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Research Article

## A new combination in Sri Lankan *Hopea* (Dipterocarpaceae)

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**Abstract:** The Critically Endangered species *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. is transferred to the genus *Hopea* Roxb., following recent taxonomic treatments that recognize *Balanocarpus* as congeneric with *Hopea*. The new combination *Hopea kitulgallensis* (Kosterm.) R.Kr.Singh is formally proposed.

**Keywords:** *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis*, Critically Endangered, Endemic, Kitulgala, Sri Lanka

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### Introduction

The Asian genus *Hopea* Roxb. (Dipterocarpaceae) comprises about 115 species, distributed from southern China to tropical Asia (Singh, 2023; POWO, 2025). In Sri Lanka, the genus is represented by six species, namely *H. brevipetiolaris* (Thwaites ex Trimen) P.S.Ashton, *H. cordifolia* (Thwaites) Trimen, *H. discolor* Thwaites, *H. jucunda* Thwaites, *H. kitulgallensis* (Kosterm.) R.Kr.Singh and *H. modesta* (A.DC.) Kosterm. (Ashton, 1980; Kostermans, 1992; POWO, 2025). Except for *H. modesta*, all these species are endemic to Sri Lanka. The species *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. is here transferred to *Hopea*, following the current taxonomic treatment that supports the inclusion of *Balanocarpus* Bedd. within *Hopea* (Ashton, 1980, 2003; Singh, 2023). Accordingly, the new combination *H. kitulgallensis* (Kosterm.) R.Kr.Singh is proposed here.

### New combination

***Hopea kitulgallensis*** (Kosterm.) R.Kr.Singh, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm., Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., B, Adansonia Sér. 4, 3(2): 177. 1981.



Figure 1: Holotype of *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. (L0011509, © Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden)





Figure 2: Isotype of *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. (BR0000006991517, © Herbarium of National Botanic Garden of Belgium)





Figure 3: Isotype of *Balanocarpus kitulgallensis* Kosterm. (LE00015238, © Herbarium of the Komarov Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences)

Holotype: Sri Lanka, Sabaragamuwa province, Kegalle district, Kitulgala (Kitulgalle), across Kelani (Kelaniya) river, near flat rock bottomed tributary of Kelani river, 400 m, 4 May 1980, A.J.G.H.

*Kostermans 28385* (L0011509!, Figure 1); isotypes BISH1001273!, BR0000006991517! (Figure 2), LE00015238! (Figure 3).

Paratypes: Sri Lanka, Sabaragamuwa province, Kegalle district, Kitulgala, across Kelani river, opposite rest house, stony tributary, 150 m, 28 May 1980, *A.J.G.H. Kostermans 28485* (BR0000030449459!, L0375428!, P02428127!, PH00814784!).

Distribution: Endemic to Kegalle district, Sabaragamuwa province, Sri Lanka.

Notes: This species was recently assessed as Critically Endangered under criteria B1ab(iii) + 2ab(iii); D (<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2024-1.RLTS.T190901A220448020.en>).

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