A *NEPHELIUM* NEW TO INDIA FROM THE NICOBAR ISLANDS

Nephelium L. includes 22 species, 9 varieties and 4 subvarieties (Leenhouts, 1986). The genus is centered around West Malesia with a few distributed in continental Asia and the Philippines. Of the 22 species, 3 species are endemic to Malay Peninsula and 8 to Borneo. Leenhouts reports 1 species viz., *Nephelium ramboutan-ake* (Labill.) Leenh. from Assam, India. Parkinson (1923) records *Nephelium litchi* Cambess. as having been introduced in the Andamans for its delicious fruits. Leenhouts excludes this taxon from *Nephelium* and treats it under *Litchi* Sonn. as *Litchi chinensis* Sonn. Vasudeva Rao (1986) lists *Nephelium longana* Cambess. from Nicobar Islands ; Leenhouts treats it under *Dimocarpus longan* Lour.

While studying the Sapindaceae of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we came across a herbarium specimen *D. K. Hore* 8718 collected from the Great Nicobar Island and deposited at PBL identified as *Nephelium lappaceum* L. On a critical examination, it turned out to be *Nephelium uncinatum* Radlk. ex Leenh., hitherto unrecorded from India.

As *N. uncinatum* is a new record for India, to facilitate its easy identification, description with a figure has been provided.

Nephelium uncinatum Radlk. ex Leenh. in Blumea 31 (2) : 421, fig. 3 c & 4 b. 1986. (Fig. 1).

Trees, up to 60 m tall ; bark whitish ; branchlets rusty tomentose, longitudinally grooved when young, later glabrous, terete. Leaves alternate, paripinnate, 4-8 jugate, coppery brown to blackish-brown above, grey to greyish-brown below when dry ; petioles 2.4-8 cm long, terete, base slightly swollen, a prominent median rib running entire length of rachis above, median rib inconspicuous in petiole ; leaflets 3.5-12 × 1-4.5 cm, subopposite or alternate, elliptic or elliptic-oblong, acute or acuminate at apex, cuneate or often oblique at base, glabrous on the upper side, sparsely hairy on midrib and veins on the lower surface and minutely sericeous in between, domatia sometimes present beneath, midrib and lateral nerves raised below, midrib prominently grooved above ; lateral nerves impressed or flattened and faintly visible above, coarsely reticulate, lateral nerves 9-20 pairs running obliquely towards margin ; petiolules 0.3-0.4 cm long, semi-terete, broadly shallowly grooved with a clear median rib above. Fruits 2.7-3.5 × 2-2.5 cm, red, solitary or with an undeveloped one ; epicarp set with thick warts tapering to filiform 0.4-0.75 cm long, puberulous or glabrous appendages ; mesocarp thin, endocarp stony, 1-seeded.

Frts. : June.

Distribution : Malaya ; Sumatra ; Borneo ; India : Nicobar Islands.

Specimen examined : South Nicobars, Laful Forest, Great Nicobar Island, 3.6.1981. *D. K. Hore* 8718 (*PBL*).

Habitat : Rare in tropical inland forests.

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Fig. 1 : *Nephelium uncinatum* Radlk. ex Leenh – Habit (fruiting)