

***Aralia kingdon-wardii* J. Wen, Lowry & Esser, a new name for an Asian Araliaceae**

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ABSTRACT

Gamblea longipes Merrill and *Pentapanax trifoliatum* K.-M. Feng are the same taxon, and are properly placed in *Aralia* L. sect. *Pentapanax* (Seem.) J. Wen. Because the name *Aralia longipes* is already occupied, a nomen novum, *Aralia kingdon-wardii*, is proposed. The taxon occurs in Bhutan, NE India, N Myanmar (Burma) and western China (Xizang and Yunnan), and appears to be most closely related to *A. fragrans* (D. Don) Jebb & J. Wen.

KEW WORDS

Araliaceae,
Aralia,
Aralia sect. *Pentapanax*,
Gamblea.

RÉSUMÉ

Aralia kingdon-wardii J. Wen, Lowry & Esser : un nouveau nom pour une Araliaceae asiatique.

Gamblea longipes Merrill et *Pentapanax trifoliatum* K.-M. Feng sont le même taxon qui est correctement placé dans *Aralia* L. sect. *Pentapanax* (Seem.) J. Wen. Le nom *Aralia longipes* étant déjà occupé, un nomen novum, *Aralia kingdon-wardii*, est proposé. Le taxon se trouve à Bhutan, NE Inde, N Myanmar (Burma) et en Chine occidentale (Xizang et Yunnan) et paraît étroitement apparenté à *A. fragrans* (D. Don) Jebb & J. Wen.

MOTS CLÉS

Araliaceae,
Aralia,
Aralia sect. *Pentapanax*,
Gamblea.

Gamblea longipes Merrill was described based on a collection made by KINGDON-WARD in northern Myanmar (formerly Burma) during the 1938-39 Vernay-Cutting expedition (MERRILL 1941). While the type specimen has ciliate leaflet margins similar to those found in *Gamblea ciliata* C.B. Clarke and some other members of the genus (as noted by MERRILL 1941), it differs in having articulated pedicels and leaflets with distinct petiolules, which prompted SHANG et al. (2000) to exclude MERRILL's taxon from *Gamblea*. Recent examination of the type material suggests that *G. longipes* is in fact a member of *Aralia* L. sect. *Pentapanax* (Seem.) J. Wen (= *Pentapanax* Seem.; cf. WEN 1993), within which it appears to be most closely related to the widespread *Aralia fragrans* (D. Don) Jebb & J. Wen (cf. JEBB & WEN 2001). FENG (1979), studying material from China, correctly recognized the close affinity of this taxon to members of the *Pentapanax* group, and described it as *P. trifoliatus* K.-M. Feng. Study of collections in several herbaria, including the type material of *P. trifoliatus*, clearly shows that they belong to the same taxon described earlier by MERRILL as *G. longipes*. However, the combination *Aralia longipes* Truff. was validly published over a century ago (TRUFFAUT 1891), necessitating the following new name, which we have chosen in honor of F. KINGDON-WARD, who collected the type material.

***Aralia kingdon-wardii* J. Wen, Lowry & Esser, nom. nov.**

Gamblea longipes Merrill, Brittonia 4: 128 (1941), non *Aralia longipes* Truff., Rev. Hort. 1891: 224 (1891). — Type: *Kingdon-Ward (Vernay-Cutting Expedition) 179*, Myanmar, forest, in shady gullies, Ngawchang valley, north of Htawgaw, 1370 m, 30 Dec. 1938, fl. (lecto-, NY! (here designated); isolecto-, A!).

Pentapanax trifoliatus K.-M. Feng, Fl. Yunnanica 2: 506 (1979). — Type: *Feng 24264*, China, Yunnan, Gongshan, Dulongjiang, 1200 m, Nov. 1959, fl. (holo-, KUN!).

Shrubs, climbers or epiphytes. Branches with conspicuous elliptic lenticels. Leaves exstipulate, 15-22 cm long, 12-16 cm wide, with 3 leaflets, petioles glabrous, 6-18 cm long; leaflets charta-

ceous, ovate, 8.5-17 × 4-10 cm, apex acuminate, base rounded, margin ciliate, blade glabrous on both surfaces, lateral veins 8-10 per side, conspicuous above and below; petiolules glabrous, those of the two lower leaflets with an inconspicuous articulation below the leaflet blade, 1-4 cm long, those of terminal leaflets inarticulate, 2.5-8 cm long. Inflorescences terminal at the branch apex, glabrous, main axis 5-15 cm long, primary branches 11-12; scales of the reproductive buds caducous; primary branches 11-17 cm long, each with 8-12 paniculately arranged umbels; peduncles of each umbel 2.2-4 cm long. Umbels 25-35-flowered, pedicels articulated, glabrous, 10-20 mm long, bracteoles absent or caducous; sepals triangular, 0.25-0.3 mm long; petals ovate, 1.6-2 mm long; stamens 5, 2.2-3 mm long; ovary 5-locular, often enlarged at anthesis; base of the style not forming a conical stylopodium-like structure. Fruits globose, strongly ribbed when dry, 5-6 mm in diameter, with persistent styles 1.5-2 mm long, slightly divided at the tip. — Fig. 1.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED. — BHUTAN: *Grierson & Long 3683*, Sarbhang Dist., 6 km below Dara Chu, on Chirang road, 26°57'N, 90°12'E, 1810 m, shading cool broad-leaved forest, with *Castanopsis*, Lauraceae, etc., large woody climber, 12 Mar. 1982, y.fr. (A, 2 sheets). — CHINA: *Yunnan: Wen 5069*, Gongshan, Dulongjiang, Bapo, 1200 m, 6 Oct. 2000 (F). *Xizang: Li & Chen 02279*, Motuo Xian, Jialasha Dist., Gandaikangbuola Mtn., north side, evergreen forest, 2100 m, 20 Dec. 1982 (PE, 2 sheets); *Li & Chen 02948*, Motuo Xian, Beibeng Dist., Buqiong lakeside, on mountain slope, evergreen forest, 1500 m, 12 Mar. 1983, fl. (PE, 2 sheets); *Chen et al. 04798*, Beibeng Dist., Xigong lakeside, evergreen forests, 1650 m, 10 May 1983, fr. (PE, 2 sheets); *Chen et al. 04841*, same locality (PE, 2 sheets). — INDIA: *Arunachal Pradesh: Bor 19059*, Aka Hill, May 1933 (ASSAM, 2 sheets); *Duthie s.n.*, Mishmi Hills, 24 Mar. 1876 (CAL); *Kingdon-Ward 18459*, Mishmi Hills, Glo Lake, Kamlang valley, big scrambling epiphyte on a tree overhanging the lake, 1070 m, 28 Mar. 1949, fl., fr. (BM, NY); *Kingdon-Ward 18506*, same locality, 9 Apr. 1949, fr. (NY); *Pathak 3940*, Dibang Valley, edge of forest, 1300 m, May 2001 (CAL); *Sastry 41088*, Subansiri Dist., NEFA, Hapoli, Western Hills, edge of forest, 13 Apr. 1965 (ASSAM); *Sastry 45390*, Palin-Radang village, forests, 17 May 1966 (ASSAM). — MYANMAR: *Kachin State: Keenan, Tun Aung & Tha Hla 3931*, Sumprabum Sub-Division, between Hpuginhku and Ning W'Krok, banks of the Hpuginhku River, 1220 m, Mar. 1962 (A);

