

Typification of two names in the genera *Euonymus* L. and *Glyptopetalum* Thwaites and the correct taxonomic position of *Hippocratea angulata* Griff. (Celastraceae)

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Typification of two names in the genera *Euonymus* L. and *Glyptopetalum* Thwaites and the correct taxonomic position of *Hippocratea angulata* Griff. (Celastraceae)

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ABSTRACT

KEY WORDS
Celastraceae,
India,
Myanmar,
lectotypification.

Lectotypes are designated for two names, viz., *Euonymus wrayi* King and *Glyptopetalum grandiflorum* Beddome following the Madrid Code, based on a thorough consultation of the protologue, original material, and relevant literature. Additionally, notes on the correct taxonomic position of *Hippocratea angulata* Griff. are provided herein.

RÉSUMÉ

MOTS CLÉS
Celastraceae,
Inde,
Myanmar,
lectotypification.

Typification de deux noms dans les genres Euonymus L. et Glyptopetalum Thwaites et position taxonomique correcte de Hippocratea angulata Griff. (Celastraceae).
Des lectotypes sont désignés pour deux noms, à savoir *Euonymus wrayi* King et *Glyptopetalum grandiflorum* Beddome, conformément au Code de Madrid, sur la base d'un examen approfondi du protologue, du matériel original et de la littérature pertinente. En outre, des notes sur la position taxonomique correcte de *Hippocratea angulata* Griff. sont fournies ici.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Glyptopetalum* Thwaites, among the diminutive medium-sized genus belonging to the family Celastraceae, encompasses 34 species (POWO 2025 onwards), exhibiting a broad distribution across Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (POWO 2025 onwards). Within India, Ramamurthy (2000) documented five species: *G. calocarpum* (Kurz) Prain, *G. grandiflorum* Bedd., *G. griffithii* Prain, *G. lawsonii* Gamble and *G. zeylanicum* Thwaites. During the revisionary study of the family Celastraceae in India, it has been observed that both *G. grandiflorum* Bedd. and *Euonymus wrayi* King lacked typification, with particular ambiguity in the date of publication of protologue of *G. grandiflorum*. Consequently, lectotypification of these names has been undertaken in accordance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and the plants* (Turland *et al.* 2025). Whereas, Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay (1990: 129) proposed a new combination, *G. angulatum* (Griff.) Chakrab. & M. Gangop., based on *Hippocratea angulata* Griff., which requires evaluation in the context of the generic delimitation of *Glyptopetalum*, proposed by Thwaites (1856: 267) to ensure correct taxonomic placement.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

HERBARIUM ABBREVIATIONS (Thiers 2025)

BM	The Natural History Museum, London;
BR	Meise Botanic Garden, Meise;
CAL	Botanical Survey of India, Central National Herbarium;
E	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh;
K	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond;
L	Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden;
MH	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Campus at Coimbatore (Madras Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India);
NY	The New York Botanical Garden, New York;
P	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris;
SING	Singapore Herbarium, National Parks board, Singapore.

SYSTEMATICS

Family CELASTRACEAE R. Br.

Genus *Euonymus* L.

Euonymus wrayi King

Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Pt. 2, Natural History 65, 3: 344 (King 1896).

TYPE MATERIAL. — **Malaysia** • Perak, Gunong Batu Pateh; s.d.; 4500 ft; *L. Wray 403*; lectotype (**here designated**): CAL[CAL0000007333]! (Fig. 1); • **same data**; isoelectotypes: BM[BM000839132] digital image!, K[K000669643] digital image!

NOTES

King (1896) described *Euonymus wrayi* based on two distinct gatherings: *Wray 403* and *Ridley 2652*. According to Stafleu & Cowan (1979), King's primary set or types are preserved at CAL

