**Dioscorea kamoonenensis Kunth (Dioscoreaceae) — A New Report for Arunachal Pradesh**

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In course of our plant exploration in Dihang Dibang Biosphere Reserve during November 1999, we collected a species of *Dioscorea*, on the way to Brunii from Anini at an elevation of c. 1640 m. It was found to be *Dioscorea kamoonenensis* Kunth, hitherto not reported from Arunachal Pradesh.

A brief description of the specimen collected along with other relevant data is given here as follows:


Tubers cylindrical, c. 9 x 3 cm. bulbils globose, wrinkled, black. Stem hairy, left twining. Leaves alternate, petiolate, membranaceous, 3-5 foliolate, glabrous or sparsely hairy beneath, acuminate; middle leaflets c. 6 x 2 cm, ovate - elliptic; lateral leaflets oblique. Male spikes 3-7 cm long, 3-5 flowered; flowers c. 1.5 mm across, globose, bracteate, subsessile; bracts with creamy hairs; tepals 6, c. 1 x 0.75 mm, ovate, sparsely hairy; stamens 3; staminodes 3. Female spikes axillary, 8-16 cm long, in pairs, hairy, 8-22 flowered; flowers sessile, bracteate at young stage; tepals 6, c. 1.5 x 0.5 mm, in two whorls, densely golden hairy, ovate to lanceolate, acuminate; style short; stigma triforked, curved. Capsules c. 1.8 x 1.2 cm; seeds elongate-oblong, with wing on one side.

*Fl. & Fr.:* July-October.

*Specimens examined* : **India**: Arunachal Pradesh, Dibang Valley, July, 1999, M. Bhaumik & M.K. Pathak 2665 (CAL); Meghalaya, Khasia hills, Aug. 1885, G. Mann s.n. acc. no. 474306 (CAL); Shillong, 9th August, 1885, C.B. Clarke 38715A (CAL); Sikkim, Lachung valley, 16th September, 1892, Gammie 1238 (CAL). **Nepal**: Baricot, 17th August, 1952, O. Polunin & al., 472(CAL).

The plants were found to grow in few patches in shady and moist areas of the hill slopes away from human interference. The soil was noted to be sandy, mixed with gravel. The associated species were *Alnus nepalensis* D. Don, *Dioscorea belophylla* (Prain) Haines, *Ophiopogon* sp., *Pinus wallichiana* A.B. Jackson and *Spiraea callosa* Thunb.

*Distribution* : **India**: Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Sikkim,
Fig. 1: *Dioscorea kamoonensis* Kunth – A. part of a female plant; B. part of a female inflorescence; C. female flower; D. outer perianth; E. inner perianth; F. stigma; G. part of a male inflorescence; H. male flower; I. outer perianth; J. inner perianth; K. stamen; L. staminode.

Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh; Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Thailand.

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