**Sloanea sterculiaacea (Elaeocarpaceae): a New Generic Record for Odisha, India**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Sloanea sterculiaacea (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson* is first time reported from Similipal Biosphere Reserve, Odisha. Detailed description, photographs, phenology, habitat and distributional note have been provided for easy identification.

**KEYWORDS:**  
*Sloanea sterculiaacea*, Elaeocarpaceae, Generic record, Similipal.

**Introduction:**  
The family Elaeocarpaceae comprises 15 genera and about 500 species (Heyword, 2007). *Sloanea* L. is a genus that occurs in both the Old & New World and harbours 150 species (Mabberley, 2008). About 04 species are found in India, which are distributed in various type of vegetation. During botanical exploration in Similipal Biosphere Reserve, the authors collected few interesting specimens of *Sloanea* L. Based on critical examination & reference to relevant taxonomic literature (Hooker, 1874.; Haines, 1921-25.; Kanjilal et al., 1934.; Saxena & Brahmam, 1994 and Singh et al., 2001) it has been identified as *Sloanea sterculiaacea* (Benth.) Rehder & Wilson. The identity of the specimen has been confirmed by comparing with the specimens deposited at Central National Herbarium (CAL). The specimen has been preserved at Similipal Tiger Reserve Herbarium, Baripada, Odisha. This taxon is hitherto unknown to the flora of Odisha. So it is reported here as new generic record for Odisha state. Detailed description, photographs, phenology, habitat and distributional note have been provided for easy identification.

**Taxonomic treatment:**


Large evergreen trees, upto 25 m tall; branchlets sparsely tomentose. Leaves obovate or elliptic-oblong, 10-18 x 3-8 cm, subcordate at base, margins minutely serrulate, acute at apex, coriaceous, glabrous above, tomentose beneath, veins prominent beneath; petioles 2-5 cm long, puberulous. Flowers in solitary, axillary or few flowered fascicles, creamy white, 2-4 cm across; pedicles 2-4 cm long, pubescent. Sepals 4, ovate or oblong, 6-8 mm long, incisate. Petals 4, oblong or sub-oval, 6-8 mm long, variously cut at apex, pubescent. Stamens numerous ; filaments 2-4 mm long, puberulent; anthers 2-3 mm long, linear, shortly awned. Disc flattened. Ovary ovoid, tomentose, 4-loculed ; styles up to 6 mm long, pubescent at base, twisted at apex .Capsules globose to ovoid, 4-6 x 2-3 cm ; 4-5 valved, externally covered with straight, sharp, persistent spines, 1-2.5 cm long, valves up to 5 seeded. Seeds black, shiny.

**Flowering:** September  
**Fruiting:** December- May  
**Habitat:** Very Rare in moist deciduous forests above 860 m altitude.  
**Distribution:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India (Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal), Myanmar, Nepal.  
**Specimens examined:**  

**REFERENCE**