and K. During our search for original material across various herbaria, we located a total of seven sheets that qualify as syntypes under Art. 9.6 (Turland *et al.* 2025). These include one sheet at K (K000669643), one at L (L0015179), one at SING (SING0056441), two at BM (BM000839108, BM000839132), and two at CAL (CAL0000007333, CAL0000007334). The sheets with barcodes BM000839132, CAL0000007333 and K000669643 correspond to *Wray 403*, collected from Gunong Batu Pateh, Perak, at an elevation of 4500 ft by L. Wray. In contrast, BM000839108, CAL0000007334 (Fig. 2), L0015179 and SING0056441 represent collection of *Ridley 2652*, gathered from Kota Glanggi, Pahang in 1891. In the protologue, King (1896) described the leaves as having “*main nerves less prominent*” and the flowers as pentamerous. However, the *Ridley 2652* collection deviates from this description, exhibiting tetramerous flowers and leaves with prominent midvein in the leaves. These discrepancies indicate that *Ridley 2652* represents a taxonomically distinct entity and is a heterogeneous mixture, as not conforming to the diagnostic characters of *E. wrayi*. Therefore, *Ridley 2652* (BM000839108, CAL0000007334, L0015179 and SING0056441) should be excluded while typifying *E. wrayi* King. Therefore, in accordance with Article 9.19(c) (Turland *et al.* 2025), only collection of *Wray* with field number 403 (BM000839132, CAL0000007333 and K000669643) is considered as the sole gathering eligible for lectotypification. However, Ding Hou (1962: 257), while describing *Glyptopetalum zeylanicum* var. *brevipedicellatum*, designated a sheet of the *Ridley 2652* collection at SING (SING0056441) as the holotype. Furthermore, Ding Hou (1962: 258), while describing the variety *brevipedicellatum*, noted in his comments that “King cited the type (*Ridley 2652*) under *Euonymus wrayi*, but his description of the 5-merous flowers of that species does not correspond to Ridley's specimen, which possesses 4-merous flowers.”

As the sheets bearing barcodes BM000839132, CAL0000007333 and K000669643 belong to *Wray 403* collection, herein represent syntypes available for lectotypification. Among these, CAL0000007333 is designated here as the lectotype in accordance with Art. 9.3, 9.11, and 9.12 (Turland *et al.* 2025) as it is found to be the most suitable specimen to stabilize the application of the name. This selection is supported by the presence of a pencil inscription on CAL0000007333 reading “*Euonymus sp 4; not at Kew in Euon...*”, which closely matches King's facsimiles. This inscription provides strong evidence that King consulted this sheet. Additionally, the sheet is well-preserved, displaying both flowers and fruits, further supporting its suitability as the lectotype.

Genus *Glyptopetalum* Thwaites

Glyptopetalum grandiflorum Bedd.

Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis 21, t.102. (Beddome 1870).

TYPE MATERIAL. — **India** • Kerala, Wynad (now Wayanad); I.1868; *R. H. Beddome s.n.*; lectotype (**here designated**): K[K000669666], digital image! (Fig. 3) • Kerala, Wynaad (now Wayanad); 1869; *R. H. Beddome s.n.*; residual syntype: MH[MH00186959].



FIG. 1. — Lectotype of *Euonymus wrayi* King (CAL0000007333). © Botanical Survey of India.



Fig. 2. — Isotype of *Glyptopetalum zeylanicum* var. *brevipedicellatum* Ding Hou [CAL0000007334]. © Botanical Survey of India.

NOTES

There appears to be some inconsistency in the publication date of the protologue for *G. grandiflorum* Bedd. For instance, the World Flora Online (WFO) cites it as “Icon. Pl. Ind. Or. 1: 21. 1871”, while Ramamurthy (2000) provides the citation as “Ic. Pl. Ind. Orient. 21. t. 102. 1874.” Similarly, Savinov (2014) cited it as “Icon. Pl. Ind. Or. 1: 21. 1871”, whereas Ramamurthy (2020) cited it as “Icon. Pl. Ind. Or. 21, f. 102. 1874”.

During our research, we noted that Beddome enlisted *G. grandiflorum* in two of his publications: *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis* [Beddome 1870] and *Flora Sylvatica Southern India (& Forest Manual Botany)* [Beddome 1871]. Stafleu & Cowan (1976) cited 1874 as the publication year for *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis*; however, this is incorrect, as the work was published in 15 parts, with the final part issued in 1874. Specifically, the name *G. grandiflorum* was published on page 21 and plate 102, which belong to the part 6 of *Icones Plantarum Indiae Orientalis*, and the actual publication date of part 6 was Nov. 1870 *vel ante* (Turner 2012).

