NOTES ON TWO ENDEMIC EUPHORBIACEOUS TAXA FROM ANDAMAN-NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

Two rare and interesting species of Euphorbiaceae have been rediscovered from Andaman Islands, viz., *Glochidion andamanicum* Kurz after 9 decades and *Sphyranthera lutescens* (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm., after nearly 11 decades. As these are endemic to Andaman-Nicobar Islands, detailed descriptions and figures have been given.

From the collections made during the botanical explorations in Mount Harriet hill ranges in South Andaman Islands, the authors came across two interesting Euphorbiaceous plants, viz., *Glochidion andamanicum* Kurz and *Sphyranthera lutescens* (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm.

Glochidion andamanicum Kurz, was originally described in 1873 on the basis of collections from South Andamans. The type specimen is not traceable at CAL. On 6.2.1899, D. Prain collected some more specimens of this plant, again from South Andamans, which had been deposited at CAL but even these specimens are not traceable now ! C. E. Parkinson (1923) records this species from Andaman Islands based on his own collections from Mount Harriet, though interestingly his specimens are referable to a different species, viz., *Glochidion subsessile* Balakr. & T. Chakrab. The present collection from Wright Myo on 12.4.1989 (*Sam P. Mathew* 20226) after nearly 00 years confirms the occurrence of *Glochidion andamanicum* Kurz in Andaman Islands.

Sphyranthera lutescens (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm., is based on *Codiaeum lutescens* Kurz described in 1877 from Middle Andamans (Bamboo jungles along Middle Straits) on the basis of the male plant only. After more than a century, Airy Shaw (1984) described the female plant based on a fruiting specimen from Great Nicobar Island, collected on 12.5.1980 (*D. K. Hore* 7579). Airy Shaw (*op. cit.* p. 808) states, "*Sphyranthera* Hook. f. has survived in small quantity, in scattered coastal localities at least on Great Nicobar Island, though no recent collections have been seen from the Andamans after Kurz's report in 1877". Chakrabarty and Vasudeva Rao (1984), while describing a new species of *Sphyranthera*, mention that both the male and female plants of *Sphyranthera lutescens* (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm., are found growing near to each other in three localities in Great Nicobar Island. The present collection from Mount Harriet on 2.2.1990 (*Sam P. Mathew* 20566) is therefore interesting and confirms the occurrence of this species in the Andaman Islands.

As *Glochidion andamanicum* Kurz and *Sphyranthera lutescens* (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm., are endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and are little known, citations, descriptions, phenology etc., along with relevant figures are provided here to facilitate identification.

Glochidion andamanicum Kurz in J. As. Soc. Beng. 42 : 238. 1873 & For. Fl. Brit. Burma 2 : 346. 1877 ; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5 : 322. 1887. (Plate 1).

Trees, 7-8 m high, monoecious ; branchlets blackish-brown, angular, laterally compressed, glabrous. Leaves 5-11 × 3-4 cm, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, rounded or often oblique at base, entire at margins, acute to acuminate at apex, thinly coriaceous, blackish-brown above and coppery brown beneath when dry ; lateral nerves 6-9 pairs ; petioles 2-4 mm long. Inflorescences axillary, fasciculate, sessile, *ca* 15-flowered, bearing unisexual flowers. Male flowers 4-6 mm long, pale yellowish, tomentose, pedicellate ; tepals 3+3, 2.5-3.5 × 0.8-1 mm, oblong-lanceolate, glabrous inside, tomentose outside ; stamens 3, *ca* 0.7 mm long, connate into an oblong mass, with minute connective. Female flowers sessile to

subsessile ; tepals 3+3, *ca* 2 × 1 mm, ovate-oblong, tomentose ; ovary *ca* 0.5 mm in diam., globose, pubescent, 4-6-loculed ; style *ca* 0.5 mm long, subglobose, puberulous, shortly 5-6-fid at apex.

Fl. & Fr. : February-May.

Distribution : India (South Andamans)—Endemic.

Ecology : Rare in tropical forests, at altitudes of 150 to 200 m.

Specimen examined : South Andamans, Mount Harriet hills : Wright Myo, 12.4.1989, *Sam P. Mathew* 20226 (PBL).

Sphyranthera lutescens (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm., in Engler, Pflanzenfam. ed. 2, 19 C : 231.

