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## *Garcinia sibeswarii* (Clusiaceae), a new species from Assam, India

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### Abstract

*Garcinia sibeswarii*, a new species of *Garcinia* from the Dulang Reserve Forest, Assam, North East India is described and illustrated. The new species is allied to *Garcinia celebica*, but differs in having 4-celled ovary; entire, peltate, reddish stigma and seeds with fibrous aril.

**Key words:** *Garcinia*, *G. sibeswarii*, Assam, North East India

### Introduction

The genus *Garcinia* L. (1753: 443), second largest genus within the family Clusiaceae, comprises nearly 260 species (Mabberley, 1997). The centre of diversity of the genus is considered to be the Malesian region, with some species reaching India and the Micronesian Islands, and further extends to tropical Africa and the Neotropics (Jones, 1980; Nazre, 2006; Rogers & Sweeny, 2007; Stevens, 2007; Sharma *et al.*, 2013). Economically, the genus is important as a source of edible fruits, the much valued antiobesity phytochemical Hydroxy Citric Acid (HCA), kokum butter, oleoresins, essential oils and colouring materials (Anonymous 1950, Rameshkumar *et al.*, 2005). In India, the genus is represented by 44 species and 5 varieties, of which 38 species and all varieties occur in wild, while the rest are introduced into cultivation. Among these 15 species and 4 varieties are endemic to the country (Anderson 1874, Maheshwari 1964, Singh 1993, Srivastava 1994, Sabu *et al.*, 2013, Sarma *et al.*, 2016, Shameer *et al.*, 2017). North East India hosts 17 species, of which two species are endemic (Sarma *et al.*, 2016; Kanjilal *et al.*, 1934; Singh, 1993).

During a recent field expedition to the Dulang Reserve Forest of Lakhimpur District, Assam, India, specimens of a *Garcinia* with unusual features were collected. After detailed examination of literature and specimens housed at various herbaria (MH, TBGT, CAL, ASSAM and K), the accession was found to be different from all hitherto described species, showing unique morphological characters. Though the species was found similar to *G. celebica* L. (1754: 119) in overall morphological features (habit and branching pattern of the tree, size and shape of leaves, structure and position of both male and female inflorescence etc), on close scrutiny, it showed several unique morphological differences from *G. celebica* (Table. 1), hence is described here as new.