In the protologue, as a type locality Beddome (1870) mentioned, “In the Wynad in moist woods at Devala, elevation 2 000–2 800 feet”. In our search for original material, we inquired at BM, CAL and K, where Beddome’s types are known to be preserved, as documented by Stafleu & Cowan (1976). We initially located four sheets of Beddome’s collections that can be considered as syntypes under Art. 9.6 (Turland *et al.* 2025), including one at K (K000669666) and three at MH (MH000001902, MH00001903 and MH00186959).

The sheet housed at K (K000669666) is likely a communicated specimen, as indicated by the herbarium label inscription: “com: Capt. Beddome; recv. 1/68” [Communicated by Captain R. H. Beddome, received in January 1868]. According to the field ticket, the specimen was collected from “Wynad (now Wayanad, Kerala)” at an elevation of 2000 ft, which matches the protologue details precisely. Since the specimen was communicated in 1868, it was undoubtedly collected prior to the publication of the name. This sheet was later studied by J. S. Gamble, who illustrated the cotyledons and single seed with an aril. The specimen is in excellent condition, moreover, the anonymous inscription, “*ovules solitaria...*”, strongly supports and aligns with the generic characteristics of the taxon.

MH houses a total of three sheets in its general herbarium and within the type collections. Among these, the sheet bearing the barcode MH00186959 is stored in the general herbarium of MH. This specimen was collected by R. H. Beddome from “Wynaad” (now Wayanad, Kerala) in 1869 and represents in flowering phenological stage. In the type section, two additional sheets labelled with barcodes MH000001902 and MH00001903 are present. Neither of these sheets includes a collection date nor the name of the collector. However, both are annotated with the location “Wynad (now Wayanad, Kerala) (2400 elevation)”, and the handwriting of these annotations closely matches that of Beddome, as observed in other herbarium sheets housed at MH. Despite this, the absence of a collection date disqualifies these sheets from being considered original.

The primary reason for not considering these two sheets (MH000001902 and MH00001903) as original material is that MH houses other collections, such as the sheet with barcode MH00186948, which was collected by Beddome from the Wayanad region in 1871, i.e., after the publication of the name. Given this, we, as authors, cannot confidently ascertain whether MH000001902 and MH00001903 were collected prior to 1870 or not, a critical factor in determining their status as original material.

Therefore, only the sheet with barcodes K000669666 and MH00186959 is considered here as original material for the name *G. grandiflorum* under Art. 9.4 (Turland *et al.* 2025).

After considering all the available syntypes, K000669666 (Fig. 3) is designated here as the lectotype of *G. grandiflorum* Bedd., according to Art. 9.3, 9.11, and 9.12 (Turland *et al.* 2025), as it is found to be the most suitable specimen to stabilize the application of the name and it helps to confirm its taxonomic identity. Dissected fruit parts and an illustration are also attached in this sheet. However, it is important to note that the material used by Gamble for these was not part of the original collection but derived from Wedderburn’s specimens collected at Devala, Wayanad. Accordingly, these should not be regarded as original material for the name *G. grandiflorum*. Alongside, MH00186959 is considered as the residual syntype for the name *G. grandiflorum* Bedd.

NOTES ON TAXONOMIC POSITION OF *HIPPOCRATEA ANGULATA* GRIFF.

Genus *Euonymus* L.

Euonymus griffithii Kurz

Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Pt. 2, Natural History 39 (2): 73 (Kurz 1870)

Hippocratea angulata Griff., *Notulae ad plantas asiaticas* 4: 473 (Griffith 1854a). — *Glyptopetalum angulatum* (Griff.) Chakrab. & M. Gangop., *Journal of Economic and Taxonomic Botany* 14: 129 (Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay 1990).

TYPE MATERIAL. — Myanmar • “Loonkaram”, Griffith [Kew Distrib. No. 1977]; [K000669604], upper two fragments; lectotype designated by Kumar *et al.* 2021, digital image!; cited original material: [icon] Griffith, *Icones plantarum asiaticarum* 4: t. 581; 1854 • Uncited original material: Myanmar, Near S. mines, Griffith [Kew Distrib. No. 1977]; [K000669603] digital image!

