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CINNAMOMUM CHEMUNGIANUM (LAURACEAE)—A NEW SPECIES FROM KERALA, SOUTHERN INDIA¹

M. MOHAN AND A.N. HENRY²
(With a text-figure)

"Chemungi" (Chemungimottai) is an isolated peak in the southern Western Ghats in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) District of Kerala. This peak is situated on the approach way from Bonecord in Kerala to Kannikatti in Tamil Nadu. A botanically rich area, Chemungi is the type locality of many taxa collected by Bourdillon and others, and described by subsequent authors like Gamble and Fischer. During an intensive plant exploration work in this area for the preparation of the 'Flora of Thiruvananthapuram Dt.' one of us (MM) collected an interesting specimen of the genus *Cinnamomum* Schaeff. This specimen was first matched with *C. travancoricum* Gamble (type locality - Chemungi);

but on a critical examination it was found to be distinct and is hence described as a new species.

Cinnamomum chemungianum sp. nov.

Planta inter *Cinnamomum filipedicellatum* Kosterm. et *C. travancoricum* Gamble quasi intermedia. A *C. filipedicellatum* Kosterm. foliis parvioribus, ovatis, ad basim rotundis, paginis inferis minute pilosis; paniculis pedunculis et pedicellis brevioribus; floribus magnioribus et a *C. travancoricum* Gamble foliis brevioribus, microscopicue pilosis (vice dense pilosis in *C. travancoricum*), ovatis, ad basim rotundis; paniculis glabris (vice racemes dense pubescentis in *C. travancoricum*); perianthis lobis brevioribus differt.

Shrubs or small trees, 3-4 m tall; branches slender, terete; terminal buds small, minutely sericeous. Leaves 3-7 by 2-4 cm, thinly coriaceous,

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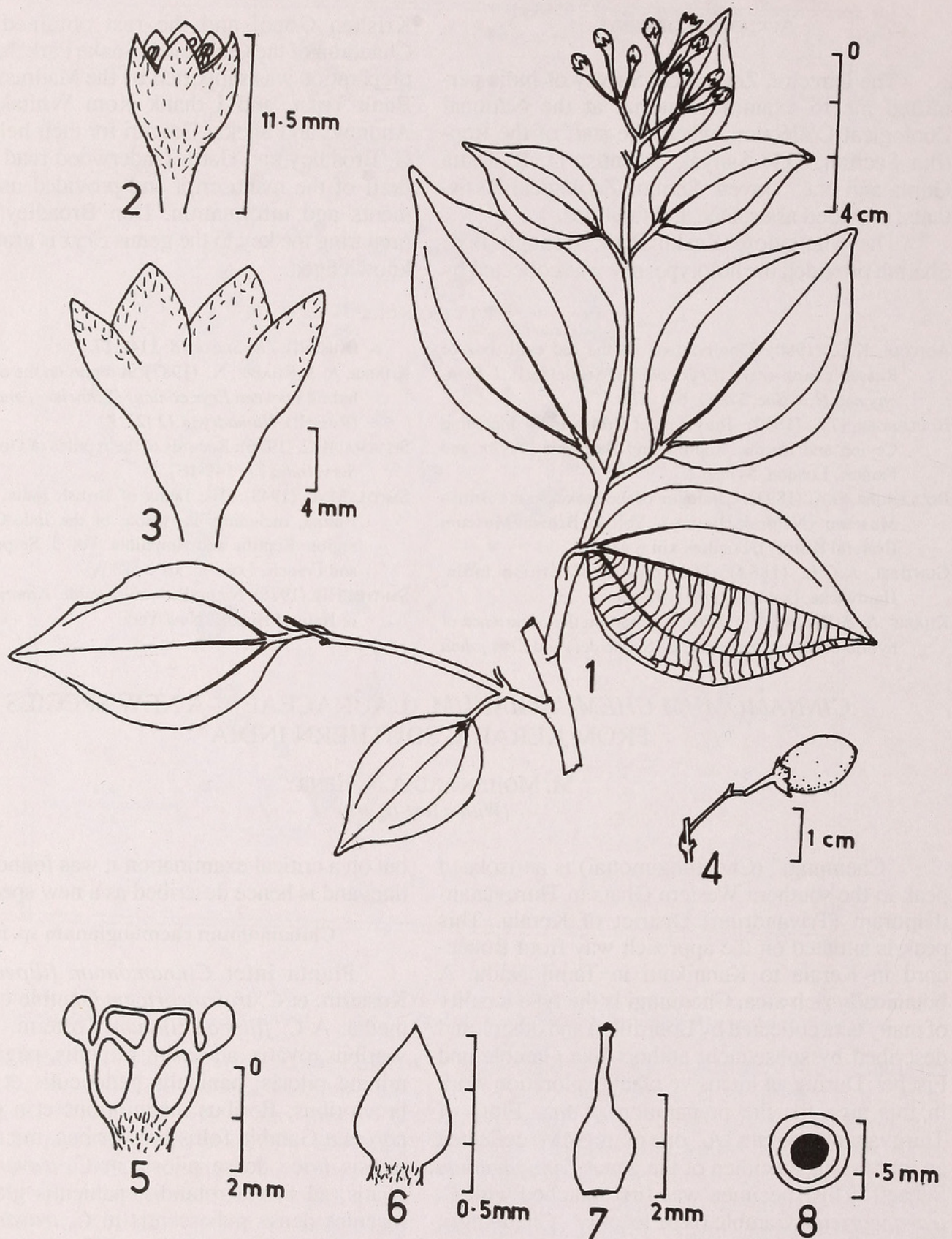


