



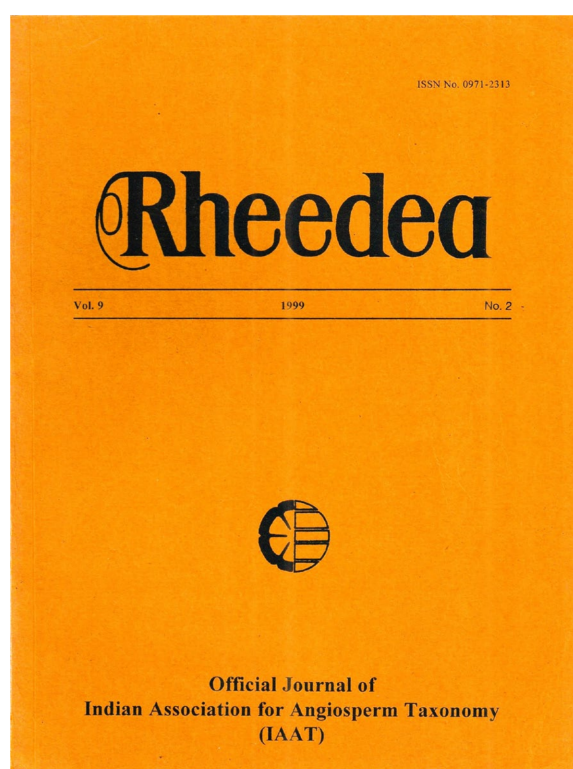
RHEEDEA

Journal of the Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy

Vol. 09(2): 177–180 (1999)
ISSN: 0971-2313 (Print edition)
ISSN: 2582-2438 (Online edition)

A new species of *Amomum* Roxb. from Meghalaya, India

Sunil Tripathi & Ved Prakash



How to cite:

Tripathi S. & V. Prakash 1999. A new species of *Amomum* Roxb. from Meghalaya, India. *Rheedeia* 9(2): 177–180.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.1999.09.02.08>

Published in print: 31.12.1999

Published Online: 01.01.2022



विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Published by Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy

This volume of *Rheedeia* is published with partial financial assistance from
Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi

A new species of *Amomum* Roxb. from Meghalaya, India¹

Sunil Tripathi and Ved Prakash

Botany Division

Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow-226001

Abstract

A new species, *Amomum garoensis* is described with illustrations from the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, India.

INTRODUCTION

The family Zingiberaceae is well known for its use in indigenous medicines, spices, dyes, condiments and ornamental flowers.

During the course of studies, the authors came across with several interesting findings. The present communication deals with a new species of *Amomum* Roxb. which is collected by one of us (ST) from Baghmara in Garo Hills of Meghalaya.

The genus *Amomum* Roxb. is the second largest genus of Zingiberaceae (next to *Alpinia* Roxb.), representing with about 150 species and distributing from the Himalayas to northern Australia. In India, it was representing so far by 16 species occurring mainly in north-eastern and peninsular region. The genus is characterised by radical cone-like inflorescence without an involucre of sterile bracts and elongate in fruiting (normally not embeded in the soil). Many flowers open at a time but borne singly in the axils of bracts; anthers with well developed crest and its filament does not join with lip to form the tube (as found in *Etlingera* Giseke). The plants often are tall upto 3-4 m high and grow in wet forest edges and gaps. The genus *Amomum* Roxb. is very close to *Hornstedtia* Retz. and *Etlingera* Giseke and the authors have re-defined their taxonomic characters with respect to Indian species.

***Amomum garoensis* Sunil & Ved Prakash sp. nov. (Fig. 1)**

A. maximo Roxb. affine in habitu generali, sed differt pedicellis largioribus, 2 cm, vel plus, labello rotundato, calyceque dense pubesenti, cum apicibus longe aristatis.

Typus : India : Meghalaya, Garo Hills; Baghmara Dt., Umphangiri, May 14, 1997 Sunil Tripathi 20834 (Holotypus, CDRI; Isotypus, CAL).