NOTES

Griffith (1854a, b) described *Hippocratea angulata* based on specimens collected from “Loonkaram Kha” and “Delvi Nempean”, and these locations are now in Myanmar. Griffith also cited an illustration published in *Icon. Pl. Asiat. vol. 4: plate 581*. Later, Kurz (1870: 73) recognized that Griffith’s taxonomic judgment was erroneous and determined that the correct placement of the species should have been within the genus *Euonymus*. Consequently, he transferred the species to *Euonymus* and provided a replacement name, *E. griffithii*, due to the prior existence of *E. angulatus* Wight

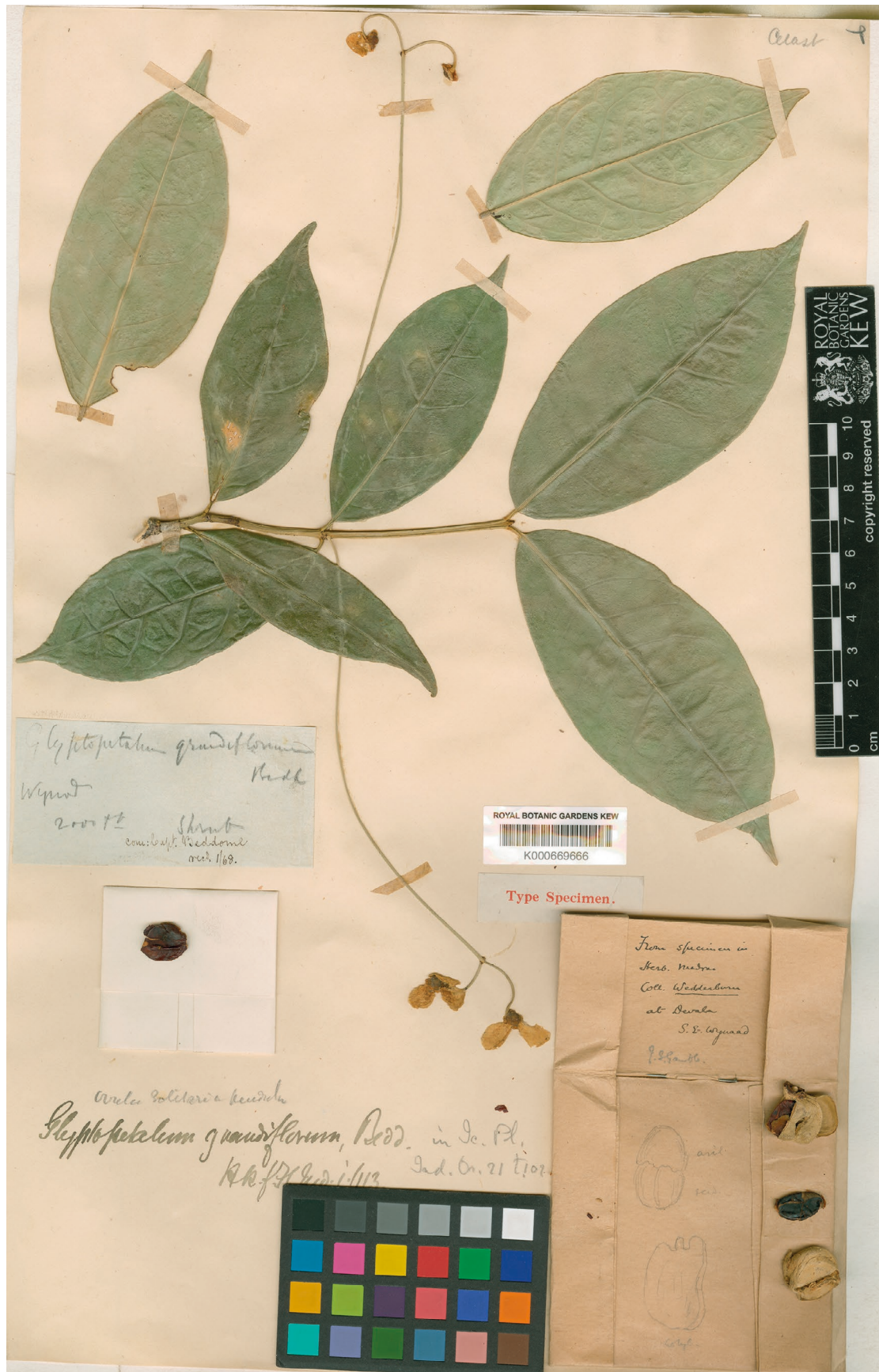


FIG. 3. — Lectotype of *Glyptopetalum grandiflorum* Bedd. (K000669666). © Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

