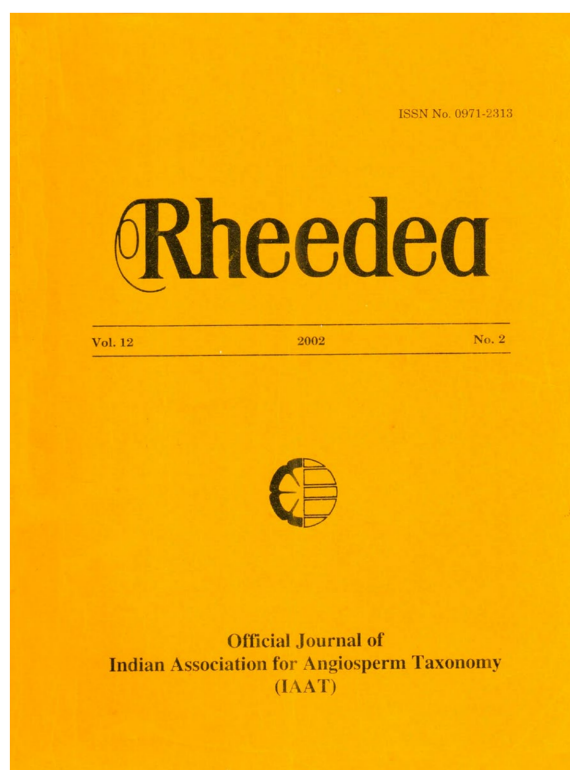




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How to cite:

Murugan C., Sivalingam R., Benniamin A. & S.G.D. Kannan 2002. *Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox (Scrophulariaceae) - a new record for India. *Rheedeia* 12(2): 155-157.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.2002.12.02.09>

Published in print: 31.12.2002

Published Online: 01.01.2022



***Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox (Scrophulariaceae) – a new record for India**

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Abstract

Lindernia srilankana Cramer & Philcox is recorded for the first time from India.
A short description with illustration and relevant notes is provided.

INTRODUCTION

While preparing the flora of Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu, the authors collected an interesting species of *Lindernia* All. from Sivanthipatti village of Palayamkottai taluk, Tamil Nadu. On critical examination and perusal of literature it was identified as *Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox. So far it is known to occur only in Srilanka. The present collection of *L. srilankana*, therefore, forms a new distributional record for India.

The genus *Lindernia* All. has about 80 species (Cramer, 1981). Among these, 22 species are found in India (Sivarajan & Mathew, 1983) and 15 are known to occur in Tamil Nadu (Henry & Chithra, 1987). A short description of the plant is given below.

Lindernia srilankana Cramer & Philcox; Cramer, Ceylon J. Sci. Biol. Sci. 11(1): 34-35, 1974; Cramer in Dassanayake & Fosberg, Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 3: 416. 1981.

Erect herbs to 25 cm tall; branchlets quadrangular, sparsely glandular hirtellous on angles. Leaves opposite, simple, elliptic-oblong, 10-20 x 6-8 mm, subsessile, punctate, glabrous above, sparsely hirtellous below, base truncate to rounded, 5-nerved, margin crenate-serrate, ciliolate, apex acute to subacute. Flowers 1 cm long, prussian blue, axillary, solitary; pedicels 1.5 cm long, slender, hirtellous, elongated to 2.5 cm long and deflexed in fruit; bracts ovate, 5 mm long, foliaceous. Calyx lobes 5, clefted almost to base, lanceolate, 4 x 1 mm, glandular-hirtellous without, apex acuminate. Corolla 8-11 mm long; tube 5 mm long, dull purple, glabrous; upper lip erect, obspathulate, 4 x 3 mm, apex 2-fid, emarginate, margin serrulate; lower lip 7-10 mm, 3-lobed, prussian blue-dull blue; lobes orbicular, apex rounded. Stamens 4 (2 perfect + 2 sterile); perfect ones 2-3 mm long, included with upper lip; filaments