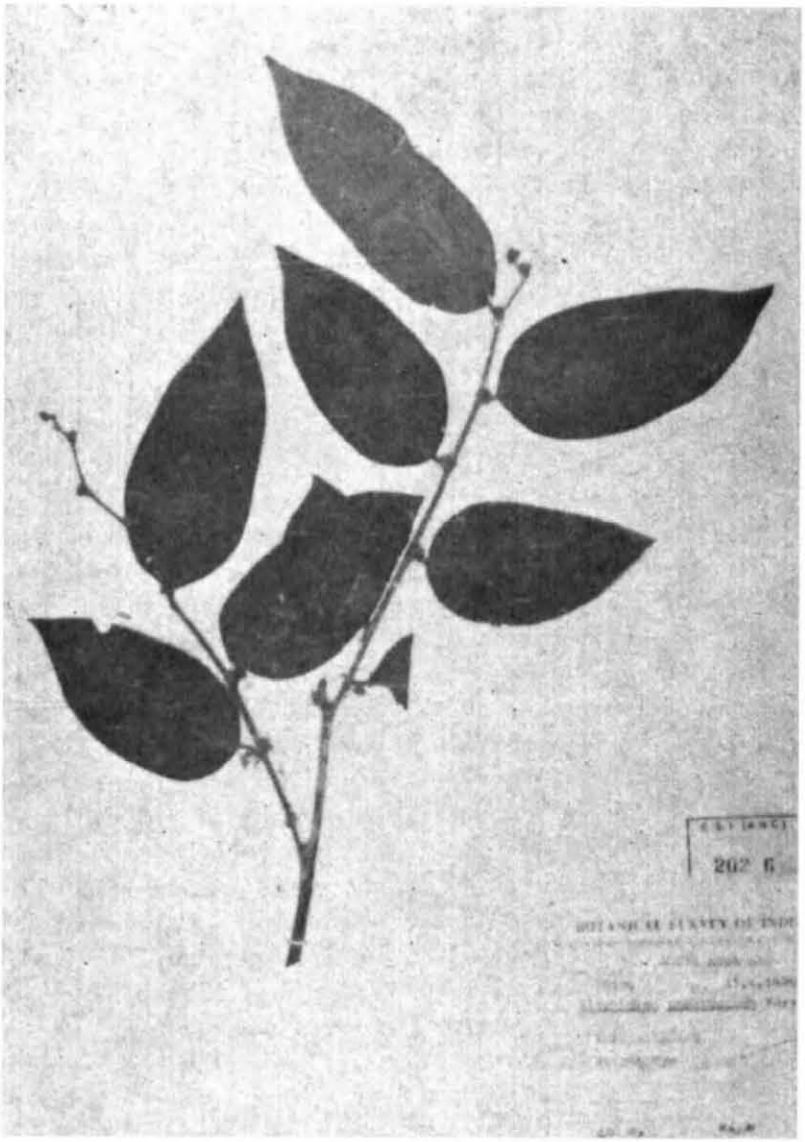


Plate 1 : *Glochidion andamanicum* Kurz

1931 & in Leme'e, Dict. Descr. & Synon. 6 : 223. 1935 ; Airy Shaw in Kew Bull. 39 : 808. 1984. *Codiaeum lutescens* Kurz, For. Fl. Brit. Burma 2 : 405. 1877. *Sphyranthera capitellata* Hook. f. in Hook. Ic. Pl. 18 : t. 1702. 1887 & Fl. Brit. India 5 : 477. 1888. (Plate 2).

Trees or shrubs, 2-6 m high, dioecious : stem brownish. Leaves 6.5–19 × 3.5—9 cm, elliptic-lanceolate or rarely oblong, cuneate at base, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, chartaceous, pale greyish-yellow when dry ; lateral nerves 5-10 pairs ; petioles 0.3—2 cm long, puberulous or glabrescent. Inflorescences arising from axils of fallen leaves or ramiflorous. Male flowers greenish-yellow or whitish, fasciculate, peduncles 7-10 mm long, pubescent, pedicels *ca* 7 mm long, puberulous

