

## (V)

**GREGARIOUS FLOWERING OF A HILL BAMBOO,  
SINARUNDINARIA MALING, IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

*Sinarundinaria maling* is a hill bamboo distributed in North Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal and Bhutan. It is usually found in cool temperate, upper hill forest, mountain slopes of various aspects especially on ridges at an altitude between 1,600-3,000 m in association with *Magnolia*, *Acer*, *Abies*, *Taxus*, *Betula*, *Rhododendron*, *Lithocarpus pachyphylla*, *Quercus lamellose* etc.

Gamble (1902) found two forms under *Arundinaria racemosa* Munro, one high level and other low level, which Brandis (1906) so strongly confirmed. Later Gamble (1912) segregated low-level form and named it *Arundinaria maling*. Which can be distinguished from *Arundinaria racemosa* by the rough internodes of young culms and by the long rhizome necks with no roots. The correct nomenclature and brief description of *Sinarundinaria maling* is given below :

***Sinarundinaria maling*** (Gamble) Campbell, Notes. Sino. Himal. Bamboo Speci. 60. 1988. *Arundinaria maling* Gamble in Kew Bull. 139. 1912. *Yushania maling* (Gamble) Majumdar in Karthikeyan *et al.*, Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 283. 1989. *Arundinaria racemosa* Munro in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 26:17. 1868 p.p.; Gamble in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta Pl. f. fig. 1, 3 & 14. 1896.

An erect bamboo. *Rhizome* stout, subterranean, producing single culm at

intervals. *Culms* 3-9 m tall, slender, fistular; *internodes* 30-40 x 2-3 cm, scabrid; *wall* 5 mm thick. *Culm sheath* straw coloured chartaceous, coriaceous, striate, sparsely yellowish-hispid, margin ciliate, attenuate at the top, broadly auricled; auricles furnished with long, patent, rigid cilia; *imperfect blade* 6-7 cm long, subulate, erect or reflexed, scabrous inside; *ligule* fimbriate.

**Phenology** : According to Gamble (1912) and Blatter (1929) *Sinarundinaria maling* (*Arundinaria maling*) flowered at Mt. Tonglo, Sikkim in 1904. Hara (1966) has collected its flowering specimen from Kurseong and Darjeeling during April-June 1960. Its most authentic record of gregarious flowering is from Sanchal Range all around Tiger Hills, Darjeeling, North Bengal during February-May 1951 (Ray, 1952). After this there is no record of flowering of this species. In a recent botanical exploration in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh in September-October 2006, *Sinarundinaria maling*, which is locally called *Rui* by local Mompas, was found in gregarious flowering above Jung and in and around Tawang. After enquiring from the locals it was found that it has started flowering since 2004 in Pudung and Morching area of West Kameng District. In Tawang District and upper Lumla side it started flowering in 2005-2006. In between Jaswantgarh and Jung about 10 x 2 km was under gregarious flowering.



Gregarious flowering of *Sinarundinaria maling* in Arunachal Pradesh

*Uses* : Mats made from *Sinarundinaria maling* are used for roofing of houses. The leaves provide chief fodder for the ponies (Cowan and Cowan, 1929). According to

Ray (1952) this bamboo is suitable for paper pulp and is being treated for its suitability as cheap umbrella handles. Stapelton (1994) stated that when growing vigorously its larger culms may be used for fencing, or sometimes woven into baskets, but they are usually too small for these uses, so culms can only be used for making brushes and straw.

The species having its occurrence in habitations of Yak in the tribal rich areas of North-eastern region and being utilized for variety of purposes has significance towards the conservation of this bamboo integrating recent advances to restore and enhance the flowering, fruiting and germplasm multiplication.

### References

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