¹ CDRI Communication No. 5913

Sunil Tripathi and Ved Prakash

This species is allied to *A. maximum* Roxb., in general habit, but it is distinct from the latter in having longer pedicel (2 cm), rounded labellum and densely pubescent calyx with aristate lobes. In *A. maximum* pedicel is very short (2-5 mm), labellum is obovate and calyx is glabrous to sparsely pubescent with acute lobes. Differences between *A. garoensis* and *A. maximum* are tabulated (Table 1).

Table 1. Differentiating characters between *Amomum maximum* and *A. garoensis*.

Character	<i>A. maximum</i> Roxb.	<i>A. garoensis</i> sp. nov.
Leafy shoot	1.5 - 2.0 m slender-robust	1-1.5 m slender
Ligule	2 cm long, bifid, hairy at base	1 cm long, entire, glabrous
Peduncle	4-6 cm long, 13 cm in infructescence	2 cm long, 9 cm in infructescence
Pedicel	2-5 mm long	2 cm long
Calyx	2-3 cm long, lobes mucronate, glabrous	3.5 cm long, lobes aristate, 1 cm long, densely pubescent
Labellum	Elliptic-obovate	rounded

A rhizomatous perennial herb upto 1.5 m tall; rhizomes creeping, thick, reddish outside, whitish inside, 20-65 cm long, 3-5 cm thick, fibrous in middle, less aromatic. Leafy stem erect, greenish, rounded with 7-11 leaves. Leaves petiolate; petiole upto 4 cm long; ligule 1.0 cm long, membranous, glabrous; lamina oblong-lanceolate, apex shortly acuminate, base attenuate, 65-150 x 8-15 cm, bright green, glabrous above, villous beneath, margins entire. Inflorescence radical, subterranean, spike congested 1-3 together, around, each stem, subglobose, 3-8 cm broad; peduncle short 4 cm long, infructescence 9 cm long. Bract disintegrating 4.3 x 2.0 cm, pinkish to brown, open at the base, obovate, glabrous. Bracteole deciduous. Flowers white on pedicel upto 2 cm long, one per bract 7 cm long, 2-4 open at one time per cluster. Calyx tubular 3.5 cm long, densely pubescent, 3-lobed, lobes aristate; arista 1 cm long, hairy. Corolla-tube shorter than the calyx (2.2 cm long), glabrous, shortly curved; lobes oblong, obtuse, yellowish 3.5 x 1.0 cm, membranous, dorsal lobe slightly wider than the laterals. Labellum white, rounded, 2.4 x 1.8 cm with yellow variegated hairy median band, tip rounded, margins crumpled. Lateral staminodes subculate, 2 mm long. Stamen one, 2.2 cm long, subsessile; filament 3 mm long; anther thecae 1.6

