

Correspondance

**NEW REPORT OF *LITSEA GLUTINOSA* (FAMILY LAURACEAE)
FROM RAJASTHAN, INDIA**

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Ranthambore Tiger Reserve confined to the south-eastern part of Rajasthan in Sawai Madhopur district. Confluence of Aravallis and Vindhya mountain ranges is present within the legal boundaries of the park. Biotic elements of both the mountain ranges are present in the Tiger Reserve. Though park is known for tigers and other faunal species but its flora is also an attraction for the scholars. Various aspects of the flora of Ranthambore have been studied by many workers like Bhardwaj (2008), Chaudhary, (1997 & 2000), Das (1987, 1997), Das and Singh (1995), Jain (1960), Parmar and Shrivastava (2004), Sharma (1983), Sharma and Singh (1998), Shetty and Singh (1987, 1991 & 1993) and Singh and Shrivastava (2007). Recently, an extensive and intensive study of the flora of the park is presented by Singh and Shrivastava (2007). They have reported 98 Families, 328 genera and 539 species from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Few opportunistic surveys were conducted by us in few pockets of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve during 2014 to 2016 to study the biodiversity of the park. During our monsoon survey in 2015, we encountered a patch of *Litsea glutinosa* trees on the way to main gate of Tiger Reserve to Ranthambore fort near a step well locally called mor-kund. The trees

were growing in the second storey of the forests. Trees bear glossy, large sized alternate leaves (c. 10-25x7-10 cm), which are thinly coriaceous and softly hairy on both surfaces initially. Leaves, later on become smooth and shiny towards their upper surfaces though do possess soft hairs on network of nerves. Petioles, inflorescence axes and branchlets are also softly hairy. Drying leaves placed between blotting papers become more leathery. Inflorescences are axillary in nature, may appear in the axil of every leaf, present upto tip of the branchlet. Flowers yellowish to greenish-yellow in heads of 8-12 flowers. Fruits spherical, shining and seated on a characteristic thickened green stalks, which are actually remains of the flower tubes. Fruits turn purple at the maturity and ultimately become blackish in color.

Trees observed in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve are present in shady and moist micro-habitat between road and a stream in the gorge of the Vindhyan hills. Since trees are present close to road hence no excavation should be allowed for maintenance of the road to ensure safety of the trees.

This species is confined to Central India, Himalayan tract, South India, Sri Lanka and throughout South-east Asia to China, extending across to North Australia (Almeida

2003, Krishen 2013). Singh & Shrivastava (2007) have given a detailed account of the flora of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, but *L. glutinosa* is missing in their flora. Presence of this species in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is its first report from Ranthambore as well as from Rajasthan state, hence it is worth placing on the records.

Acknowledgements :

Authors are thankful to Sh.Y.K. Sahu, Conservator of Forests; Sh. Sudarshan Sharma, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Sh. Mangal Singh Rathore, Assistant Conservator of Forests of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve for providing facilities during the course of present study.



A part of the Tree LITSEA GLUTINOSA

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