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NEW AND INTERESTING PLANT RECORDS FROM ANDAMAN-NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Six species are reported as new records for the Andaman-Nicobar Islands. The occurrence of two species which were recorded earlier from these islands based on literature are confirmed by the recent collections.

INTRODUCTION

The Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises a group of about 317 islands and islets having an area of 8,249 sq km. with the area of Andaman district being 6,408 sq km and Nicobar district 1,841 sq km (Anonymous, 1991). These lie in a narrow broken chain from north to south, located between 6°-14° N latitudes and 92°-94° E longitudes with the 10° channel separating the Andaman group of Islands from the Nicobar group of Islands. The topography of these Islands are generally rugged and hilly. The temperature ranges between 18°-31° C. The average annual rainfall is *ca* 300 cm. The vegetation can broadly be classified as tropical evergreen and 86.9% of these islands is covered by the forests.

Parkinson in his flora (1923) deals with *ca* 650 plants from the Andaman Islands. Vasudeva Rao (1986) lists 1454 taxa of indigenous angiosperms and Ellis (1987) enumerates 120 Pteridophytes from the Andaman-Nicobar Islands.

From among the collections made during the botanical explorations in North and South Andaman Islands, ten species are found to be of taxonomic interest, of which six species, viz., *Trivalvaria argentea* (Hook. f. & Thoms.) Sinclair, *Segeretia parviflora* (R. & S.) G. Don, *Ixora thwaitesii* Hook. f., *I. undulata* Roxb., *Jasminum angustifolium* (L.) Willd. and *Carex speciosa* Kunth are new records for these Islands while the occurrence of two species in these islands, viz., *Mischocarpus pentapetalus* (Roxb.) Radlk. and *Piper pedicellosum* Wall. ex Cas. DC. which were recorded, based only on literature, have been confirmed. They are enumerated below family-wise with nomenclatural citations, short descriptions, distribution notes and a few relevant figures. The specimens examined have been deposited in the herbarium of Andaman & Nicobar Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair (PBL).

ANNONACEAE

1. **Trivalvaria argentea** (Hook. f. & Thoms.) Sinclair in Sarawak Mus. J. 5 : 603. 1951 ; Debika Mitra in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 5 : 43, 1963 et in Fasc. Fl. India 10 : 10, ff.

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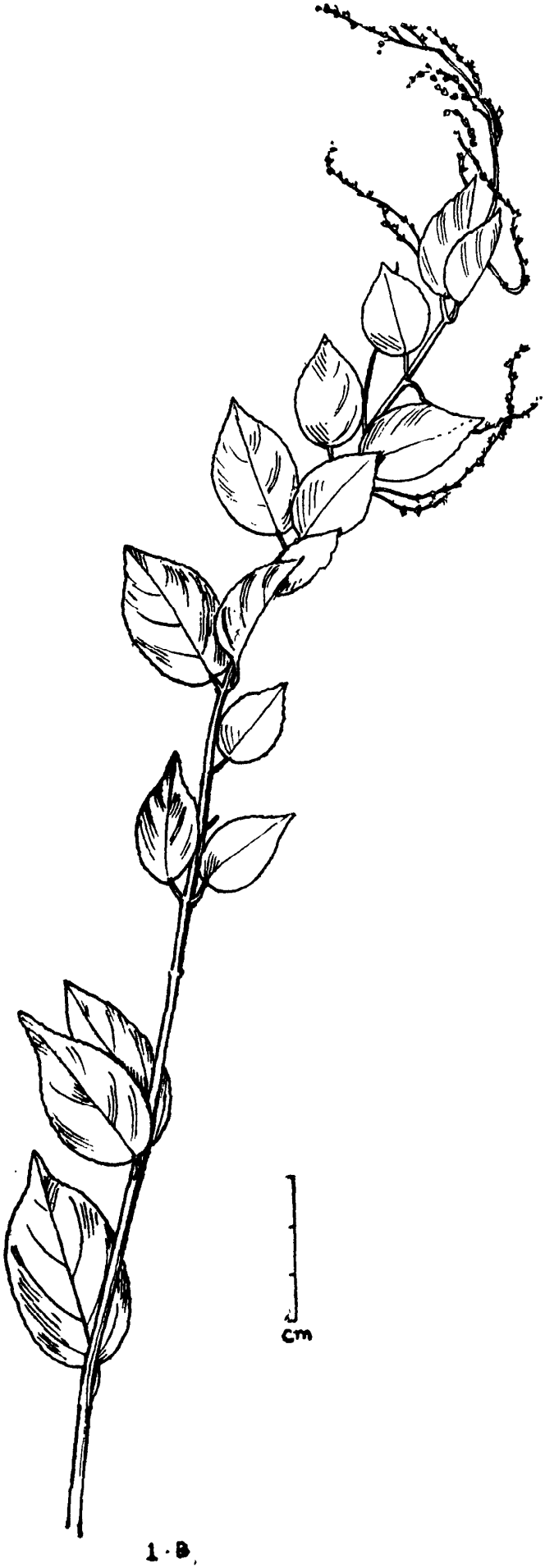


Fig. 1 : *Sageretia parviflora* (R. & S.) G. Don — Flowering twig.

