BULL. BOT. SURV INDIA
Vol. 28, Nos. 1-4 pp. 182-184, 1986

# A NEW SPECIES OF GOMPHOSTEMMA WALL. (LAMIACEAE) FROM MEGHALAYA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Gomphostemma nayarii* Chauhan has been described from Meghalaya.

The genus *Gomphostemma* Wall. has so far been represented by 22 species from the Indian region (Mukerjee, 1940). Recently, during the intensive exploration tours to Meghalaya, the author collected interesting specimens of the genus *Gomphostemma*, from Nongstoin in West Khasi hills, approaching to *G. inopinatum* Prain, a species reported from Burma (Prain, 1901). However, a critical study revealed that it is distinct from hitherto known species of the genus. This is being described here as *Gomphostemma nayarii* Chauhan, sp. nov. The species is suitably illustrated to facilitate easy identification.

**Gomphostemma nayarii** Chauhan, sp. nov.

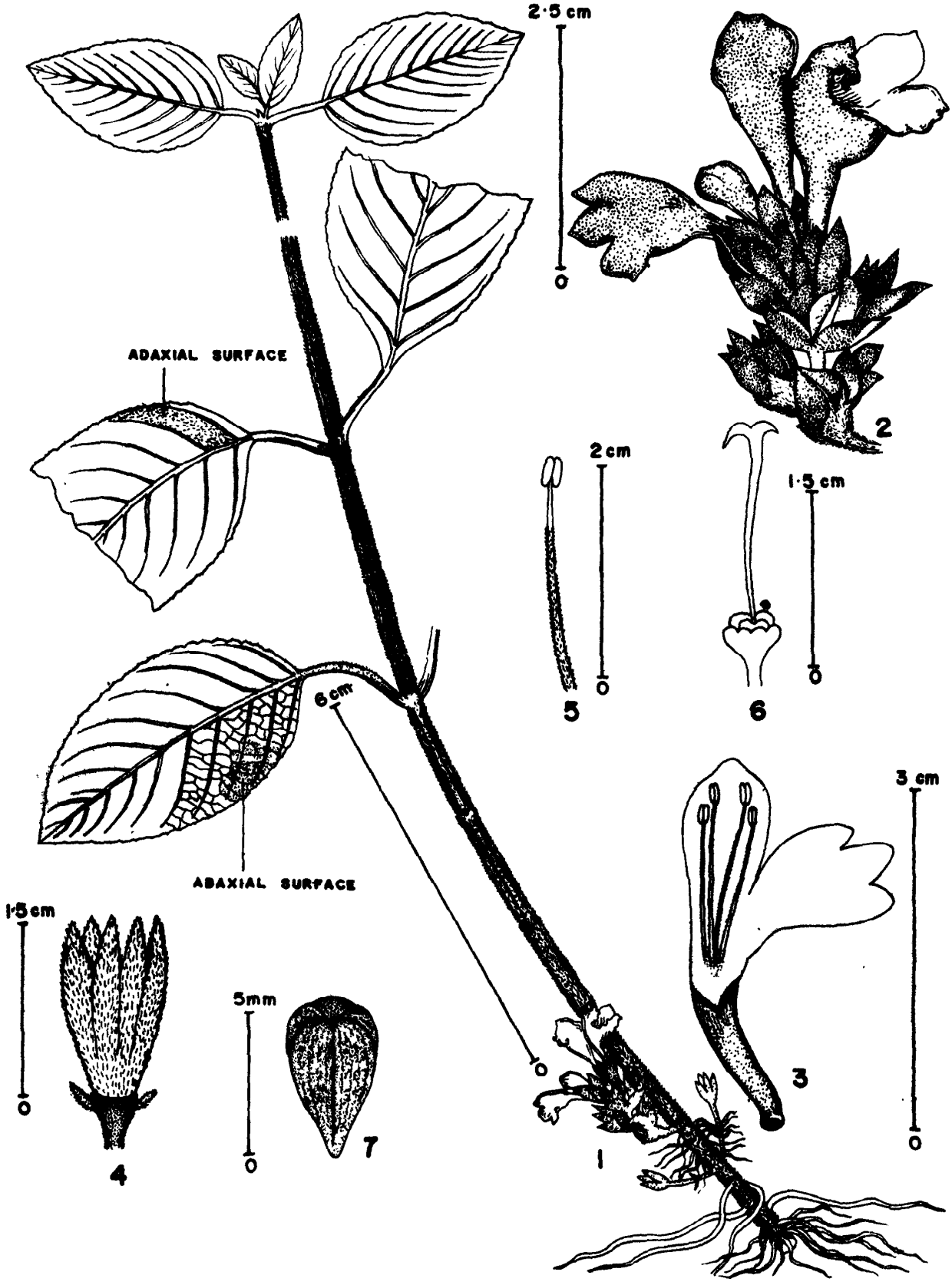
*G. inopinato* Prain, specie burmanica affine, sed differt habitu herbacea robusta, cauli singulari 35-51 cm alto e caudice; lamina 17-18.5 × 9-10 cm cum 10-11 nervis lateralibus; bracteis subobovatis integrisque; corolla extus dense lanata, intus glabra; filamento 3/4 parte profuse pilose, praeter infra antheram.