Fig. 1. *Cinnamomum chemungianum* sp. nov.

1. Twig, 2. Flower, 3. Perianth split open (part) 4. Fruit, 5. Stamen, 6. Staminode, 7. Pistil, 8. . Ovary (c.s.)

TABLE 1
DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN 3 SPECIES OF *Cinnamomum*

Characters	<i>C. filipedicellatum</i>	<i>C. travancoricum</i>	<i>C. chemungianum</i>
<i>Leaves:</i>			
size	4-5.5 by 8-13 cm	2-6 by 3.5-8 cm	3-7 by 2-4 cm
shape	linear-lanceolate	elliptic to subovate	ovate
apex	obscurely acuminate	obscurely acuminate	caudate acuminate
base	acute	acute	rounded
vestiture	glabrous (microscopically hairy when young)	densely appressed pilose beneath	sparsely appressed pilose beneath
<i>Inflorescence:</i>			
size	panicles up to 10 cm long	racemes up to 3 cm long	panicles up to 4 cm long
vestiture	glabrous (minutely puberulous at nodes)	appressed pubescent	glabrous
peduncle	up to 3 cm long	up to 1 cm long	up to 2 cm long
pedicel	5-15 mm long	1-3 mm long	4-6 mm long
<i>Flowers:</i>			
size	2-2.5 mm long	2.5-3 mm long	1-1.2 cm long
perianth lobes	up to 2 mm long	up to 4 mm long	up to 1.5 mm long

smooth and glossy above, sparsely appressed pilose beneath when young, ovate, caudate acuminate at apex with 1-2 cm long acumen, rounded at base; lateral nerves reaching 3/4 of the length; petioles 0.6-1 cm long, glabrous, concave above. Inflorescence a much reduced panicle, up to 4 cm long, glabrous, axillary or pseudoterminal; peduncles 1.5-2 cm long, glabrous; pedicels 4-6 mm long. Flowers 1-1.2 cm long. Perianth lobes 6 in two whorls of 3 each, c. 1.5 mm long, appressed pilose, red, ovate, acute at apex; tube c. 3 mm long, pilose. Stamens many in 3 rows, c. 1.5 mm long; anthers truncate, 4-loculed, glandular; filaments villous; staminodes c. 0.5 mm long, ovate, acute. Ovary c. 2 by 1.5 mm, subglobular, 1-ovuled; styles 1 mm long; stigmas faintly 3-lobed. Berries c. 1.4 by 1 cm, ellipsoid.

Holotype M. Mohanan 61830 (CAL) and isotypes M. Mohanan 61830 (MH Acc. No. 136396-97) were collected from Chemungi, Thiruvanan-

thapuram dt., Kerala (alt. c. 1450 m) on 19 May 1979.

This rare plant grows in the dense forests along the slopes of Chemungi.

Flowering and fruiting: December-March.

This species is closer to *C. filipedicellatum* Kosterm. but differs from it by the smaller ovate leaves rounded at base and minutely pilose beneath, shorter panicles, peduncles and pedicels, and larger flowers. It is also nearer to *C. travancoricum* Gamble but differs by the smaller, microscopically pilose (densely pubescent in *C. travancoricum*), ovate leaves with rounded base; glabrous panicles (densely pubescent racemes in *C. travancoricum*); and shorter perianth lobes. The differentiation among these three species is shown in Table 1.

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A NEW SPECIES OF *THRAULUS* (EPHEMEROPTERA: LEPTOPHLEBIIDAE: ATOLOPHLEBIINAE) FROM NILGIRIS, SOUTH INDIA¹

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(With seven text-figures)

Thraulius mudumalaiensis, sp. nov. is described from the collections made in Nilgiris, south India. Descriptions are provided for a female nymph.

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Eaton in 1881 established the genus *Thraulius* for the species *Thraulius bellus*, followed by *T. turbinatus* (Ulmer 1909), *T. semicastaneous* (Gillies



Mohan, M and Henny, A N. 1991. "Cinnamomum chemungianum (Lauraceae) - a new species from Kerala, Southern India." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 88, 97-99.

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