5.6. 1982. *Polyalthia argentea* Hook. f. & Thoms. in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1 : 67. 1872.

Trees, 3.6-5 m high. Leaves 8-21 × 2.5-7 cm, oblong-lanceolate, cuneate at base, entire along margins, abruptly acuminate at apex, coriaceous ; lateral nerves 5-13 pairs ; petioles 5-10 mm long, terete. Ripe carpels *ca* 1.5 cm long, oblong, brown, rugose, minutely apiculate.

Scarce in the inland forests ; from sea level to *ca* 200 m.

North Andamans : Anderson Island, 9.11.1990, *Lakshminarasimhan* 15252 a. South Andamans : Mount Harriet, 12.12. 1989, *Mathew* 20447.

Distribution : India (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland) and Bangladesh.

RHAMNACEAE

2. Sageretia parviflora (R. & S.) G. Don, Gen. Syst. 2 : 29. 1832 : Bhandari & Bhansali in Fasc. Fl. India 20 : 66, fig. 15. 1990. *Rhamnus parviflora* R. & S., Syst. Veg. 5 : 295. 1819. *Sageretia oppositifolia* Brongn., Mem. Fam. Rham. 53. 1826 & in Ann. Sci. Nat. 1, 10 : 360. 1827 ; Laws. in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1 : 641. 1875.

Shrubs, 2-3 m high ; branches often climbing, armed with thorns. Leaves 0.8-4.5 × 1-2.5 cm, ovate-elliptic, rounded at base, serrulate along margins, acute or acuminate at apex, subcoriaceous ; lateral nerves 3-5 pairs ; petioles 2-4 mm long, villous. Inflorescences panicled. Flowers yellow, *ca* 3 mm across (Fig. 1).

Rather scarce ; at altitude of *ca* 350 m.

North Andamans : Saddle Peak, 16.10. 1987, *J. L. Ellis* 12713.

Distribution : India (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) ; Nepal and Indonesia.

SAPINDACEAE

3. Mischocarpus pentapetalus (Roxb.) Radlk., Sapind. Holl. Ind. 43. 1879 : Van der Ham



Fig. 2. (a—b) : *Mischocarpus pentapetalus* (Roxb.) Radlk. a. Flowering twig, b. Fruit.

in Blumea 23 : 271, fig. 2 b. 1977 ; Vasud. in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 8 : 168. 1986. *Schleichera pentapetala* Roxb., Fl. Ind. 2 : 275. 1832. *Cupania pentapetala* Hiern in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1 : 678. 1875. *C. sumatrana* Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 2 : 566. 1859 ; Hiern in Hook. f., *op. cit.* 678. *C. helferi* Hiern in Hook. f., *op. cit.* 678.

Shrubs or small trees, 2-5 m high. Leaves 5-11 cm long, paripinnate ; petioles 3-5 cm long ; leaflets 7-13 × 2.5-4.8 cm, (1-) 2-4 pairs, lanceolate to elliptic-oblong or rarely ovate, cuneate or almost oblique at base, entire along margins, obtusely acuminate at apex, coriaceous ; lateral nerves 9-14 pairs ; petiolules 5-10 mm long. Inflorescences of axillary or sub-terminal cymules, 5-15 cm long. Flowers yellowish-green, *ca* 4 mm long ; petals absent. Fruits *ca* 1.2 cm long, globose, subglobose or ellipsoid, with a persistent calyx, stipe *ca* 5 mm long ; seed 1, *ca* 5 mm across, globose (Fig. 2 a-b).

Rare in the mangrove forests and along streams of Mount Harriet hill ranges.

South Andamans : Shoal Bay 8, 18.10.1989, *Ray* 16009 and Shoal Bay 15, 27.6.1988, *Ray* 16066 ; Wright Myo, 9.9.1982, D. K. *Hore* 9158.

Distribution : India (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur) ; Burma ; China ; Hainan ; Vietnam ; Laos ; Cambodia ; Thailand ; Malay Peninsula ; Sumatra ; Java ; Borneo and Philippines.

Notes : van der Ham (*op. cit.* 273) correctly identified a specimen : King's Collector 453 from Andaman Island at CAL as *M. pentapetalus* which was earlier identified as *M. sundaicus* Bl. Vasudeva Rao (*loc. cit.*) included this species under doubtful species stated in literature to occur in Tenasserim/Andamans. The recent collections from South Andamans confirm the occurrence of this species in these islands.

