



Lectotypification of *Jatropha nana* (Euphorbiaceae) with notes on its threats, and the status of *Jatropha nana* var. *benghalensis*

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Abstract

Jatropha nana is an endemic and threatened taxon with restricted distribution. A lectotype for this name is designated in the present communication. *Jatropha nana* var. *benghalensis* was recently described as a new variety based on stipule morphology and size of the root. On examining specimens from the type locality, these characters were found to be present but also variable. Hence, *J. nana* var. *benghalensis* is proposed now as a synonym of *J. nana*. A critical taxonomic treatment for this species is provided along with notes on anthropogenic threats to the species in and around the type locality.

Introduction

The genus *Jatropha* Linnaeus (1753: 1006) (Euphorbiaceae) shows a pantropical distribution (Sabandar *et al.* 2013) and is represented by 11 species and 7 varieties in India (Balakrishnan *et al.* 2012, Rahaman & Mondal 2012). The species *Jatropha nana* Dalzell (in Dalzell & Gibson 1861: 229) is an endemic and threatened taxon that shows a restricted distribution in western Maharashtra and probably in western Madhya Pradesh states (Mishra & Singh 2001, Balakrishnan *et al.* 2012, Nayar *et al.* 2014).

For his *Jatropha nana*, Dalzell did not cite any specimens within the protologue. He mentioned the locality as 'Rare, in waste, stony places near Poona'. The types of Dalzell's new taxa are known to be at K, with duplicates at CAL, DD, W and drawings at BM.

Correspondence with DD, W and BM herbaria revealed that they do not have any original material for this species. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh has one watercolour painting [which is also published in Noltie (2002)] that has this species name written in Dalzell's hand but lacking other information. The protologue, however, does not indicate if any illustration was used, hence the painting being part of the original material is doubtful.

The K Herbarium has one specimen [barcode K000246805 (photo!)] with the label showing 'BOMBAY Herbarium of the late N. A. Dalzell, Presented by Mrs. Dalzell, April 1878', but lacks locality information. In contrast, the CAL Herbarium has two specimens [barcodes CAL0000026112 (photo!), CAL0000026113 (photo!)], each with a label showing 'Herb. of N. Dalzell Bombay; purchased 1878'. Furthermore, CAL0000026112 shows the location as 'Hills south of Peth' while CAL0000026113 has no location. It is noted here that "Peth" refers to the locality Navi Peth near Pune city. Although all the three specimens (K & CAL) correspond well with the protologue, only the CAL0000026112 specimen sheet has the locality datum, and it is therefore designated here as the lectotype of the name *J. nana*.

Taxonomic status of *Jatropha nana* var. *benghalensis*

Jatropha nana var. *benghalensis* was recently described as a distinct variety on the basis of stipule morphology and size of the root (Rahaman & Mondal 2012). Even though the protologue of the type variety mentions 'stipules minute', field examination of several specimens from the type locality (Pune) reveals that the stipules in *J. nana* are variable. Stipules were more prominent in early pheno-phases with 1 to 3 processes each (of 1.0–10 mm length). When the