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MILIUSA MUKERJEEANA D. MITRA & P. CHAKRAB. (ANNONACEAE)—A NEW SPECIES FROM ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

While revising the family Annonaceae for Flora of India, the authors came across several unidentified materials from Andaman & Nicobar Islands deposited at CAL. There were also some living plants at Indian Botanic Garden, introduced from Andaman Islands. Recently a fresh collection has been made from the same area. On critical study, all these materials were found to be conspecific and reported here as a new species. The species is closely allied to *M. roxburghiana* (Wall. ex Griff.) Hook. f. & Thoms.

Miliusa mukerjeeana D. Mitra et P. Chakrab., **sp. nov.**

M. roxburghianae (Wall. ex Griff.) Hook. f. et Thoms. proxime affinis, sed differt floribus semper bisexualibus, sepalis petalisque 3 exterioribus, ovatis acutis, *ca* 1 × 1 mm, 3 petalis interioribus liberis, per crassis, *ca* 5 × 4 mm, stipitibus carpellorum maturorum parvioribus, 4-5 mm longis.

Typus : Alimusjid Hill Jungle, S. Andaman Island, 14 Oct. 1895, *King's Collector s.n.* (Holo. et Iso. in CAL).

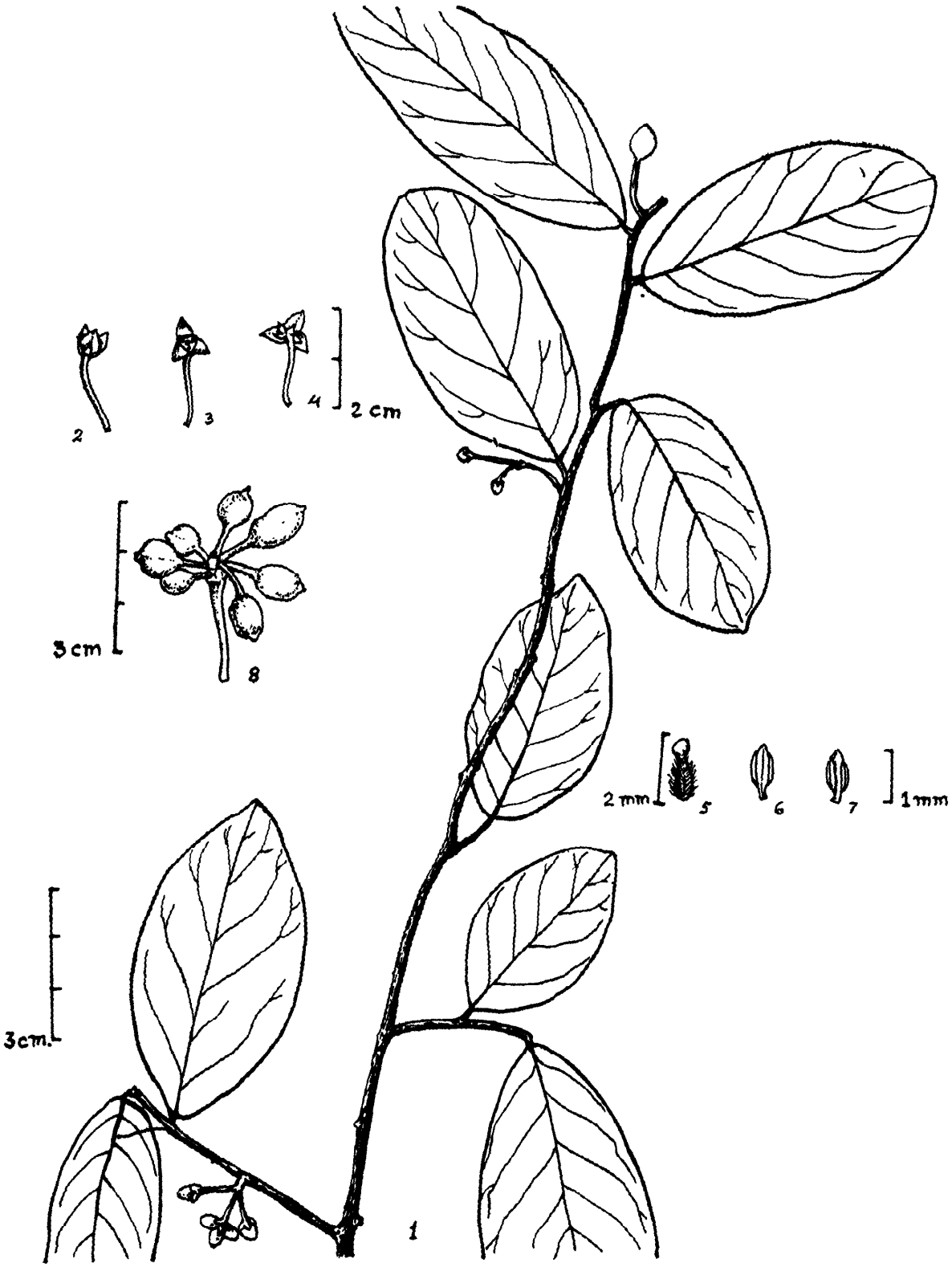
M. mukerjeeana is closely related to *M. roxburghiana* (Wall. ex Griff.) Hook. f. & Thoms. differing always in having bisexual flowers, sepals and the 3 outer petals ovate-acute and about 1 × 1 mm, the 3 inner petals free, very thick, about 5 × 4 mm and the stalk of ripe carpels shorter, 4-5 mm long.

