single flower. Flowers campanulate with rusty scales, deciduous ; perianth tube 1-1.5 cm long ; perianth lobes 4, 0.5 cm long. Stames 4 ; filaments 6 mm long ; anthers ellipsoid. Ovary partly covered by the perianth tube, 4 mm long ; styles 10 mm, flexuous, hairy at the base ; stigma slightly hooked. Disc scarcely projected, pubescent, pedicels 5 mm long elongating in fruit. Fruits not seen.

Type : Described from Hongkong.

Fls. : Dec.-Feb. *Frts.* : Mar.-May.

Distribution : INDIA : Meghalaya, Manipur ; CHINA, HONGKONG.

Specimens cited : India : Manipur, Charoi, 1500 m, 8.1.1946, *N. L. Bor* 101 (DD) ; Meghalaya, Cherapunji 1380 m. 10.12.1956, *G. Panigrahi* 4829 (CAL).

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D. BASU

Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun

STATUS OF *OLAX WIGHTIANA* WALL. EX WIGHT & ARN.

Wight & Arn. (1834) validated *O. wightiana* Wall. based on Wallich Num. List no. 6779 (1832, *nom. nud.*), collected from Peninsular India. Examination of herbarium specimens reveal that this species is endemic to the Western Ghats in Anamalai and Tinnevelly hills. This endemic species was later on recorded by many floristic and taxonomic workers like Beddome (1859), Dalz. & Geibs. (1861), Masters (1875), Talbot (1894), Woodr. (1897), Cooke (1902), Brandis (1906), Gamble (1915) etc. in different floras or journal. Sleumer (1980) however, merged *O. wightiana* with *O. imbricata* Roxb.—a species described by Roxburgh (1820) based on his own collection from Chittagong, erstwhile East Bengal (now Bangladesh). In India further collection of *O. imbricata* Roxb. was made only from Andaman-Nicobar Islands and not so far from the mainland of India. The distribution of *O. imbricata* Roxb., as per literature and herbarium specimens show, this species occur in Indochina, Thailand, S. W. China, Taiwan, Malesia to New Guinea and Solomon Islands, besides India and Bangladesh.

The present critical study of the two species referred to above reveals that they are quite distinct and can be safely distinguished by a number of characters. Considering this, the present authors do not agree with Sleumer (1980) in merging *O. wightiana* with *O. imbricata* and as such propose to maintain them as two distinct species.

A comparative study of the two taxa in respect of their taxonomic characters is given below for easy identification.

Olax imbricata Roxb.	*Olax wightiana* Wall. ex Wight et Arn.
1. Inflorescence hardly exceeding the length of the subtending petioles, ca. 1 cm long.	1. Inflorescence always longer than the petioles, 3-6 cm long.
2. Flowers densely compact.	2. Flowrers more or less in lax panicle.
3. Rachis brownish verrucose or sparsely tomentose.	3. Rachis densely brownish tomentose.
4. Bracts broadly ovate, never more than 0.5 mm in length, sparsely tomentose dorsally when young, afterwards become glabrescent.	4. Bracts oblong, 2.5 mm long, dorsal surfaces densely brownish tomentose.
5. Pedicels short, 2.0-2.5 mm long, glabrous.	5. Pedicels upto 7 mm long, tomentose.
6. Calyx only ciliated at margin dorsally glabrous.	6. Calyx ciliated at margin and densely brownish tomentose dorsally.
7. Petals glabrous dorsally	7. Petals sparsely to densely brownish tomentose dorsally.
8. Fruits ovoid or globose, 8-10 mm across.	8. Fruits oblong or oval 10-18×9-10 mm.

Olax imbricata Roxb. [Hort. Beng. 5. 1814, *nom. nud.*] Fl. Ind. ed. Carey & Wall. 1 : 169. 1820 ; DC. Prodr. 1 : 532. 1824 ; Roxb. Fl. Ind. ed Carey 1 : 164. 1832 ; Miq. Fl. Ind. Bat. 1, 1 : 785. 1856 ; Mast. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 575. 1975 ; Kurz Journ. As. Soc. Bengal 44, 2 : 153. 1875 et For. Fl. Burma 1 : 234. 1877 ; King, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal 64, 2 : 99. 1895 ; Parkinson For. Fl. Andaman 125. 1923 ; Back. & Bakh. f. Fl. Java 2 : 64. 1965 ; Sleumer in Blumea 26 : 156. 1980 (p.p.)—*O. lucida* Heyne in Wall. List. no. 6777. 1832 (*nom. nud.*)—*O. imbricata* Roxb. var. *membranifolia* Kurz, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal 45, 2 : 123. 1876.

