



Short Communication

OCCURRENCE OF *TERMINALIA MUELLERI* BENTH. (COMBRETACEAE) IN WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH.

Lalita Saini, Archasvi Tyagi and Vijai Malik*

Department of Botany, CCS University, Meerut 250-004, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Abstract

Terminalia muelleri, an Australian Combretaceous species is reported for the first time from CCS University Meerut and Behat, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. A brief description and coloured illustration of the species are provided here for easy identification.

Key words: *Terminalia muelleri*, Saharanpur, CCS University Meerut, Western Uttar Pradesh.

Introduction

Terminalia is one of the largest genera of family Combretaceae that include 200 species (Pedley, 1990; Christenhusz *et al.*, 2017) which are distributed the tropics and subtropics. In India the genus *Terminalia* is represented by 14 species (Gangopadhyay & Chakrabarty, 1997). While inventorying the dendroids of Western Uttar Pradesh authors collected an interesting Combretaceous plant from CCS University, Meerut and Behat, district Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. On critical examination with the help of relevant literature legal deeds (Gaikwad *et al.*, 2014; Raman & Khan, 2011; Pedley, 1990; Gangopadhyay & Chakrabarty, 1997), and matching with specimen available on online and kept at DD, it has been identified as *Terminalia muelleri*. It is an Australian plant which is commonly known as Australian Almond. A brief description and coloured illustration of the species are provided here for easy identification.

Description:

Terminalia muelleri Benth. Fl. Austral. 2:500 1864. *Myrobalanus muelleri* (Benth.) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 1: 237 1891. *T. microcarpa* auct. non Decne.: F.Mueller, Fragm. 3: 92 1862

*Author for correspondence : E-mail : vijai.malik@rediffmail.com
gathwalajai@gmail.com

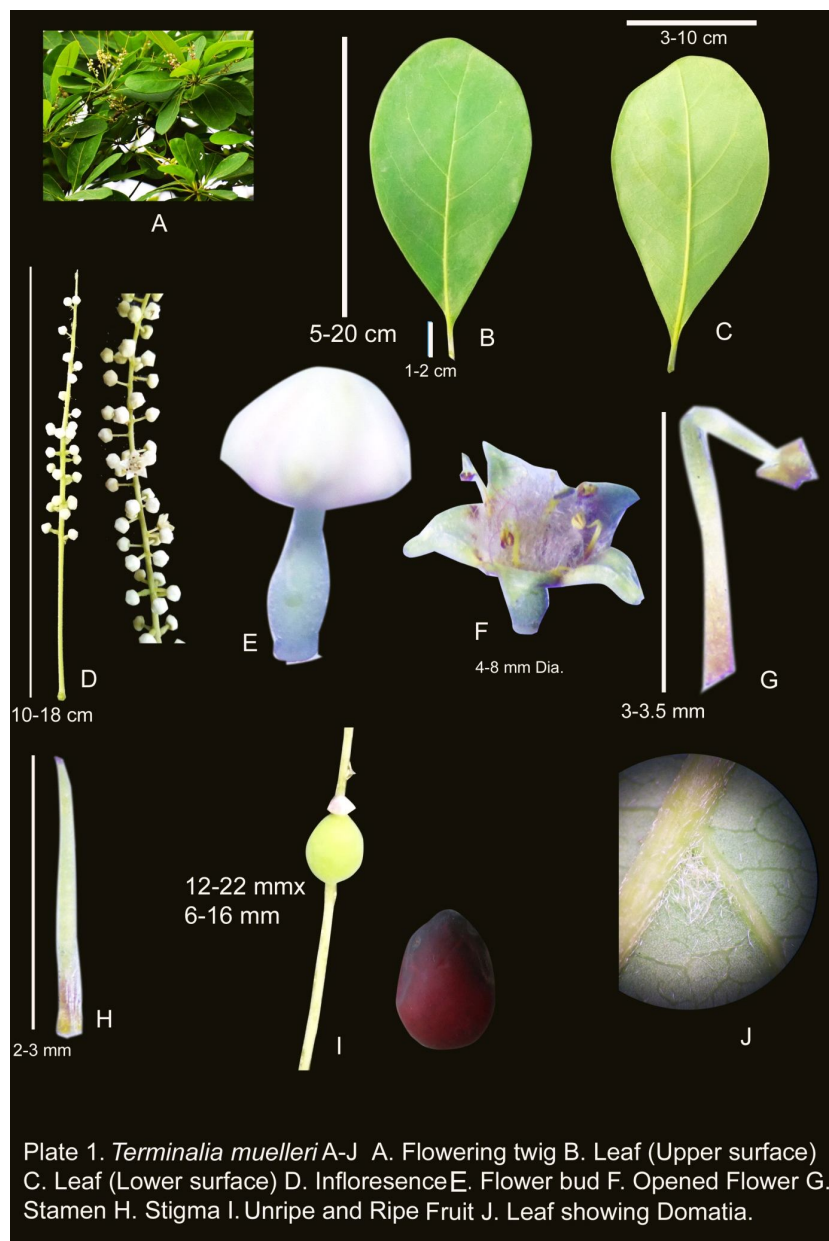
Common name- Mullers *Terminalia*, Australian Almond, Jam fruit, etc.

A small deciduous tree up to 6-10 meter tall with a dark grey bark; branches crowded. Leaf obtuse to obovate, base attenuate, apex rounded, blades 5-20 to 3-10 cm, hairy veins prominent upper surface then lower surface, Domatia or tufts of hair present on the abaxial surface of leaf at the base of secondary veins are arise covered small foveoles, these are inhabited by mites; petiole 1-2 cm. Inflorescence axillary spike 10-18 cm, spike longer than leaves. Flower numerous, stalked, greenish white, about 4-8 mm in diameter. Calyx: 5 Sepals, whites, about 2×2 mm internally pubescent. Petals absent. Androecium: 10 stamens longer than the calyx, filament 3-3.5 mm long. Gynoecium: Style glabrous, linear, expanded at the base. Fruit: Ellipsoid or ovoid sometime compressed, shortly beaked, purplish black, 12-22 × 6-16 mm in. diameter, Seeds: 6-10 × 2-2.5 mm in diameter (Plate-1).

Flowering and Fruiting- May-July

Characteristic features: Leaves attenuate at base, smooth both surfaces. Fruit purplish to black, and glabrous.

Distribution: It is endemic to Queensland. It is found from Rockhampton to Cape York Peninsula and from North East Queensland and southwards to coastal central



Queensland. It also extends along western side of Cape York Peninsula.

Voucher Specimen: India: Uttar Pradesh: Behat, district Saharanpur (N 30 17' 14"; E 77 61' 64"), and CCS University Campus, Meerut (N 28 96' 91"; E 77 74' 05"), 10.04.2019, Saini, Malik & Tyagi Acc. No.172711 (DD).

Specimens examined: India: Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, NBRI, 124701 (DD). USA, Florida. Broward Co.: Tivoli Sand Pines Preserve: 17.iii.1999, Acc. No. 225500 (online). Australia, Cape York, Mac Gillivray J. 10/1848 (Specimen: K000786542 Online).

Author's Contribution: LS, AT and VM collected and prepared herbarium specimen. LS prepared illustration and described this species. VM edited and prepared this manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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