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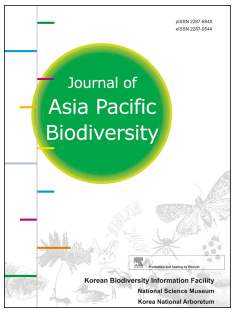


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# Rediscovery of *Magnolia rabaniana* (Magnoliaceae): a threatened tree species of Meghalaya, northeast India

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**Running title:** Rediscovery of *Magnolia rabaniana*

## Abstract

*Magnolia rabaniana* (Hook.f. & Th.) D.C.S. Raju & M.P. Nayar, a threatened and endemic tree species of northeast India has been rediscovered after a lapse of almost 100 years from Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. A total of 65 individuals that includes 38 mature (≥ 5cm dbh) and 27 young individuals (≤ 5cm dbh) were recorded from five sites. The existing populations of the species are under severe threats due to a number of human disturbances and therefore warrant immediate conservation initiatives.

**Keywords:** Community forest, Conservation, Data Deficient, Recollection.

## Introduction

The family Magnoliaceae is one of the most important primitive families belonging to the order Magnoliales. Globally about 245 species (Cicuzza et al 2007) of the family have been recorded. In Indian subcontinent, the family is represented by 46 species and 5 sub-species, distributed in 7 genera (Kundu 2009), of which 24 species are found in northeast India and 15 species have been reported from Meghalaya (Balakrishnan 1981; Haridasan and Rao 1985). The genus *Magnolia* (including *Elmerrillia*, *Kmeria*, *Manglietia*, *Michelia*, *Pachylarnax* and *Talauma*), is one of the important genus of the family represented by about 219 species. The genus is distributed in Himalayas to Japan and West Malesia, Eastern North America to tropical America (Mabberley 2008).

*Magnolia rabaniana* (Hook.f. & Th.) D.C.S. Raju & M.P. Nayar (Synonym: *Talauma rabaniana* Hook.f. & Th.) is a threatened tree species considered as endemic to northeast India (Khela 2014). It is distributed in the state of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and Meghalaya. The habitat of the species is represented by subtropical, temperate as well as subalpine coniferous