

Epitypification of *Cycas circinalis* var. *orixensis*, basionym of *Cycas orixensis* (Cycadaceae)

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INTRODUCTION

Cycas circinalis var. *orixensis* Haines was described by British botanist Henry Haselfoot Haines based on plants he observed in Mals of Puri, Orissa (Odisha), India (Haines 1924). Although no specimen collections were cited in the protologue and no type was indicated, there are two specimens assigned this name collected by Haines in 1917. One was collected in Mals of Puri (Haines 5876, K no. K000077087!) in June and another collected in Angul (Haines 5877, K no. K000077088!) in July.

De Laubenfels & Adema (1998) placed *Cycas circinalis* var. *orixensis* into synonymy with *Cycas sphaerica* Roxb. and designated as the lectotype for the name the specimen collected in Mals of Puri (Haines 5876, K no. K000077087!). This lectotypification was unnoticed by Lindstrom and Hill (2007) and Singh *et al.* (2015), as both listed the two specimens at Kew as syntypes. The former treated the name as a synonym of *C. sphaerica*, the latter recognized Haines's taxon as distinct and raised it to species rank by publishing the new combination *Cycas orixensis* (Haines) R. Singh & J.S. Khuraijam. Haines's collections of *C. circinalis* var. *orixensis* consist solely of megasporophylls, making identification of the taxon for precise application of the name difficult. Singh *et al.* (2015) attempted to resolve this situation by designating as the epitype a specimen (R. Singh and J.S. Khuraijam 67636 ♂, CAL) that includes vegetative material as well as microsporophylls which have distinct forked apical spines which are the primary diagnostic character for the taxon. Unfortunately, the epitypification was not effected because the type it supported was not explicitly cited (article 9.8, McNeill *et al.* 2012). We remedy this situation here by designating an epitype supporting the lectotype of *C. circinalis* var. *orixensis*.

Cycas orixensis (Haines) R. Singh & J.S. Khuraijam, in Singh *et al.* (2015)

Basionym: *Cycas circinalis* var. *orixensis* Haines (1924)

Type: INDIA. Odisha: Mals of Puri, Haines 5876, June 1917 (K000077087!) (lectotype, designated by De Laubenfels & Adema, 1998)

INDIA. Odisha: Angul District, Mar. 2010, R. Singh and J.S. Khuraijam 67636 ♂ (CAL) (Epitype, designated here)

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