

## RESEARCH REPORT



# Sporadic flowering of *Bambusa mizorameana* Naithani in Mizoram

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Mizoram, one of the states in northeast India, is known for its rich bamboo resources. Mizoram has been unceasingly experiencing flowering of bamboo. Recently, a new species of bamboo, *Bambusa mizorameana*, was described from Mizoram. It is a less common species, and its distributions within the state are also very limited. Specimens were also collected from Manipur. There has been no previous report of its inflorescence. The sporadic flowering of the species in certain areas within the nearby forest of Aizawl city, observed since 2017 are reported in this paper.

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Since the past ten years, Mizoram has been continuously experiencing flowering of bamboo. The gregarious flowering of *Mellocana baccifera* during 2006–2009<sup>1</sup> was the most devastated one. Since 2011, sporadic flowering of *Dendrocalamus longispathus* has been continuing till date.<sup>2</sup> Sporadic flowering of *Bambusa tulda* was also observed in the western belt of the state in 2015, which was confined only in those areas.<sup>3</sup>

*Bambusa mizorameana* Naithani, *ta-lan* in Mizo, a less congested bamboo is a recently described species from Mizoram, India.<sup>4</sup> It is reported to be endemic to Mizoram and Manipur.<sup>5</sup> It is vernacularly named as 'Talan'<sup>4</sup> and 'Khokwa'<sup>6</sup> in Mizoram and Manipur respectively. Apart from the evaluation of the anatomical and physical properties of three years old culms of *B. mizorameana* Naithani reported from Manipur<sup>6</sup>, not much scientific studies have been conducted about it, till date. The inflorescence of this species has also not been reported, till date.<sup>6</sup>

It is one of the less common bamboo species in Mizoram. Its distribution in the state is mostly confined to the slopes of lower hills. Its uses are also limited mostly to constructional purposes, mainly for

purlin in traditional houses and jhum huts. However, in Manipur, it is also used as baskets and handles for agriculture implements.<sup>5</sup>

Flowering of *B. mizorameana* Naithani was first observed in January 2017 at home gardens around Zemabawk, Aizawl (**Figure 1**). Survey was conducted throughout the year at the natural growing site of the species. So far, flowering was observed in three natural growing sites at Zemabawk, a locality in the North-Eastern part of the Aizawl City. The inflorescence of *B. mizorameana* Naithani was observed in and around Zemabawk at 23°44'10.90 N latitude and 91°46'08.45 E longitude (**Figure 2**). The flowering clumps/specimen was compared with the clumps from the original locality (from where it was described) at Khawruhlian. After careful comparison of the morphological identification keys as described by Naithani<sup>4</sup>, the two specimens were found to be closely matching with each other in all aspects.

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**Figure 1** | Inflorescence in *Bambusa mizorameana* Naithani. (a) Clumps. (b) Culm sheath. (c) Initial stage. (d) Close-up of initial stage.



**Figure 2** | Inflorescence in *Bambusa mizorameana* Naithani. (a) Clumps of flowering bamboo. (b) A dehisce inflorescence. (c) scaling in mm. (d) Culm.

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