Type : Bengal, Chittagong, *Roxburgh* s.n. (CAL).

Distribution : INDIA (Andaman-Nicobar Islands), BANGLADESH, BURMA, CEYLON, INDONESIA, THAILAND, S. W. CHINA, TAIWAN, MALAYA PENINSULA, NEW GUINEA, SALOMON ISLAND.

Specimens examined : INDIA : Andaman-Nicobar Islands : Dhami Kharo, Port Blair, 5.2.1884, *Dr. King's Collector* 85 ; 34 km on East West Road, Gr. Nicobar Island, 16.10.1979, *D. K. Hore* 7221 ; *Ibid.* 4 Oct. 1980, *D. K. Hore* 8266 ; Carbyns Cave, South Andamans, 14.4.1976, *N. G. Nair* 6355 ; Passa, Car Nicobar, 1.10.1976, *N. G. Nair* 4565 ; Ferrargunj forest, South Andaman, 14.4.1964, *Thothathri* 10231 ; Long Island, Middle Andaman, 25 m, 23.1.1959, *Thothathri* 9125 ; Harbertabad, S. Andaman, 15.3.1959, *Thothathri* 9299 ; Chaulari, S. Andaman, Jan. 1893, *Dr. King's Collector* s.n. (CAL 82665) ; Beadonabad, inland forest, S. Andaman, ± 50 m, 14.12.1973, *Balakrishnan* 670 ; Middle Andaman, Dec. 1915, *Parkinson* 816 ; Hope town, Andaman, 26.12.1915 ; *Parkinson* 816 (b) ; Anikhet-hill jungle, 5.3.1893, *Dr. King's Collector s.n.* (CAL 82670 & 82676) ; Rungoo Chung, S. Andaman, 13.1.1893, *Dr. King's Collector* s.n. (CAL 82671 & 82678) ; Kadakachang-hill jungle, S. Andaman, 16.2.1875, Jan. 1893, *Dr. Kings's Collector s.n.* (CAL 82674) ; Holdaypur, Andamans, 10.1.1891, *Dr. King's Collector* s.n. (CAL 82673) ; Manpur, S. Andaman, 13.12.1892, *Dr. King's Collector s.n.* (CAL 82679) ; Katchal, Nicobar Island, *S. Kurz* s.n. (CAL 82685, *O. imbricata* Roxb. var. *membranifolia* Kurz).

Olax wightiana Wall. [Num. List. no. 6779 (1832), nom. nud.] ex Wight et Arn, Prodr. 1 : 89. 1834 ; Thwaites, En. 42, 1858 ; Beddome, Fl. Sylv. 60, t. 9. f. 2. 1859 ; Dalz. & Gibs., Bombay Fl. 27. 1861 ; Mast. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 575. 1875 ; Talbot, Tr. Bombay 44. 1894 ; Woodr., Journ. Bombay Nat. 11 : 270. 1897 ; Cooke, Bombay Fl. 1 : 221. 1902 ; Brandis, Ind. Tr. 148. 1906 ; Gamble, Fl. Madras, 1 : 190. 1915 ; Sleumer in Blumea 26 : 156. 1980 (as synonym under *O. imbricata* Roxb.)

Type : INDIA : Western Peninsula, Courtallum, *Wallich* 6779 (K).

Distribution : INDIA : Endemic to W. Ghats.

Specimens examined : Nandi Hills, Bangalore Dist., Karnataka, 1.3.1957, *Janaki Amal* 7376 ; Sakarpathar Plateau at deviation point to INS Shivaji & Ambavane, Maharashtra, 29.2.1964, *Venkata Reddi* 96134 ; Khandala, Maharashtra, April 1895, *Ranade* 2 ; Siddapore, N. Canara, Karnataka, April, 1883, *Talbot* 405 ; Peninsula India Orientale, Herb. Wight 424 ; Palani-Savurikadu, Kadurai Dist., Tamil Nadu, 650 m, 19.2.1978, *Chandrabose* 54203, Between Poonachi & Monica, Anamallayas, Tamil Nadu, 26 May 1903, *Barber* 6021 ; Shembaganur, Tamil Nadu, *Rev. L. Anglady* 1729 ; Mandar, March (Hill South Belgaon), *Dr. Ritchi* 944 ; Travancore Ghat, *Calder & Ramaswami* 1705.

M. P. NAYAR AND G. S. GIRI
Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta