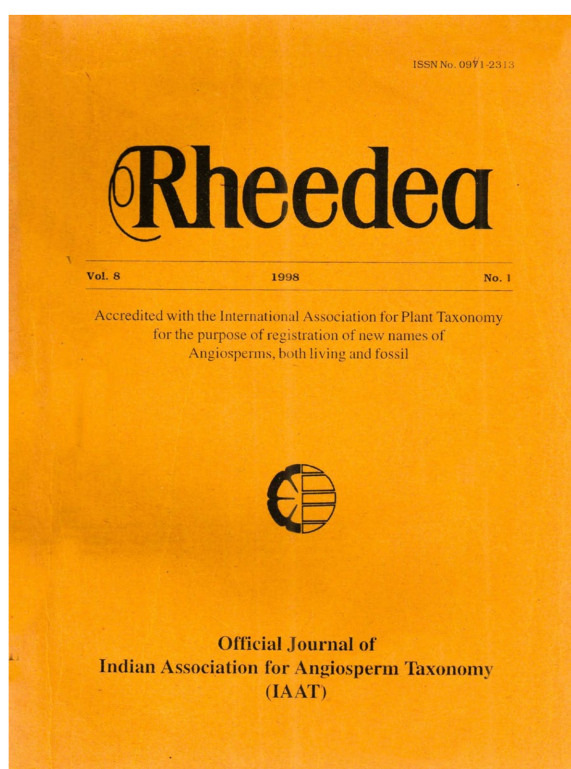




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A New species of *Biophytum* DC. (Oxalidaceae) from Peninsular India

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Biophytum* DC viz., *Biophytum veldkampii*, is described from Kerala State, India.

INTRODUCTION

The pantropical genus *Biophytum* DC, comprises about 70 species (Veldkamp, 1971). It is reported to have 17 species and 2 varieties in India, most of them being rheophytes. During our studies on the Oxalidaceae of Peninsular India, we collected an interesting species from the Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala (India), which was undescribed. It is named, described and illustrated here.

Biophytum veldkampii Shanavas, Santhosh, Binu *et* Pushpangadan, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1).

Biophyto reinwardtii et *B. longibracteato* affinis, a priori inflorescentia calyceque eglandulosa, pedicellis calyce distincte brevioribus, sepalis capsulis superantibus, a posteriori bracteis brevissimis, pedicellis satis longis, sepalis brevioribus.

Types: India, Kerala state, Thiruvananthapuram Dist., Nedumangad, 6 May 1995, *Santhosh Kumar* 22376 (Holo- TBGT; Iso- CALI, MH, L).

Annuals. Stem simple (rarely branched), upto 15 cm long. Leaves 7-16 jugate, rachis slightly winged, 2.5-12 cm long, sparsely patently strigose. Leaflets often overlapping; terminals obovate and falcate, oblique, 1.25 times as long as the preceeding, 7.5-16 x 3.5-7 mm, midrib excentric; others oblong, base truncate, midrib median, apex apiculate, sparsely hairy above on the acroscopic half and along the midrib, margin ciliate, nerves few, oblique to midrib, inconspicuous. Peduncle 6-9 cm long, appressed to patently strigose, eglandular. Bracts ovate, 2-3 mm long, strigose, eglandular, apex mucronate. Pedicels 1.5-2.5 mm, glabrous. Flowers heterotristylous. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, 4-4.5 by 0.75-1 mm, half as long as corolla,

