NOTES ON INDIGENOUS PINES OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

One new combination viz., *Pinus parva* (K.C. Sahni) R. C. Srivast. *comb. et stat. nova*.and one new species viz., *Pinus ravii* R C Srivast., *sp. nova* have been proposed.

Key Words: Extant, Gymnosperms, Conifers, Pines, Wild/Indigenous

INTRODUCTION

During the course of studies on Gymnopserms of India, the author came across some populations of *Pinus* in West Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. A perusal of the literature (Farjon, 2010; Hooker, 1880; Reveal, 2010; Maarten *et al.*, 2011; Sahni KC 1990; Srivastava, 2006) and the scrutiny of the specimens housed in Indian Herbaria revealed that this is not yet described. The same is being described and illustrated (Figs 1-4) as under:

Pinus ravii R C Srivastava sp. nova Photos 1-4



1: Population showing habit

2: Old trees with damaged trunk

Allied to *Pinus wallichiana* but differs significantly in the blaze, canopy, bole length and size of the needles.

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Research Article

Trees, more than 35 high; boles up to 30m long; blaze ash-grey. Needles 3-4 cm long Female cones up to 15 cm long; woody cone-scales broadly obovate, concave, with deciduous mucro at apices, shining brown and more compact on maturity.



3: Trunk showing bark 4: Female cones and the needles Plate 1: Pinus ravii R.C.Srivast., *sp. nova*

Distrib.: Yorlung(after Mechuka) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Holotype: India: Arunachal Pradesh, Yorlung; R C Srivast. S.n. dated 16.11.2008. (ARUN) Photos 1-4.

Notes: The canopy of the individual trees is totally different as compared to *P. wallchiana*. The species is critically endangered as it is top choice of wood mafia due to its very long boles and superior quality of timber. Several saw-machines may be seen along the river making planks of its boles.

Etymology: The specific epithet is in honour of my son Ravi Srivastava in view of the constant moral support during my remote postings.

Author's field observations revealed that *Pinus wallichiana* var *parva* K.C.Sahni recorded and described fromTawang district of Arunachal Pradesh (India) represents a totally distinct taxon and hence its status needs to be elevated as under:

Pinus parva (K.C. Sahni) R.C.Srivastava, *comb. nova, Pinus wallichiana* var. *parva* K.C. Sahni, Ind. J.Forest.12.(1):40-42. 1989. *Pinus wallichiana* subsp *parva* (K.C.Sahui), Silba, J. Int. Conf. Preserv. Soc. 16:36.2009.

Type: *R.M. Loganey* 6, dt. 4.1.1959 (Holotype DD)

Differs from var. *wallichiana* in having shorter (6-13 cm long) needles; smaller (*ca* 10 cm) cones; smaller wings (*ca* 10 mm long).

Distrib. : INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh (Tawang, West Kameng district); ca 3000 m.

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