

phylogenetic trees reveal that the Indian species in this analysis [24 species, including 15 in Goetsch et al. (2005) and nine added here] are spread across clades A and B (but not C), broadly consistent with existing classification (Fig. Within clade A, *R. moulmainense* Hook.f. is placed in the monophyletic section *Choniastrum* Franch., which is sister to a large clade containing the paraphyletic section *Rhododendron* L. and nested sections *Vireya* Blume and *Pogonathum* G.Don.ex. G.Don, *R. ciliatum* Hook.f., *R. dalhousieae* Hook.f., *R. nuttallii* Booth ex Nutt, *R. setosum* D.Don, *R. edgeworthii* Hook.f., *R. xanthostephanum* Merr, and *R. pendulum* Hook.f. are placed in one clade (including section *Vireya*) and five--*R.* Two species, *R. vaccinoides* Hook.f. and *R. santapauli* Sastry et al., are in the monophyletic section *Vireya* Blume. Ten species--*R.* 3).