(1846: t. 1053). This treatment was widely adopted in several taxonomic works, viz., M. A. Lawson in Hooker's *Fl. Brit. India* 1: 611. 1875; S. Kurz in *Forest Fl. Burma* 1: 249. 1877. A century later, Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay (1990: 129) published a new combination in the genus *Glyptopetalum* as *Glyptopetalum angulatum* (Griff.) Chakrab. & M. Gangop., based on *Hippocratea angulata* Griff. Thwaites (1856: 267) established *Glyptopetalum* as a novel genus within the family Celastraceae. In the protologue, Thwaites (1856) emphasized that *Glyptopetalum* is a distinctly defined genus and exhibits a close affinity with *Euonymus* L. Nevertheless, *Glyptopetalum* can be differentiated from the latter by its significantly larger anthers, ovary and glandular disc, as well as its key diagnostic feature: a single pendulous ovule in each locule. As delineated by Savinov (2014: 184), *Glyptopetalum* is distinguished from *Euonymus* by its 4-merous flowers (vs. 4 or 5-merous), single ovule per locule (vs. two or more per locule), 1-4-celled capsule with a persistent columella, and one large seed per locule covered by an incomplete aril and branched raphe. In contrast, *Euonymus* has 3 or 4-5-lobed capsules, no columella, two small seeds per locule, and seeds with complete or incomplete aril and unbranched raphe.

While consulting the original material, our attention was drawn to the illustration plates provided by Griffith. We have noticed that fig. II of the plate 581 (Griffith 1854b) shows a sectional view of the ovary. The figure distinctly depicts bilocular structure with one locule containing two ovules, a key diagnostic feature of *Euonymus*, while the other locule contains a single ovule, a trait occasionally observed in *Euonymus* (Ma 2001: 7). Figure IV of the plate 581, likely depicts a single pendulous ovule, which, although occasionally seen in *Euonymus*, is a diagnostic characteristic of *Glyptopetalum*. Notably, *Euonymus* is also known to exhibit apotropous and pendulous ovules (Blakelock 1951: 211; Simmons 2004: 45). Here, in case of fig. IV, the raphe is unbranched and, therefore, it again goes well with the character of genus *Euonymus* (see Savinov 2014: 184 [table]). Figure I depict the plant habit, inflorescence, and sepals. On closer observation, it is clear that the stamens are slightly recurved outwards and originate from the margin of the disc, a combination of traits frequently seen in various species of *Euonymus* but atypical for *Glyptopetalum*, where stamens are situated within the disc and never recurved. The plant specimen on the lectotypified sheet, in flowering phenology, exhibits filiform peduncles, a characteristic typical of *Euonymus*, whereas *Glyptopetalum* generally possesses stouter peduncles.

Upon consideration of the above-mentioned characters adopted from illustrated original material as well as the lectotype, it appears that *H. angulata* aligns more closely with the typical characteristics of the genus *Euonymus*. Therefore, we conclude that Kurz's (1870: 73) taxonomic judgment, which placed *H. angulata* under the genus *Euonymus*, was correct. In contrast, the taxonomic judgment of Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay (1990: 129) in placing *H. angulata* under the genus *Glyptopetalum* is not fully supported, as some characters do not precisely match the generic description provided by Thwaites (1856: 267). Consequently, the currently accepted

name for this taxon should be *Euonymus griffithii* Kurz, rather than *Glyptopetalum angulatum* (Griff.) Chakrab. & M. Gangop.

Kumar *et al.* (2021: 101), during lectotypification of *Hippocratea angulata*, erroneously cited a sheet from CAL (CAL0000007347) as uncited original material. However, this specimen belongs to a different species of *Euonymus*, specifically *Euonymus elmeri* Merr. Therefore, this material should no longer be considered as relevant or associated with the name *H. angulata*.

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