Small trees, 3-8 m tall; young branches puberulous. Leaves simple, alternate, exstipulate, glabrous, oblanceolate to lanceolate, base cuneate, apex obtuse to acuminate, 9-16.5 × 4-5 cm; main lateral nerves 10-12 pairs; petioles 2-3 mm long. Flowers bisexual, solitary or 2-3 together, axillary, greenish to yellow; pedicels slender, 1.5-2 cm long; bracts 2, minute, basal and submedian, caducous. Sepals 3, valvate, ovate, acute, *ca* 1 × 1 mm, pubescent outside. Petals 6 (3+3), valvate; outer 3 like sepals in size and shape; inner 3 ovate, acute, free, very thick, *ca* 5 × 4 mm, pubescent outside. Torus conical. Stamens *ca* 1 mm long; filaments short, flattened; connectives small, apiculate, not concealing the anther-locules. Carpels many, *ca* 2 mm long, strigose; ovary oblong, ovules 3-4; style absent; stigma capitate. Ripe carpels many, berries, globose to oblong, 0.5-1 cm long, red when ripe; stalks 4-5 mm long. Seeds 1-3, transversely ridged, convex above.

Specimens examined : SOUTH ANDAMAN ISLANDS. Rangachang hill jungle, 10.7.1895, *Dr. King's Collector s.n.*; Herb. Hort. Bot. Cal. Andaman group, 21 April, 1894; Herb. Hort. Bot. Cal., 1.7.1892, *R. L. Proudlock* 11 : Ind. Bot. Gdn., *D. Das* 10, 21 Nov. 1963. NICOBAR ISLANDS : Car Nicobar, *N. G. Nair* 903; 1 March 1974, Karchal, 22 April 1976, *P. Chakraborty* 1142 (all paratypes deposited in CAL & PBL).

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Mihusa mukerjeeana Mitra et Chakra. Sp. Nov.

Figs (1-8) : 1. Flowering twig. 2. Flower. 3. Flower front view. 4. Flower back view. 5. Carpel. 6. Stamen back view. 7. Stamen front view. 8. Ripe carpels.

the new species is given to honour the renowned Indian taxonomist, Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, Retd. Keeper of the Central National Herbarium (CAL).

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