

Conservation News

Rediscovery of *Hymenidium amabile* (Apiaceae) in India after a century

The genus *Hymenidium* Lindl. (Apiaceae) comprises 39 species distributed from Central Asia to China and the Himalayas. In India, *Hymenidium* species are treated under the genus *Pleurospermum*, with 15 species occurring in the country (six other species are now considered under different genera).

In July 2024, authors AD and TH collected an interesting plant at 4,654 m altitude, c. 1 km from Lagong Tso lake near Klemta, Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh. The plant was growing on alpine grassy and rocky slopes, with 4–5 mature and a few immature individuals. We identified the plant as *Hymenidium amabile* (Craib & W.W. Sm.) Pimenov & Kljuykov, characterized by hollow stems, being aromatic when crushed, pinnately compound leaves with broadly winged petioles, white petiole wings with purple veins, a terminal solitary umbel (occasionally at the upper axils), white and purple veined bracts clasp the umbel, white bracteoles with dark purple midrib, dark purple petals, lanceolate to oblanceolate leaves, five dark purple stamens and a depressed stylopodium.








Pleurospermum amabile Craib & W.W. Sm., the basionym of *H. amabile*, was described from Chumbi Valley, Tibet, in 1912 and occurs in Bhutan, China and India. The plant has a restricted distribution and is used in traditional medicine in Bhutan and China. It was recorded in *Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) of India* (Mukherjee & Constance, 1993, Oxford & IBH Publishing, New Delhi, India) based on a specimen collected by botanist G.H. Cave in Sikkim, India, possibly between 1906 and 1910, which is deposited at the Central National Herbarium, Howrah, India (CAL). We searched Indian herbaria and found three more collections of this taxon, all from Arunachal Pradesh in 2012: two from Pavo to Psonga & Teetapuri, Upper Siang district at 3,700–4,500 m (collected by M.K. Pathak and Gopal Krishna; deposited at CAL) and a third from Trek junction to Renu II, West Siang district, at 4,000 m (collected by Manas Bhaumik; deposited at ARUN). The present and previous collections of this species from Arunachal Pradesh confirm the rediscovery of the species in India after a century.

Because of its restricted distribution, use in traditional medicine, and antimicrobial, antiparasitic and immuno-



Hymenidium amabile: (a) habit, (b–e) leaves, (f) inflorescence, (g) flower, (h) bract, (i) bracteoles, (j) stamens and (k) stylopodium.

modulatory properties, we will assess *H. amabile* for the IUCN Red List.

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