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**Summary:** *Brassaiopsis ficifolia* Dunn (*Araliaceae*) is a little known species recently collected by the authors from Seijosa, Pakke-Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh. We report its occurrence for the first time from India. A detailed taxonomic description along with phenology and distribution of this species is provided here to aid field identification.

The genus *Brassaiopsis* Decne. & Planch. (*Araliaceae*) is represented by ca. 45 species (POWO 2020), which are widespread from the Indian Subcontinent to China and west Java (Esser 2018). Clarke (1879) described 10 species in the *Flora of British India*. During floristic explorations in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the authors collected an interesting species of *Brassaiopsis* from the forest of Seijosa Circle in Pakke-Kessang district at an elevation of 450 m in 2018–2019, which was not described previously in the floristic literature of India. The authors have collected and identified it as *Brassaiopsis ficifolia* Dunn, which is new to India. Description with herbarium specimen (Fig. 1) to facilitate easy identification reprovided here. The herbarium sheets were deposited in Patanjali Research Foundation Herbarium (PRFH), Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India. A detailed taxonomic description along with ecological notes and distribution is been provided.

*Brassaiopsis ficifolia* Dunn in J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 35: 500 (1903); C.B.Shang (Q.Xiang) &

Lowry in Wu & al., Fl. China 13: 450 (2007). – *Euaraliopsis ficifolia* (Dunn) Hutch. ex G.Hoo & C.J.Tseng, Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 54: 21 (1978).

Large woody climber up to 10 m tall with scattered prickles on branches. Leaves simple, variable, 3-lobed, divided 1/2–3/4 to base, 15–35 × 15–28 cm, papery; lobes ovate, base narrow, glabrous above, sparsely stellate pubescent below, apex acuminate, base deeply cordate, margin serrate, teeth blunt, triangular, 4–11 mm apart; petiole up to 15 cm long, unarmed or with few prickles. Flowering and fruiting not seen.

Ecological note: Rare, found in mixed forest.

Distribution: South-Central China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and now from India (Seijosa, Pakke-Kessang district, Arunachal Pradesh).

Specimen examined: **INDIA**. Arunachal Pradesh, Pakke-Kessang District, Seijosa, 450 m, 1 Oct. 2018, Acharya Balkrishna 2703 (PRFH).

Note: *Brassaiopsis ficifolia* Dunn is native to South-Central China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam. This plant resembles *B. palmata* (Roxb.) Kurz [now a synonym of *Brassaiopsis hainla* (Buch.-Ham.) Seem.] with leaf base broadly convex, margin sharply dentate, tooth apex acuminate while *B. ficifolia* has leaf base deeply cordate, margin weakly serrate, teeth triangular. After consulting relevant literature (Clarke 1879, Ghazanfar 1975, Grierson

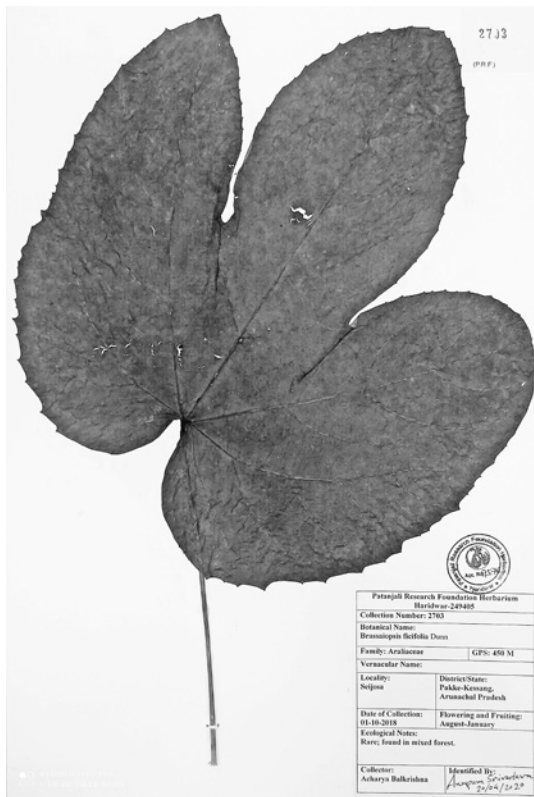


Fig. 1. Herbarium sheet of *Brassaiopsis ficifolia* Dunn from India (Arunachal Pradesh, Pakke-Kessang District, Seijosa, Acharya Balkrishna 2703, PRFH).

1991, Xiang and Lowry 2007) and critically reviewing this species from India, this is a new

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*Brassaiopsis* Decne. & Planch. 属はウコギ科の低木で45種ほどあり、主にインド亜大陸から中国、西ジャバにかけて分布する。そのうち、インド新産の *B. ficifolia* Dunn をアルナチャル・プラデシュ州 Pakke-Kessang district か

distributional record for India and its habitat needs special attention for its conservation in this region.

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ら初めて報告した。本種は大型の木性つる植物である。

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