

Norbu SHERPA^{a,*}, Rajib GOGOI^a and Lhamu SHERPA^b: **Recollection of *Hypericum benghalense* (*Hypericaceae*) from East Sikkim**

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Summary: *Hypericum benghalense* S.N.Biswas (*Hypericaceae*) was recollected after a gap of 60 years in two localities of East Sikkim, India. A key to allied species and photographic illustrations are provided for its easy identification.

Hypericum L. is a large genus in *Hypericaceae*, consisting of 488 species (Robson 2012). This genus is distributed worldwide except in the dry-hot tropics and extremely cold habitats, with most species occurring in the temperate regions (Robson 2003). In India, *Hypericum* is represented by 25 indigenous species, mainly distributed in the Himalayas (Biswas 1993).

During a field exploration to East Sikkim, NE India, in 2019, one of the authors (NS) collected an unfamiliar *Hypericum* species. After checking literature, along with examination of herbarium specimens kept in BSHC, CAL, G, K, and L, this species has been proved to be *H. benghalense* S.N.Biswas. *Hypericum benghalense* was described based on a specimen collected in 1959 (Biswas 1989), and there has been no other collection until the present collection. Therefore, our collections are recollection of *H. benghalense* after a gap of 60 years.

Hypericum benghalense S.N.Biswas in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 29: 53, f. 1 (1989); in Sharma & Sanjappa (eds.), Fl. India 3: 52, f. 17 (1993); in Fl. West Bengal 1: 262, f. 39 (1997); Mukherjee & Chaudhari in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 20: 124 (1996); Robson in Phytotaxa 72:

9 (2012); Ghosh & Mallick in Fl. Darjeeling Himal & Foothills (Angiosperms): 282 (2014).

Type: INDIA. West Bengal. Kalimpong, 3500 ft., 2 June 1959, S.K.Mukerjee 5094 (CAL0000005756–holotype, image!).

[Fig. 1A]

Dense clump-forming shrub, up to 2 m tall, much branched; branches arching, 2–4-ribbed when young, terete when mature (with rudimentary ribs along the internodes from leaf bases). Leaves opposite, stipulate, subsessile (lower ones shortly petiolate), petiole 1–2 mm long, lamina ovate to elliptic-lanceolate, 1.5–5 cm long, 0.5–2.5 cm broad, apex acute with short apiculus, margins entire, base subattenuate, venation brochidodromous, veins prominently raised beneath, punctate, glabrous on both surfaces. Flowers terminal, in 2–7-flowered cyme, rarely solitary, 2–6 cm across, showy; bracts persistent, linear lanceolate, 0.6–1.5 cm long, 0.2–0.5 cm broad, apex narrowly acute, margins entire, midvein prominent, glabrous on both sides, green with reddish base; pedicel 0.7–1 cm long, glabrous; sepals 5, elliptic to elliptic oblong, 0.6–0.9(–1) cm long, 0.4–0.6 cm broad, slightly unequal, apex acuminate, margins narrowly hyaline and inconspicuously dentate towards apex, midvein prominent, glabrous on both sides; petals 5, yellow, obovate, 1.5–3.2 cm long, 1–2 cm broad, apex obtuse with a notch, one side distinctly thicker, veins numerous, prominent and biforked submarginally. Stamens in 5 fascicles, 20–42 in each, unequal, 2–2.5 cm long, erect, filaments yellow, glabrous. Pistil

dichasial cyme, flowers stellate to cyathiform, erect or spreading free sepals which are persistent in fruit; deciduous petals; stamens unequal in 5 fascicles, deciduous with shortly fused filaments (Robson 1985). There are seven species of sect. *Ascyreia* known in the Sikkim Himalaya, and *H. benghalense* is distinguishable from other species in sect. *Ascyreia* by having an erect habit, styles longer than ovary, and sepals shorter than stamens with inconspicuous dentations on subapical margin.

Key to the species in *Hypericum* sect. *Ascyreia* in Sikkim-Darjeeling Himalayas

- 1a. Plants prostrate or decumbent; stamens up to 20 in each fascicle *H. reptans*
 1b. Plants erect; stamens 20–45 in each fascicle 2
 2a. Styles equaling or shorter than ovary 3
 2b. Styles longer than ovary 6
 3a. Branches flat (2–4-ribbed) at least when young 4
 3b. Branches terete 5
 4a. Mature flowering buds overtopped by sepals; flowers 3–5 cm across *H. choisyianum*
 4b. Mature flowering buds longer than sepals; flowers 1.5–3 cm across *H. uralum*
 5a. Flowers 2.5–3.5 cm across; bracts linear-lanceolate *H. gracilipes*
 5b. Flowers 3–6 cm across; bracts narrowly oblong to obovate *H. hookerianum*
 6a. Sepals longer than stamens, margins entire *H. dyeri*

- 6b. Sepals shorter than stamens, margins inconspicuously dentate towards apex
 *H. benghalense*

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N.Sherpa^a, R.Gogoi^a, L.Sherpa^b: シッキム東部にて再発見された *Hypericum benghalense* (オトギリソウ科)

インド北東部, シッキム東部の二ヶ所で, オトギリソウ科ビヨウヤナギ類の *Hypericum benghalense* S.N.Biswas が見出された。これはタイプ標本が採集されてから 60 年後の再発見となる。ここでは本種を図示するとともに近縁種との検索表を付した。

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