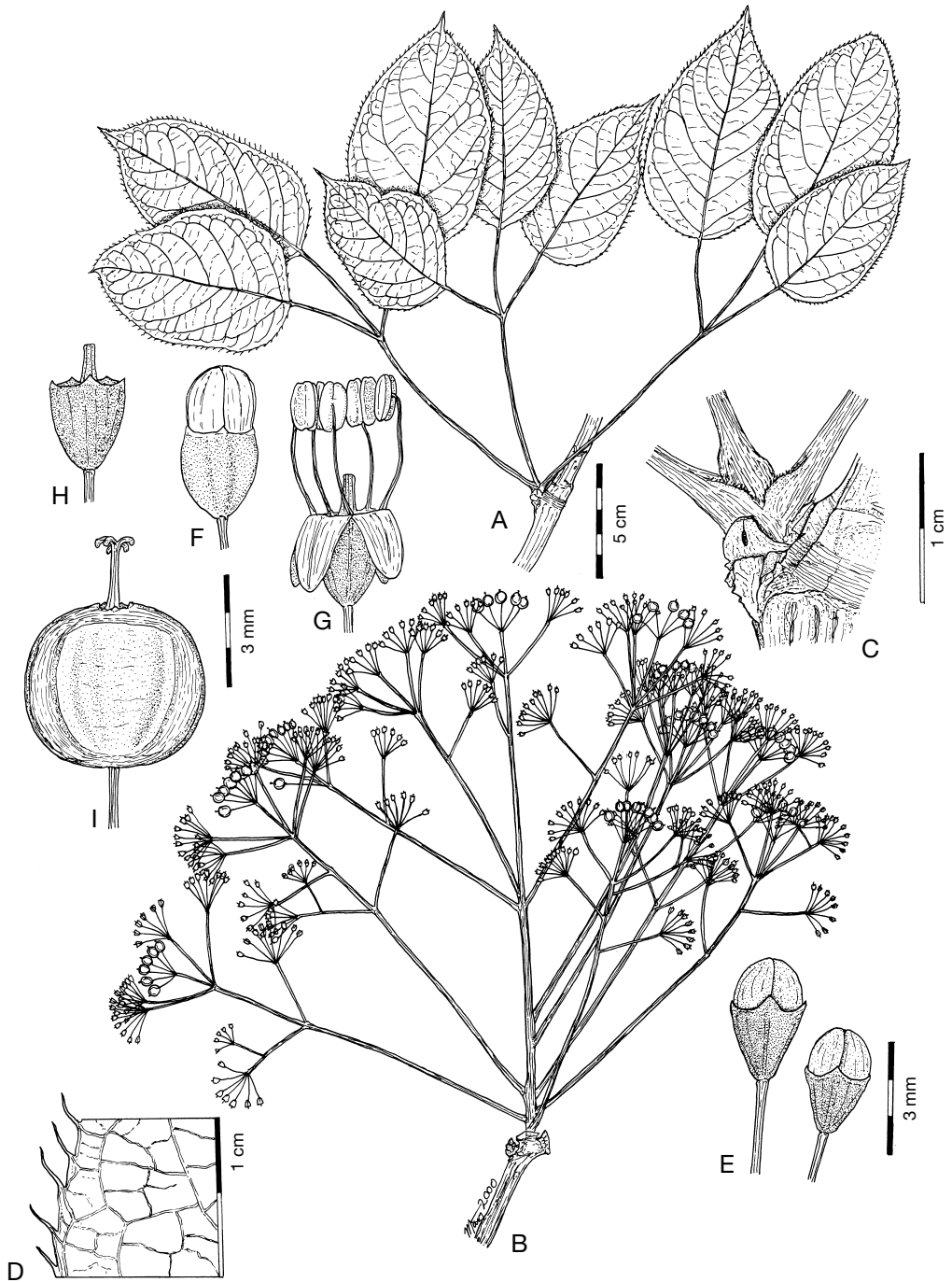


Fig. 1. — *Aralia kingdon-wardii* J. Wen, Lowry & Esser: **A**, branch with leaves; **B**, flowering branch; **C**, close-up of the base of petioles showing exstipulate leaves; **D**, ciliate leaflet margin; **E**, young floral buds; **F**, floral buds with enlarged ovary just before anthesis; **G**, open flower; **H**, flower after shedding of calyprate corolla; **I**, fruit with persistent styles.

Kingdon-Ward 9140, Nam Tamai Valley, epiphyte or on rocks lining river, 1000-1300 m, 14 Jan. 1931, fl. (A); *Kingdon-Ward 22092*, North Triangle, epiphytic, 1300 m, 31 Mar. 1953, fl. (A).

Aralia kingdon-wardii occurs in Bhutan, NE India, N Myanmar (Burma) and western China (Xizang and Yunnan). It blooms from December to March and fruits from March to May.

Aralia kingdon-wardii differs from its apparent close relative *A. fragrans* by the presence of a main inflorescence axis, racemously (vs. umbellately) arranged umbels on the primary inflorescence branches, and glabrous (vs. pilose) pedicels. Furthermore, *A. kingdon-wardii* has consistently trifoliate leaves whereas those of *A. fragrans* have 3-7 leaflets. FENG (1979) noted that his *Pentapanax trifoliatum* differs from *A. fragrans* by its ciliate leaflet margins and glabrous pedicels, but in fact the former feature occurs in both species.

Aralia kingdon-wardii may occasionally be autogamous. The material of *Li & Chen 02948* from Xizang Prov., China, has nearly mature buds apparently close to anthesis with enlarged ovaries, which suggest that the unopened flowers have been fertilized. It also appears that the petals of *A. kingdon-wardii* sometimes abscise as a calyptra (*Tun Aung & Tha Hla 3931*, A).

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