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STRYCHNOS RUPICOLA PIERRE EX DOP (LOGANIACEAE) A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

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While working on the family Loganiaceae for the 'Flora of India', the author came across unidentified herbarium specimens of *Strychnos (N.G Nair* 3686) in buds from Andaman Islands which after perusal of literature and comparison with the herbarium collections at K was determined as *Strychnos rupicola* Pierre ex Dop earlier known only from Indo-China. As it is reported here for the first time from India, a detailed description and line drawing are provided, to facilitate its identification.

Strychnos rupicola Pierre ex Dop in Mem. Soc. Bot. Fr. 19: 17. 1910; Dop in Lecomte, Fl. Gen. Ind.-Chin. 4: 168. 1914; A.W. Hill in Bull. Misc. Inform. 1917: 196. 1917; Tirel-Roudet, Fl. Cambodge Laos Vietnam 13: 37, pl. 7 (1-5). 1972; Pham-hoang Ho, Cayco Vietnam 2: 844, fig. 6055. 1993; Griffm &. Parnell in T. Santisuk & K. Larsen, FI. Thailand 6: 214. 1997. Type: Cambodge: prov. de Kompong Speu (Samrong Tong), Mont Pra, 24-8-1870, *Pierre* 3688 (Holotype P, Isotypes P, K, L). S. *donnaiensis* Pierre ex Dop, *l.c.* 20. Type: Vietnam: Provo Batia Gallicae, Cho Ben, 12-1866, *Pierre* 3692 (Holotype P, Isotypes P, K). S. *usitata* Pierre ex Dop, *l.c.* 19. Type: Cambodge: Monts Chiung Diung, 12-1867, *Pierre* 3690 (Holotype P, Isotypes P). (Fig. 1)

Scandent shrubs; branchlets grey, punctulate, glabrous, terete; tendril absent. Leaves ovate or elliptic, 4.8-9.3 × 2.5-5.7 cm, rounded to shortly attenuate at base, acuminate or acute at apex, entire or somewhat uneven along margins, membranaceous, glossy green, glabrous, 3-5-nerved at base; midrib flat above, strongly projecting below; petioles 6-8 mm long, canaliculate, glabrous. Inflorescences of terminal, pubescent cymes, 2.5-4 cm long; peduncles 1.5-2 cm long, pubescent. Flower buds many, 2-2.2 mm long, greenish-white; pedicels 1-3 mm long, pubescent; bracts 2, linear, *ca* 4 × 1 mm, acuminate at apex, hairy; bracteoles ovate-oblong, *ca* 1 × 1.2 mm, obtuse at apex, ciliate along margins. Calyx 5-lobed, *ca* 1 mm long; lobes deltoid, subacute-obtuse at apex, hairy outside with ciliate margins, glabrous within. Corolla tube *ca* 0.6 mm long; lobes elliptic, *ca* 1.4 mm long, obtuse at apex, glabrous with a few woolly hairs at base inside. Stamens 5, sessile, inserted on the mouth of corolla tube; anther lobes oblong, 1-1.5 × 0.3-0.5 mm, beaked at apex, brown, glabrous. Ovary ovoid, *ca* 1 × 0.8 mm, glabrous, brown; style *ca* 5 mm long, glabrous; stigma capitate.

Fls. : May - June.

Distrib. : India : South Andamans; Indo-China (Laos, S. Vietnam, Cambodia, S.E. Thailand).

Ecology : A few in the inland forests at sea level in clay loam soil.

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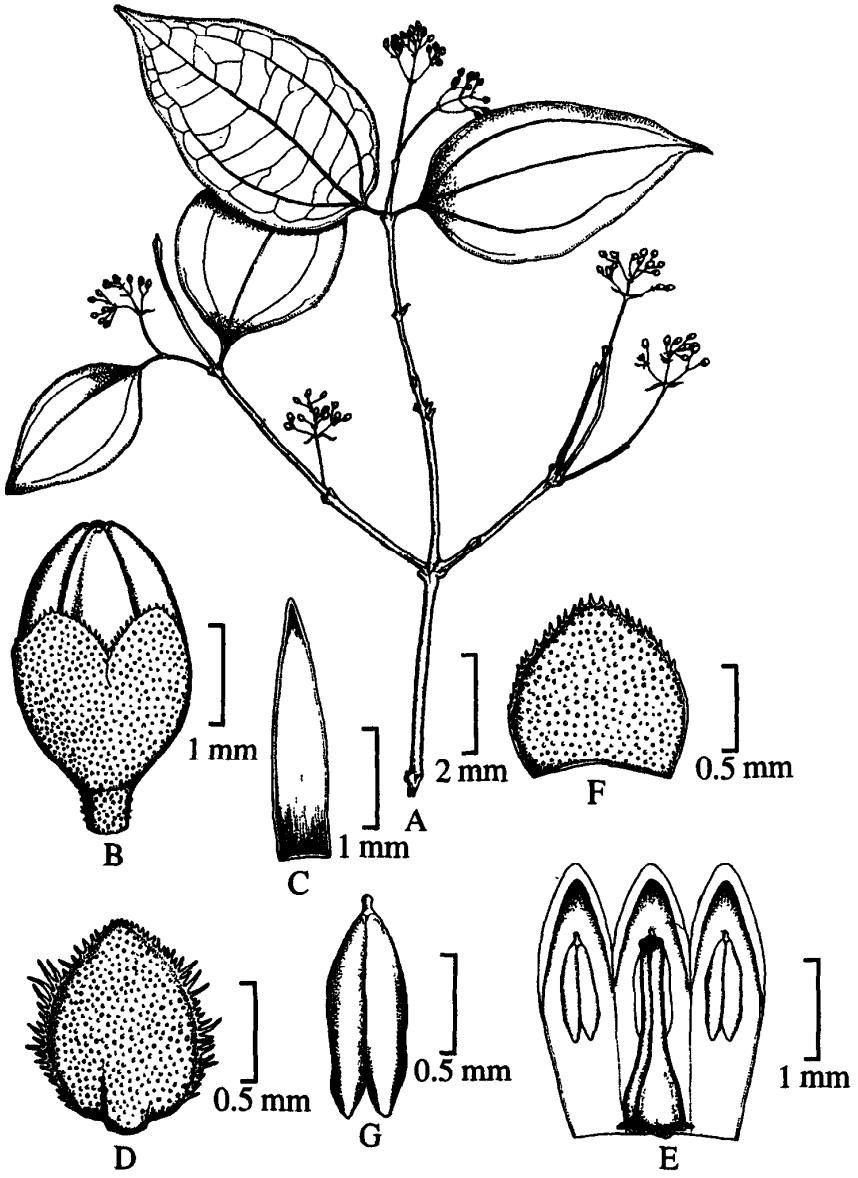


Fig. 1. *Strychnos rupicola* Pierre ex Dop-: A. Flowering twig; B. Flower bud; C. Bract; D. Bracteole; E. Dissected flower; F. Calyx lobe; G. Stamen.

Specimen examined : South Andaman Islands, Nayashahar, 13-5-1976, *N.G. Nair* 3686 (PBL, CAL, K).

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