RUBIACEAE

4. Ixora thwaitesii Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3 : 138. 1880 ; Husain & Paul in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 5 : 233, fig. 1. 1984 et Taxonomic studies on Indian species of Genus *Ixora* L. (Rubiaceae) 175, fig. 32. 1989.

Shrubs or trees, 1-10 m high. Leaves 4.5-15 × 2.2-5.5 cm, elliptic or oblanceolate, cuneate at base, undulate at margins, acuminate at apex, thinly coriaceous ; lateral nerves 6-12 pairs ; petioles 5-9 mm long. Inflorescences of corymbose, pubescent cymes. Flowers pink. Fruits 6-9 × 6 mm, globose or didymous (Fig. 3).

Scarce in the scrub forests up to an altitude of *ca* 450 m.

North Andamans : Lamia Bay, 15.12.



Fig. 3 : *Ixora thwaitesii* Hook.f. — Flowering twig.

1990, *J. L. Ellis* 15913; Saddle Peak, 16.10.1987, *J. L. Ellis* 12745.

Distribution : India (Kerala) and Sri Lanka.

5. Ixora undulata Roxb., Fl. Ind. ed. Carey & Wall. 1 : 395. 1820; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3 : 147. 1880; Husain & Paul, Taxonomic studies on Indian species of *Ixora* L. (Rubiaceae) 177, fig. 33. 1989.

Large shrubs or small trees, *ca* 3 m high. Leaves 8.5-17 × 4-7 cm, elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate or rarely obovate, cuneate at base, undulate along margins, acuminate at apex, membranaceous; lateral nerves 11-18 pairs; petioles 7-10 mm long, channelled. Inflorescences of terminal or axillary, corymbosely panicled cymes, *ca* 4 cm long. Flowers white, *ca* 2.5 cm long. Fruits *ca* 5 mm across, globose with a rounded scar at apex.

Sparse in inland forests.

North Andamans : Bennet Island, 9.11.1990, *Lakshminarasimhan* 15264.

Distribution : India : Andaman Islands.

OLEACEAE

6. Jasminum angustifolium (L.) Willd., Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 1 : 36. 1797; Wight, Ic. t. 698. 1840; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3 : 598. 1882; Green in Kew Bull. 40 : 226. 1985. *Nyctanthes angustifolia* L., Sp. Pl. 6. 1753.

Climbing shrubs. Leaves 1-3 × 0.8-2 cm, ovate to lanceolate, rounded at base, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, chartaceous; lateral nerves 4-5 pairs; petioles *ca* 3 mm long. Inflorescences of 1-3-flowered cymes, terminal on lateral branches or axillary. Flowers white.

North Andamans : Saddle Peak, 7.4.1989, *J. L. Ellis* 14119.

Distribution : India (Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka.

PIPERACEAE

7. Piper pedicellosum Wall. ex Cas. DC. in DC., Prodr. 16(1) : 343. 1869 : Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5 : 81. 1886; Vasud. in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 8 : 140. 1986.

Climbers with swollen nodes. Leaves 8-10 × 4.5-6 cm, elliptic-ovate, equally or unequally cordate at base, entire at margins, acute at apex, 7-9-nerved; petioles 6-10 mm long. Drupes *ca* 5 mm across, globose, red, pungent, on 5-10 mm long pedicels (Fig. 4).

Rare in the inland forests at an altitude of *ca* 200 m.

South Andamans : Mount Harriet, 21.2.1989, *Mathew* 20145.

Distribution : India (Assam and Arunachal Pradesh) and Bhutan.

Notes : Vasudeva Rao (*loc. cit.*) recorded this species from Andaman Islands based on literature. The recent collection confirms the occurrence of this species in these islands.

CYPERACEAE

8. Carex speciosa Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2 : 504. 1837; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6 : 729. 1894; Kern & Nooteb. in Fl. Males. 1, 9 : 155, fig. 129. 1979; Karthik. *et al.*, Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 42. 1989.

Rhizomes short; stems 5-30 cm long, tufted, triquetrous. Leaves longer than stems, sub-basal, flat. Spikelet 1-3, 1.5-3 cm long, cylindric. Utricles 4-7 × 1-2 mm, ovoid-ellipsoid or ovoid-pyramidal, triquetrous, many-nerved, narrowed into a short bidenticulate beak. Nuts *ca* 3 × 2 mm, obovoid or ellipsoid, trigonous, shortly stipitate, beaked.

Scarce at altitudes of *ca* 300 m.

North Andamans : On way so Saddle Peak, 16.10.1987, *J. L. Ellis* 12706.

Distribution : India (Peninsular, C. & E. India, E. & C. Himalaya); S. China : Thailand; Indo-china and Malesia.

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Fig. 4 : *Piper pedicellosum* Wall. ex Cas. DC. — Fruiting twig

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