



but then becomes blackish-brown when older, with a reniform (kidney-shaped) seed. The seedlings have two ridges on the first leaves.

Seed has been exported since 2004 (as "*Trachycarpus* sp. Manipur" or "*T. sp. Naga Hills*"). In 2006, Michael Lorek and K. C. Pradhan validly published it as a new species.<sup>[34]</sup> Already there is dispute over whether it should be considered as an accepted species. Spanner thinks it should be considered synonymous with *T. oreophilus*.<sup>[47]</sup> Currently, Kew has it listed as a valid and accepted species on its web-site. Kembrey thinks it should be accepted since he has field grown both species side by side and found them to look distinctly different.<sup>[27]</sup> Stührk has it listing as a species in his DNA study, which indicated that *T. ukhrulensis* is as closely related to *T. takil* as it is to *T. oreophilus*.

Lorek considers *T. ukhrulensis* most closely related to *T. takil*, and listed the differences that make *T. ukhrulensis* distinguished as a separate species: the number of leaf segments, color of the fruit flesh (pulp color phases), and the longer ligules. These same distinctions differentiate it from *T. oreophilus*. Additionally, on a large number of trees, *T. ukhrulensis* has the persistent leaf-bases with no fibers making that unusual "turtle-back pattern". Also, according to Mike Papay, the inflorescence hangs down more on *T. ukhrulensis*, than on *T. oreophilus*.<sup>[42]</sup> *T. ukhrulensis*