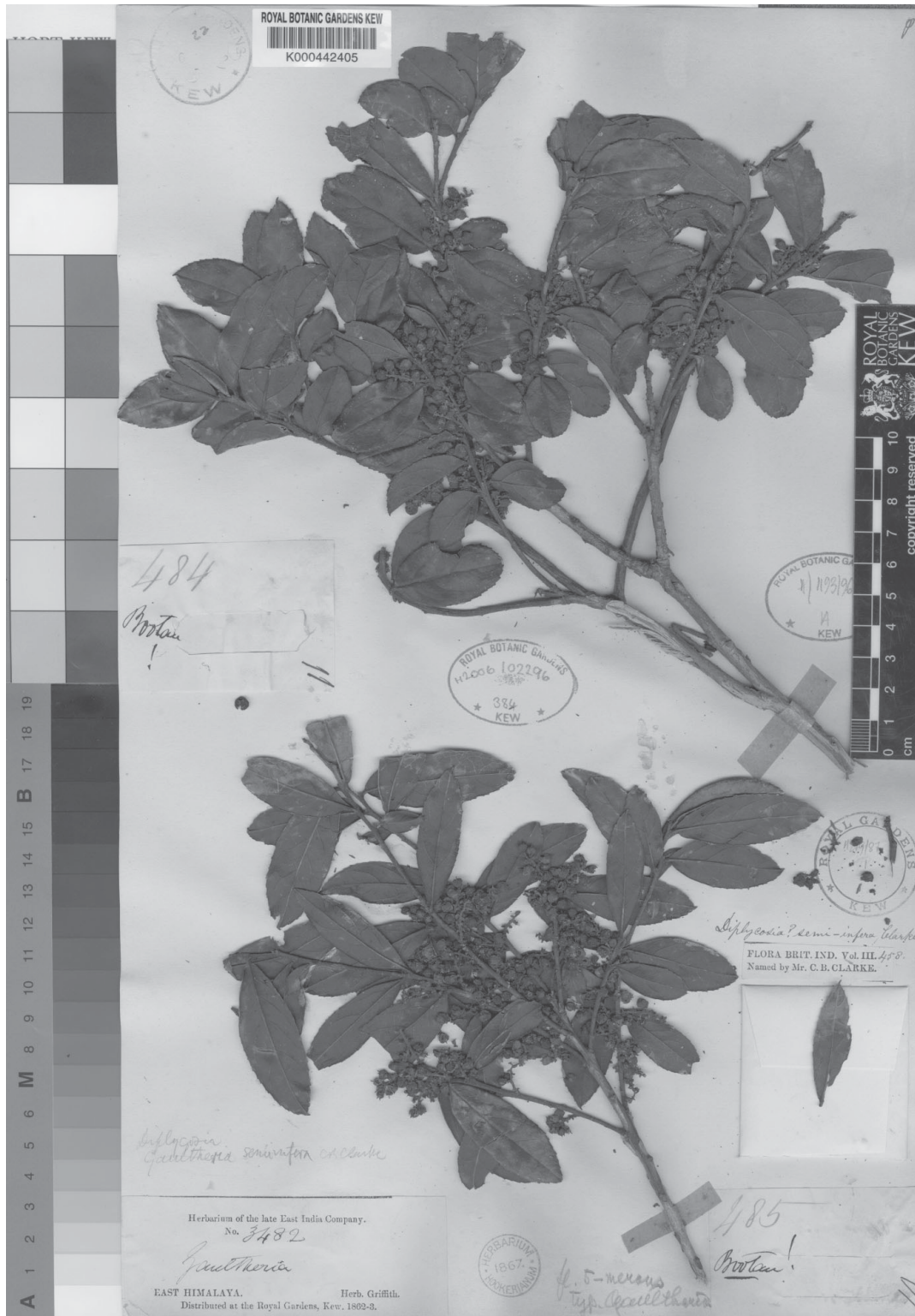
When Wight (*l.c.*) described *G. griffithiana* he mentioned only ‘Bootan, Griffith’ in the protologue. There are two sheets in the Hooker herbarium at K (nos. K000442402 and K000442403) that bear these two words and

both appear to be original material. The lectotype designated above, however, matches more closely the protologue description and therefore is selected as lectotype.



***Diplycosia semi-infera* C.B. Clarke (1882: 459).**

Type—Bhutan ('Bootan'), 7000–9000 ft, sin. dat., *W. Griffith 485*, Kew distrib. no. 3482 (lectotype: K!, [the bottom specimen associated with no. 485, barcode no. K000442405], designated here). ≡ *Gaultheria semi-infera* (C.B. Clarke) Airy Shaw (1941: 306). Fig. 3.



Clarke (l.c.) questionably assigned this species to *Diplycosia* because he considered the fruit ('berry') to be unlike that of both *Gaultheria* and *Diplycosia*. Later, after a critical study, Airy Shaw (1941) assigned the species to *Gaultheria*. In the protologue, Clarke cited "Griff. Itin. Notes, 127, no. 484 & 485, Bhotan, alt. 7000-9000 ft and Griffith Kew Distribution no. 3482". The two plants bearing numbers 484 & 485 are mounted on a single sheet in the Hooker herbarium at K (barcode no. K000442405). The bottom one, bearing a slip with the number 485, is designated here as the lectotype as it matches most closely the description

provided in the protologue. The Griffith specimen with the above label data at GH lacks a collection number and therefore its nomenclatural status is uncertain. No original material is available at CAL.

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