Holotypus lectus a *A. S. Chauhan* sub numero 81993 A ad locum Meghalaya, Khasi hills, Nongstoin die 5.9.1985, et positus in herbario CAL. Isotypus 81993 B positus in ASSAM. Paratypi, *Chauhan* 73748 and 74460 (ASSAM).

**Gomphostemma nayarii** Chauhan, sp. nov.

Allied to *G. inopinatum* Prain, a species reported from Burma but differs in habit, a robust herb with single stem 35-51 cm high from the root-stock; lamina 17-18.5× 9-10 cm with 10-11 lateral nerves; bracts slightly obovate, entire; corolla densely woolly outside, glabrous within; three-fourth of the filaments profusely hairy except below the anthers.

Perennial, erect herb with single stem 35-51 cm high from the root-stock; roots numerous tufted; stem with distinct nodes and internodes, circular at base, quadrangular above, obscurely grooved, densely tomentose with stellate hairs mixed with long spreading hairs. Leaves petioled, opposite decussate, broadly elliptic, acute, dentate except at the base, lamina 17-18.5 × 9-10 cm with 10-11 lateral nerves, upper surface hirsute with stellate and simple hairs, flocculantly tomentose with stellate hairs beneath; petiole 4-5.5 cm long, densely woolly. Flowers in dense uninterrupted spike borne on independent leafless scape from the root-stock. Bracts




*Gomphostemma Nayarii* Chauhan. *sp. nov.*

Figs. 1—7 : 1. Habit. 2. inflorescence. 3. Lateral view of corolla. 4. Calyx. 5. Stamen. 6. Gynoecium 7. Seed.

1.3-1.7 × 0.6-0.7 cm, slightly obovate, entire, acute, 3-nerved, sparsely stellate hairy outside, glabrous within. Bracteoles *ca* 0.7 cm long, linear or oblanceolate, densely tomentose outside, 1-nerved, entire, acute, scarlet. Calyx *ca* 1.4 cm long, campanulate, pubescent outside with stellate hairs, glabrous within, limbs 5-lobed, lobes triangular, longer than the tube, acuminate, 3-nerved, scarlet. Corolla 2.8-3.2 cm long, yellow, gamopetalous, bilabiate, densely villous outside, glabrous within, upper lip sub-entire *ca* 1 cm long, lower lip trilobed 1.2 × 0.9 cm, midlobe slightly emerged. Stamens 4, didynamous, epipetalous, lower pair longer, three-fourth of the filaments profusely hairy except below the anthers, anthers 2-celled, cells parallel, transverse. Ovary superior, placed on a prominent glandular disc, 4-partite, glabrous, style gynobasic, long, glabrous, unequally bifid at the apex. Nutlets usually 4, *ca* 0.5 cm long, more or less oblong, brown, glabrous, rugose.

The species is named after Dr. M. P. Nayar in dedication to his contribution to Indian flora.

*Ecology :* Growing in dense, moist and shady places of the forest- floor.

*Flowering and fruiting :* September to October.

*Distribution :* INDIA : Meghalaya.

*Present status :* Rare.

*G. inopinatum* Prain, in contrast, is characterised as a small herb with several stems, *ca* 30 cm high from the root-stock; lamina 7.8-12.9 × 5-7.5 cm with 6 pairs of lateral nerves; bracts *ca* 1 cm long, obovate dentate; corolla *ca* 2 cm long, annulate hairy within and filaments hairy at the base only.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I express my grateful thanks to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, for facilities; to Dr. N.C. Majumdar, Scientist 'C', Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for Latin translation and to Dr. S.K. Kataki, Scientist in-charge, Eastern Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong for encouragements and helpful suggestions.

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