

CAREYA ROXB. IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Careya* Roxb., was established by Roxburgh, for two species of plants from Coromandel Coast and Bengal. Taxonomy and distribution are furnished in this note.

INTRODUCTION

William Roxburgh formerly a Surgeon at Samalkota (Andhra Pradesh) studied the plants of Coromandel Coast before taking over the charge of East India Company's Garden. He wrote *Flora Indica* besides preparing many coloured drawings. He named two interesting plants in honour of William Carey, the Indigo Planter of Bengal who is also a printer at the Danish settlement in Shrirampur. Carey's edition of *Flora Indica* is dated 1832. *Careya arborea* is a tree, widely distributed in India from Sea level to 1200 m. *C. herbacea* is a small herb with a woody stem below. It appears to be as depauperated form with ecological adaptation to annual fires.

Careya Roxb. nom. cons.

Trees or a small undershrubs. Leaves alternate, membranous, crowded at the ends of the branches, penninerved, crenate-serrate. Flowers large, showy in racemes or interrupted spikes. Calyx tube campanulate or funnel-shaped, limb 4-lobed, imbricate. Petals 4, imbricate, much longer than the calyx lobes. Stamens numerous, in several rows, slightly connate at base; filaments very long, innermost and outermost without anthers, ovary inferior, 4-5-celled, crowned by an annular disc; many ovules in 2 rows in each cell on axile placenta; style long, filiform; stigma small. Fruit a large globose fibrous berry;

crowned by persistent calyx-limb. Seeds numerous in fleshy pulp; albumen O; embryo large, cotyledons obsolete.

Key to species

Trees, always 8 m above, flowers sessile, large, corolla 6-7 cm in diam. *C. arborea*

Herbaceous, never more than 20 cm, flowers 1 or 2, peduncle about 3 cm long, corolla 3.5 cm in diam.

.... *C. herbacea*

Careya arborea Roxb. Pl. Corom. 3 : 15. t. 2-18. 1811; Fl. Brit. India. 2 : 511. 1879; Fl. As. 2 : 288. 1938.

