

Taxonomy of the Genus *Ganoderma* P. Karst.: Adulterant of Phansomba and a Few Wild Collections Causing Root Rot in Plantation Trees

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Identification of the species of *Ganoderma* P. Karst. (Ganodermataceae), causing root rot in plantation trees and with other adulterated material sold as the folk medicine "Phansomba," is carried out in the present studies. As suggested by Ryvarden (2000) identification of *Ganoderma* from tropical countries such as India is a difficult task. Since scanty work has been carried out in this part of the world, we adopted keys suggested by Steyaert (1972, 1980), Ryvarden and Johansen (1980), Gilbertson and Ryvarden (1986), Gottlieb and Wright (1999), and Ryvarden (2000) for identifying the specimens. It was revealed that among 21 specimens studied were species representing the subgenus *Elfvigia*, namely

Ganoderma lobatum (Schwein.) Atk., *G. lobatoideum* Steyaert, *G. applanatum* (Pers.) Pat., and *G. tornatum* (Pers.) Bres. The subgenus *Ganoderma* (=lucidum complex) represents the majority, among which *G. lucidum* var. *capense*, *G. personatum* Murr., *G. curtisii* (Berk.) Murr., *G. multiplicatum* (Mont.) Pat., *G. praelongum* Murr., *G. orbiformum* (Fr.) Ryv., and *G. stipitatum* (Murr.) Murr. are known. It is quite possible that another two new varieties need to be proposed under *G. lucidum* (Curt.: Fr.) P. Karst. and probably a new species needs a separate taxonomic status which is proposed here as *Ganoderma poonensis*. A detailed taxonomic status of the new taxon will be published elsewhere.