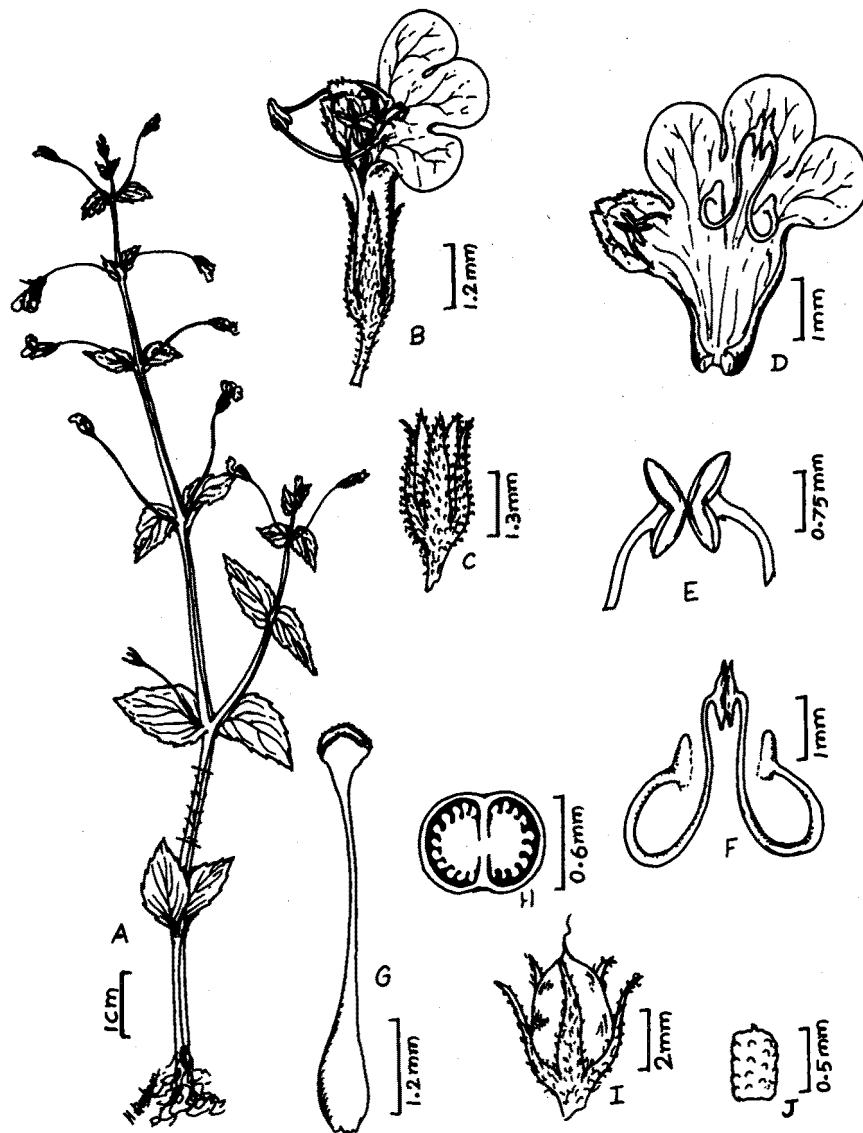
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Fig. 1. *Lindernia srilankana* Cramer & Philcox: A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Calyx; D. Corolla – split open; E. Stamens; F. Staminodes; G. Pistil; H. Ovary – C.S.; I. Capsule with calyx; J. Seed.

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3 mm long, filiform; anthers 2-celled, connivent, divartically lobed; staminodes 2, exserted, corniform, to 5 mm long; appendages filiform, bent upwards, blue. Ovary oblong, 1-2 mm long, glabrous, 2-celled; ovules many, placentae axile; style filiform, 3-4 mm long, glabrous, stigma 2-lamellate. Capsules oblong-glabrous, 4 mm long, apex with withered style; seeds oblong-ovoid, 0.5 mm long, pale brown, minutely alveolate, truncate at both ends.

Flowering and fruiting: December.

Ecology: Rare, along streamsides of black soil.

Distribution: Sri Lanka and India.

Specimen examined: INDIA, **Tamil Nadu:** Tirunelveli Dist., Palyamkottai Taluk, Sivanthipatti Village-Sastha Koil path, 25 Dec. 2001, *Murugan 21279* (XCH).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Rev. Dr. V.S. Manickam S. J. and Prof. A. Arockiasamy, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai for the facilities and constant encouragement. We thank Mr. Sivanthi C. Perumal, Sivanthipatti for his guidance in the field, and Mr. H. Sankar for the illustration.

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