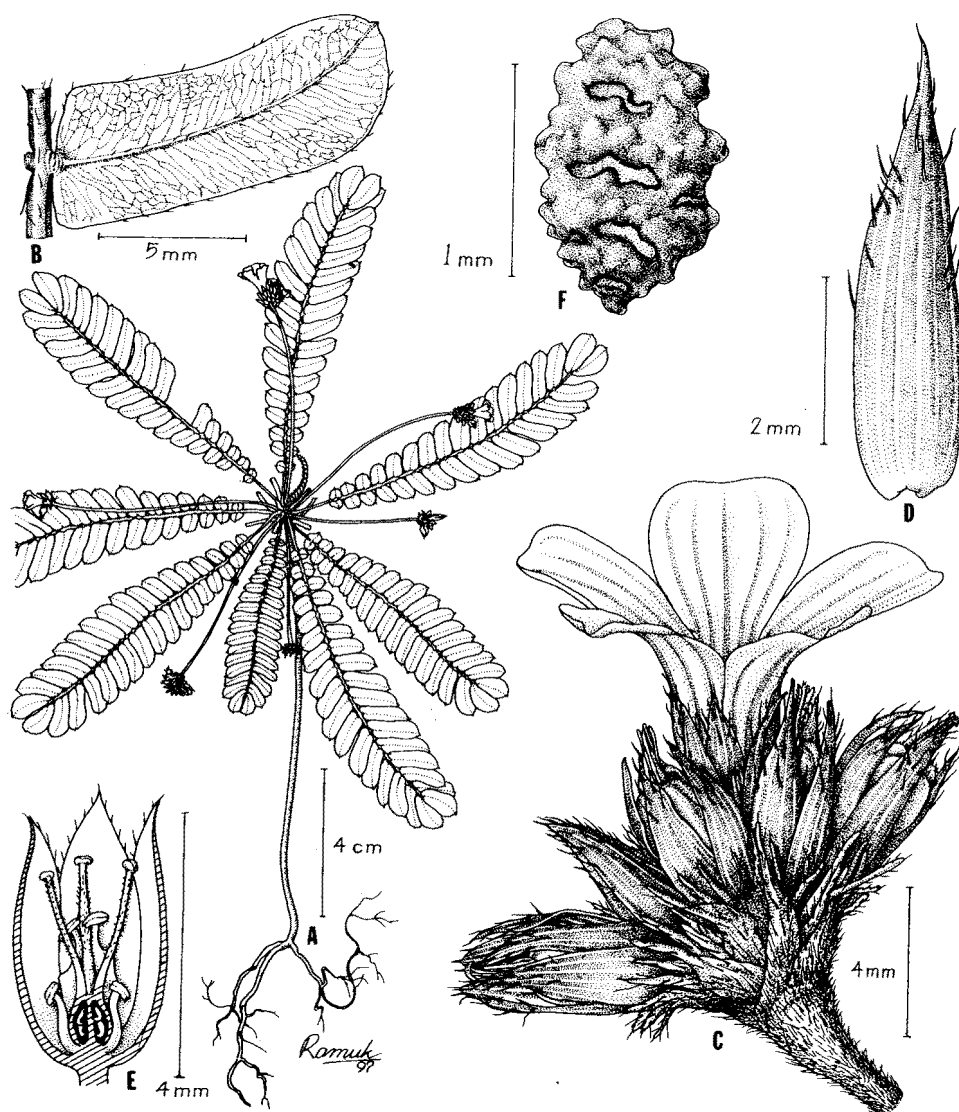
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Fig. 1. *Biophytum veldkampii* Shanavas *et al.* A. Habit; B. A portion of leaf with single leaflet-ventral side; C. Inflorescence; D. Sepal-dorsal side; E. L.S. of flower with petal removed; F. Seed.

A new species of *Biophytum* DC (Oxalidaceae)

in fruit 6-8-nerved, longer than pedicels (1.5-1.85 times), longer than the capsule, sparsely strigose near the apex without. Petals oblanceolate, 8-10 x 4-5 mm, apex retuse, claw greenish, limb yellow. Filaments puberulous, (LF) the shorter 1 mm long, (MF) the longer 2.5 mm long, (SF) the shorter 1 mm long, (MF) the longer 3.5 mm long, (SF) the shorter 2 mm long, (SF) the longer 4 mm long. Ovary 0.5-1 mm long, 0.3 mm in diam., apically ciliate. Styles (LF) 2.75 mm long, (MF) 1.25 mm long, (SF) 0.25 mm long. Stigma flattened, crenate-bifid. Ovules 2-per cell, superposed. Fruits 3-3.5 by 2-2.5 mm in diam., apically ciliate on the ribs. Seeds 1-2 per cell, 1.4 by 0.9 mm, transversely ridged, not tuberculate.

Similar to *B. reinwardtii* (Zucc.) Klotzsch. and *B. longibracteatum* Talb. et Jacob, but differs from the former in the eglandular inflorescence and calyx, pedicels distinctly shorter than calyx, and the sepals exceeding the capsules; and from the latter by the very short bracts, fairly long pedicels and shorter sepals.

These plants occur in wastelands, and shady places in deciduous forest of southern Western Ghats of Peninsular India at an altitude of 50-200 m.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Etymology: This species is named in honour of Dr. J.F. Veldkamp, Rijksherbarium, Leiden, The Netherlands for his contributions for the knowledge of the family Oxalidaceae.

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