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A NEW *HOLBOELLIA* (LARDIZABALACEAE) FROM MEGHALAYA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Holboellia* has been described from Meghalaya.

Holboellia khasiana T. K. Paul et Nayar *sp. nov.*

Affinis H. latifoliae sed foliis apice longe acuminatis ad maturiate spinibus, petiolis brevioribus (1.5-4.0 cm longis), racemis petiolore longioribus, filamentiis antheriore perbrevioribus differt.

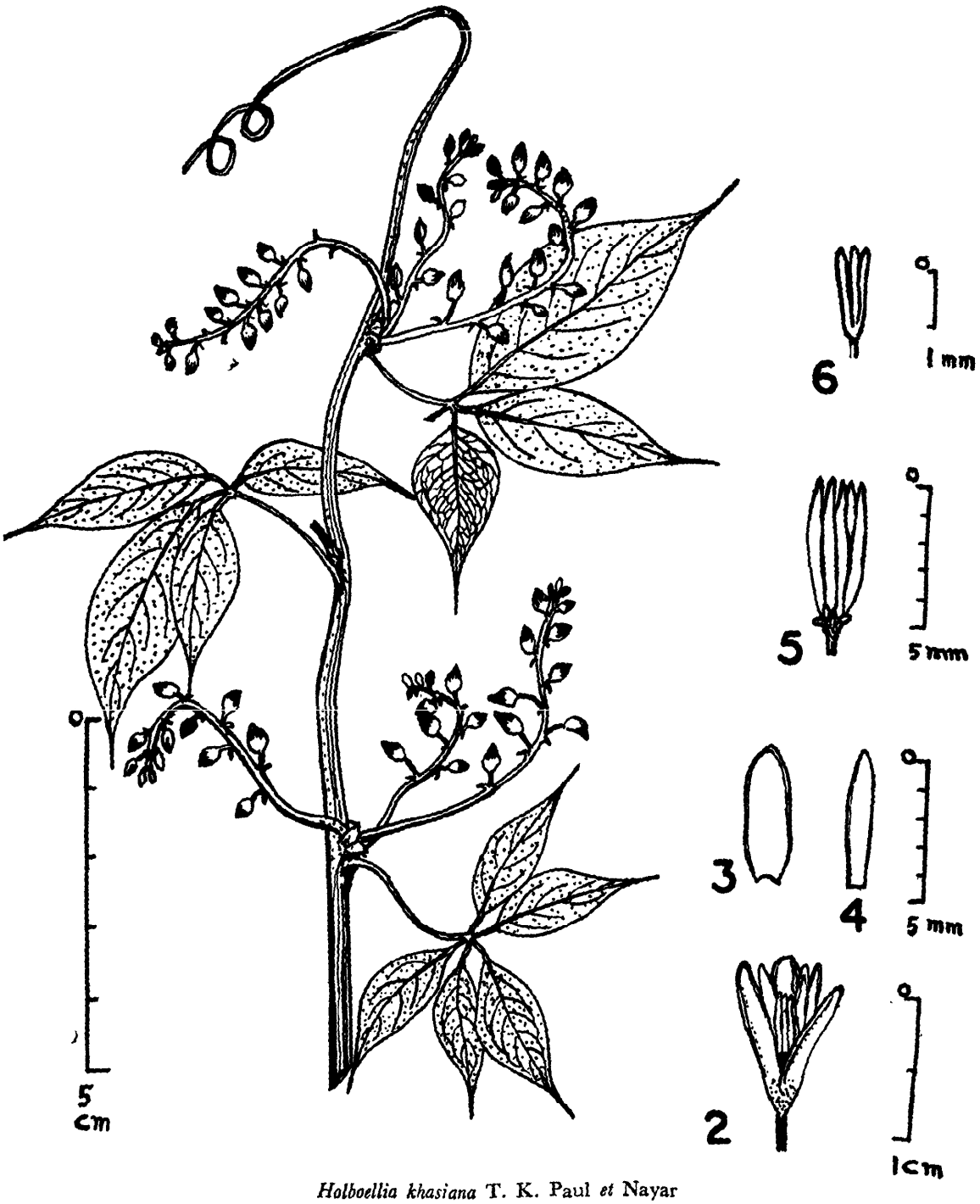
Holotypus : Meghalaya, Khasia, Cherra, 5000′ (1520 m). *Griffith* s. n. Acc. No. 16830 (CAL).

Holboellia khasiana T. K. Paul et Nayar *sp. nov.*

Climbing shrub, bark of the mature stem and branches striated, glabrous, often twining at the tips. Leaves alternate, digitately compound, 4-5-foliolate, coriaceous, petiolate ; petiole 1.5-4.0 cm long ; leaflets ovate-elliptic, 3.0-6.5 × 1-3 cm, apex long acuminate, becoming spinous in mature leaves, margin entire, slightly revolute, glabrous, petiolulate ; petiolule 4-8 mm long. Inflorescence racemose in axillary fascicles, racemes longer than petiole ; plants monoecious. Flowers unisexual, actinomorphic, bracteate ; pedicel 3-5 mm long. Sepals 6, biseriate, 5-8 × 1-3 mm, outer 3 sepals ovate-lanceolate, inner 3 linear, glabrous. Petals 6, minute or inconspicuous, nectariform. Male flowers with 6 stamens, stamens free, anther *c.* 5 mm long, filament *c.* 1 mm, pistillodes minute. Female flowers with 3 carpels, carpels free, *c.* 1.5 mm long, oblong, glabrous, with a sessile oblong stigma, staminodes minute. Fruit not seen.

Holboellia khasiana T. K. Paul et Nayar is known only from the type locality. This species is allied to *H. latifolia* Wall. but differs in having : leaves with long acuminate apex which becomes spinescent during maturity, petiole short (1.5-4.0 cm), raceme much longer than the petiole and filaments much shorter than the anthers ; whereas in *H. latifolia* Wall. the leaves with acute or short acuminate apex, petiole longer (4-8 cm long), raceme much shorter than the petiole and filaments and anthers more or less equal in length.

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Holboellia khasiana T. K. Paul *et* Nayar

Figs. 1-6 : 1. Flowering twig. 2. Flower. 3. Outer sepal. 4. Inner sepal. 5. Stamens. 6. Carpels.