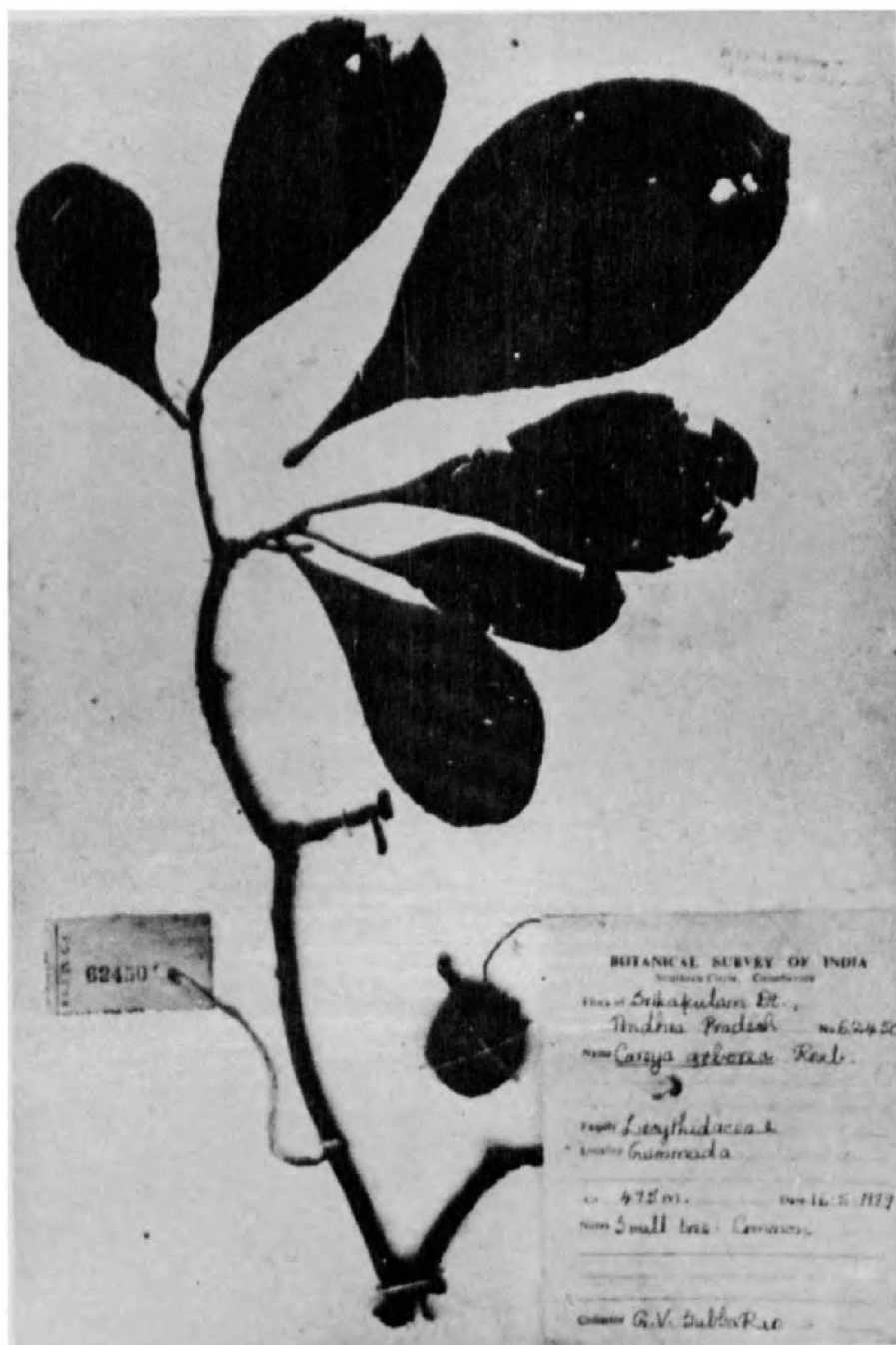
Deciduous trees, 5-15 m, leaves obovate to oblanceolate, cuneate at base, short acuminate or obtuse, crenulate at margins 15-30 × 8-20 cm; lateral nerves 10-15 pairs; petiole 1-3 cm; margined or winged upwards; flowers 6-8 cm across, white or pale pink, in terminal, few-flowered stiff spike; bracts 3, unequal linear; filaments purple; berries globose or ovoid, 6-7 cm, greenish yellow; seeds numerous, immersed in pulp.

Fls. & Frts. : March August.

Vern. : 'Kumbhi'

Uses : Flowers and juice of fresh bark given with honey as demulcent in cough and cold.

Distribution : Throughout India, alt. 0-1200m. Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Malay Peninsula.



Careya Roxb. in India



Careya arborea Roxb.

Careya herbacea Roxb. Cor. Pl. 3. 13. t. 218. 1811; Fl. Brit. India 2 : 510. 1879.

Rootstock woody, perennial; herbaceous, leafy flowering shoots 15-20 cm. Leaves obtuse, long attenuate, glabrous or obscurely puberulous; petiole 1.5 cm. Flowers 1-2 terminal; peduncle 3 cm, grey puberulous-pubescent; bracts 2 cm, linear at the base of the calyx. Flowers sub-articulated within the bracts. Calyx total length 2 cm.; tube campanulate terete; lobes ovate, obtuse. Petals 2.5-3 cm, greenish purple, elliptic. Fruits 2-3 cm in diam., globose crowned by the persistent calyx and often by the style.

Fls. : March.

Uses : Effective in fever with cough.

Distribution : Terai region of N. Bengal at Bijanpur, Jalpaiguri Dist., Ribu & Rhomoo (3814). Nepal, Burma (Rangoon lake), *D. Brandis* 2348.

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