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A NEW VARIETY OF *HYPERICUM HOOKERIANUM* WT. ET ARN. FROM INDIA

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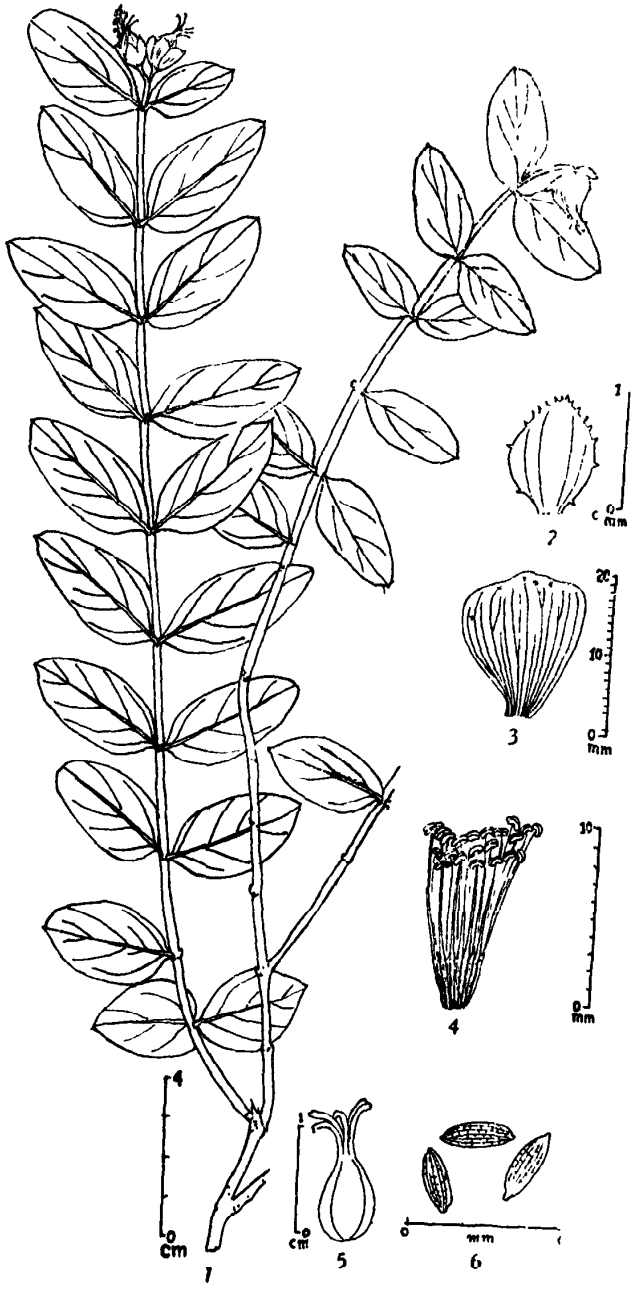
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

Hypericum hookerianum Wt. & Arn. var. **dentatum** S. N. Biswas *var. nov.*

Varietati *hookeriano* proxime affine, sed differt sepalis apicibus acutis, marginibus versus apicem crebre dentatis, versus basin remote dentatis.

Holotypus: India — Tamil Nadu, (Madras), Perumalmalai, Kodaikanal, alt. ± 2000 m, die 27.7.1965, *K. M. Sebastine* 24992 (CAL).

Glabrous shrubs 1.5-2 m tall. Stems stout, terete, reddish-brown in colour ; branches and branchlets terete to slightly angular, compressed. Leaves sub-sessile 2-5 × 1-1.8 cm, ovate-oblong to broadly lanceolate, subrotund to cuneate at base, obtuse to subacute and mucronulate at apex, entire, glabrous on both surfaces, under surface gland-punctate with few black dots. Flowers showy yellow, in 1-3 chotomous corymbose cymes, 2-3.5 cm across ; bracts deciduous ; pedicels stout, subterete to angular, 0.7-1.2 cm long. Sepals 5, (-0.6) 0.7-0.8 cm long, chartaceous to subcoriaceous, obovate, acute at apex, closely dentate towards the top and distantly dentate towards the bottom, persistent. Petals 5, yellowish, 1.7-2 cm long, obliquely obovate, punctate with few black and brown glands. Stamens 5 — adelphous, 0.6-0.9 cm long, numerous in each bundles, filaments unequal, glabrous. Ovary 0.7-1 cm long oblong to ovate oblong ; styles 5, free recurved, shorter than ovary. Capsules 1.2-1.4 cm, ovate-oblong tipped with persistent styles. Seeds brownish black ± 0.5 mm long, oblong to broadly oblong, shortly



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Figs. 1-6 : 1. Habit. 2. A sepal. 3. A petal. 4. Stamen fascicle. 5. A pistil. 6. Few seeds.

apiculate, with longitudinal ribs and fine transverse striae in between the ribs.

Fls. & Frts. : June-Sept.

Paratypes: *J. C. Dawa* 167, Sikkim Himalaya, below Changu, alt. 3040 m, 22.9.1926 (CAL); *M. L. Saikia* 22676, Meghalaya, Moflong, 25.6.1949 (ASSAM). *D. B. Deb* 30963, Tamil Nadu, (Madras), Vattakanal-Kodaikanal, alt. 1900 m, 18.9.1968 (MH).

Distribution : Sikkim, Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu.

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