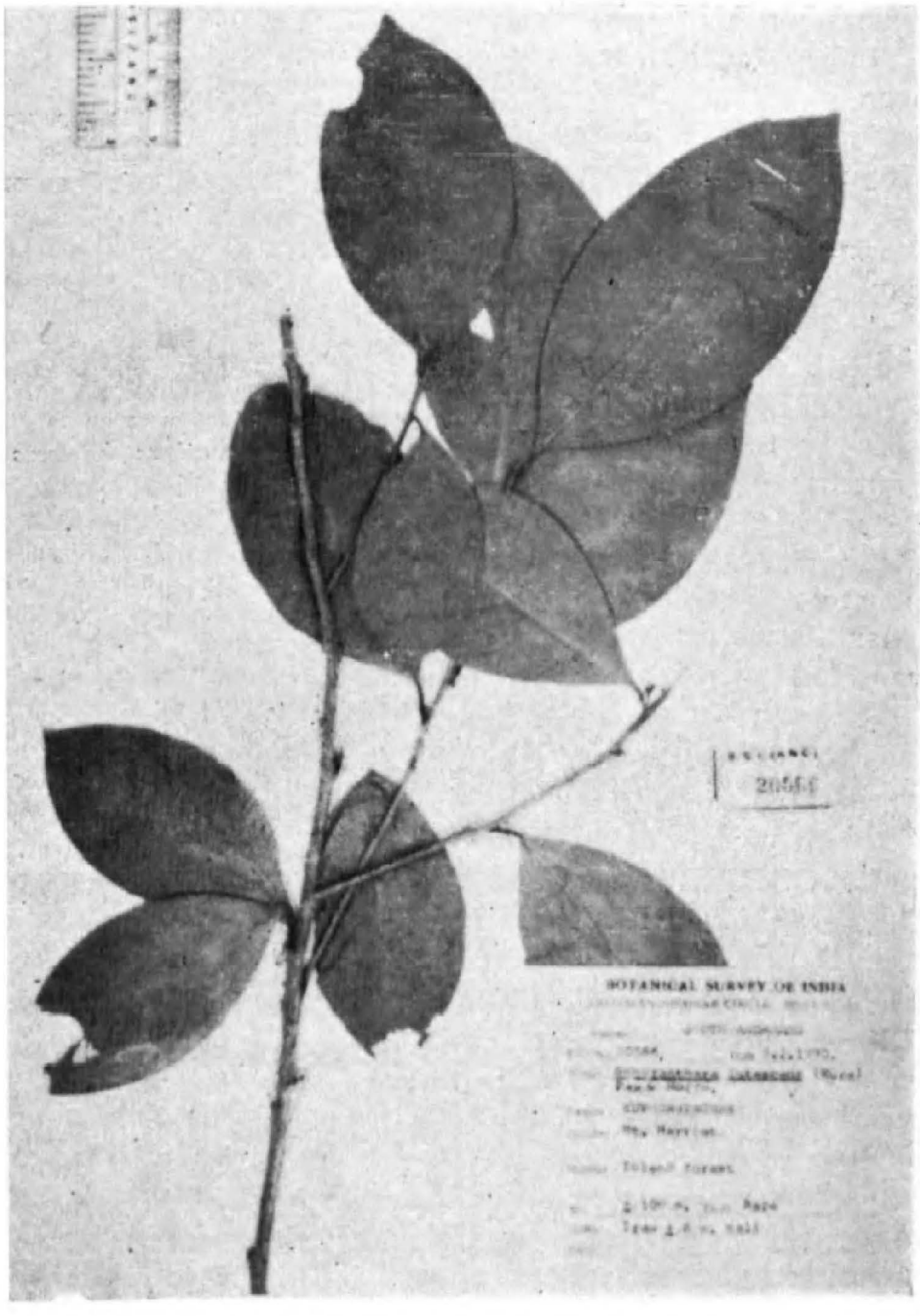


Plate 2 : *Sphyranthera lutescens* (Kurz) Pax & Hoffm.

or glabrescent ; tepals 4, *ca* 2 × 1 mm, ovate-lanceolate, glabrous inside, puberulous outside ; stamens *ca* 15, up to 1 mm long ; anther cells globose, divaricate, one at each end of a dilated connective. Female flowers yellowish, fasciculate ; peduncles 5-15 cm long ; tepals 3, *ca* 1 mm long, ovate, acute. Capsules *ca* 12 mm in diam., depressed-globose, 3-locular, smooth, pale greyish ; seeds *ca* 4 mm in diam., ochraceous.

Fl. & Fr. : November-May.

Distribution : India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)-Endemic.

Ecology : Scattered in the inland and littoral forests from sea level to an altitude of *ca* 1000 m.

Specimens examined : INDIA : South Andamans, Mount Harriet, 2.2.1990, *Sam P. Mathew* 20566 ♂ (PBL). North Nicobars, Nancowry Island : Malacca, 25.5.1977, *N. Bhargava* 5097 ♂ (PBL). South Nicobars, Great Nicobar Island : Campbell Bay forest behind Marine quarters, 7.5.1984, *T. Chakrabarty* 10298 ♂ & 10299 ♀ (PBL) ; Galathea river mouth, 28.11.1978, *N. G. Nair* 7124 ♂ (PBL) ; Laful, 12.5.1980, *D. K. Hore* 7579 ♀ (PBL) ; Lakshman Beach, 30.11.1975, *P. Chakraborty* 3220 ♂ & 7.5.1984, *T. Chakrabarty* 10296 ♂ (PBL) ; 32 km on N-S Road, 4.5.1984, *T. Chakrabarty* 10253 ♂ & 10254 (PBL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta for facilities and encouragement. Their thanks are also due to Dr. J. L. Ellis, former Scientist-SE, Botanical Survey of India, for critically going through the manuscript.

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A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ARUNDINELLA BENGALENSIS* (SPRENG.) DRUCE IN J. & K. STATE

During the course of botanical exploration to Udhampur District (J & K) in connection with the floristic and ethnobotanical studies, a species of *Arundinella* Raddi was collected alongwith many other plants. The study of literature and herbarium specimens confirmed it to be *Arundinella bengalensis* (Spreng.) Druce, a species hitherto unreported from Jammu and Kashmir and thus forms a new record for its occurrence from the state.

The character'stic feature of *A. bengalensis* (Spreng.) Druce, which differentiates it from other species of *Arundinella* is its cylinderical panicle with speciform branches.

A brief description of the plant is provided herewith for identification and further collection. Herbarium sheet of specimen is deposited at DD for preservation.

Arundinella bengalensis (Spreng.) Druce in Rep. Bot. Exchng. Club Brit. Isles 605.