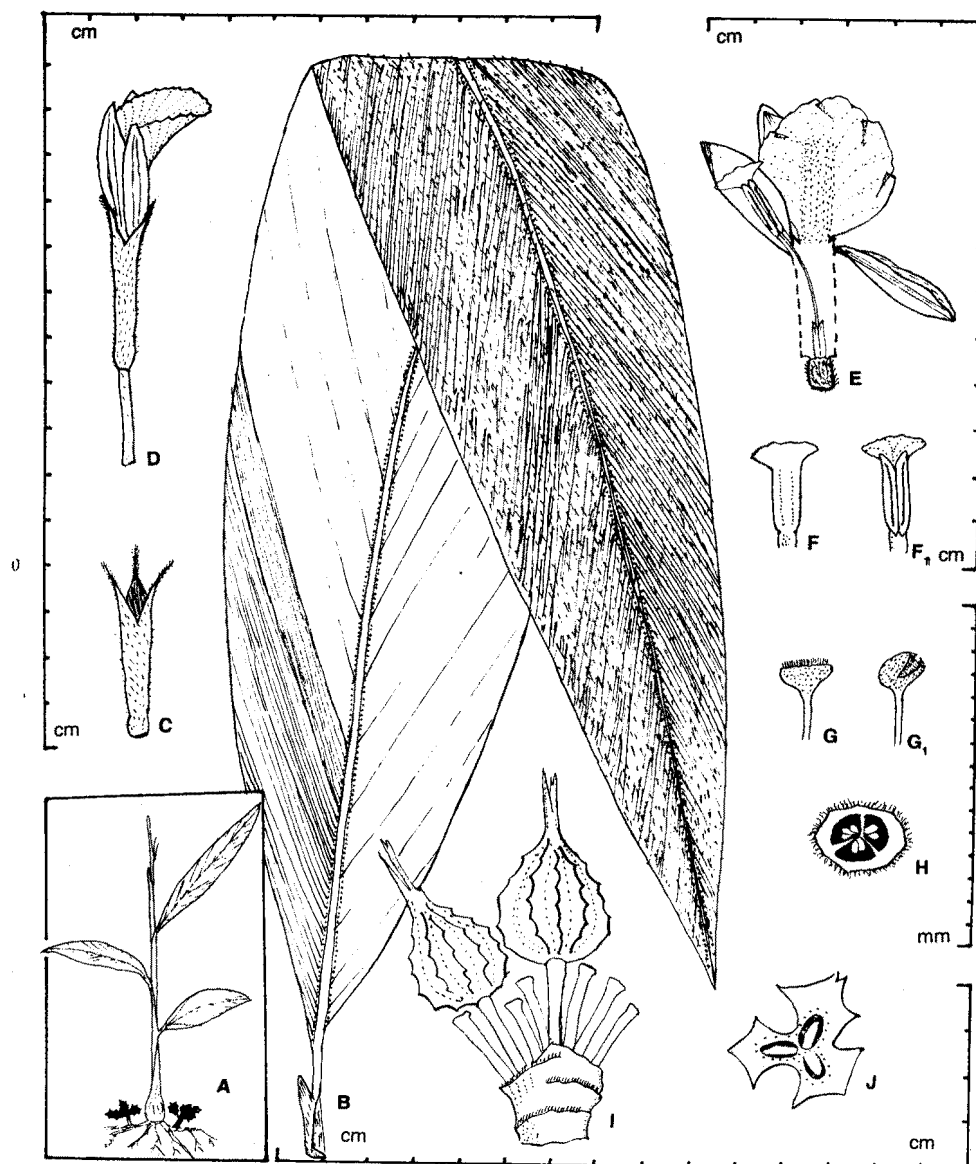
Amomum garoensis

Fig. 1 *Amomum garoensis* Sunil & Ved Prakash : A. Habit; B. Leaf; C. Calyx; D. Flower; E. Corolla tube dissected; F. Stamen, back view; F₁. Stamen, front view; G. Stigma, outer view; G₁. Stigma, side view; H. Ovary in T.S.; I. Fruit with peduncle; J. T.S. of Fruit (Sunil Tripathi 20834).

Sunil Tripathi and Ved Prakash

cm long, parallel, yellow, glabrous; crest truncate 3 mm high, 8 mm broad. Epigynous glands two, free from each other, 1.0 cm long, yellow, shortly curved. Ovary 0.8 cm long, densely pubescent, trilocular, with axile placenta; style filiform, 3 cm long; stigma capitate, opening hairy, red blotched. Fruit subglobose, 2-3 cm long, 2-3 cm wide at base, 8-10 cernulate winged ribs, greenish when collected.

Fls. & Fruits : April-June

Ecology : Grows along forest margins at ca. 600m. altitude.

Use : Flowers used for ornamental purposes.

Vern. Name : Gong-Aga (Garo).

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India for the financial support of the Research Project. We are thankful to the authorities of Forest department of Meghalaya for their co-operation in many ways. We express our gratitude to Dr. T.M. Hynniewta, Scientist-in-Charge, Botanical Survey of India, Eastern Circle, Shillong, for help and to Dr. N.C. Majumdar, Retired Scientist, B.S.I., Calcutta, for latinizing the diagnosis. We are also thankful to Dr. C.M. Gupta, Director, Central Drug Research Institute for the facilities.