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A NEW SPECIES OF *GLOCHIDION* J. R. & G. FORST. (EUPHORBIACEAE) FROM MIDDLE ANDAMAN ISLAND

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The authors came across some specimens of the genus *Glochidion* in Port Blair Herbarium (PBL) collected from Middle Andaman Island of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India which they could not identify. This plant apparently appeared to be related to *G. desmogyne* Hook. f. of Burma. A specimen (*Balakrishnan* 1337) was sent to Mr. H. K. Airy Shaw at Kew for naming. But in a letter to the authors he also expressed his inability. He states, "I regret that I have not been able to satisfy myself as to the identity of your *Balakrishnan* 1337. It seems to me to be nearer to *Glochidion coccineum* (Buch.-Ham.) Muell.-Arg. than to *G. desmogyne* Hook. f. But it is not *G. coccineum*". After further studies of literature and specimens of S. E. Asian species at CAL herbarium, it became clearly evident that *Balakrishnan* 1337 represents a hitherto unrecognised species of the genus *Glochidion* and it is described below with illustration.

Glochidion airyshawii Balakr. et T. Chakrab., sp. nov., ex affinitate *G. coccineo* (Buch.-Ham.) Muell.-Arg. et specierum affinium foliis brevioribus, ovariis pauciloculatis, stylorum lobiis apicalibus paucis, capsulis paucilobatis plus pubescentibus distinguenda.

HOLOTYPUS : *Balakrishnan* 1337 A (CAL), et ISOTYPI : *Balakrishnan* 1337 B (K) et *Balakrishnan* 1337 C — 1337 F (PBL).

From the alliance of *G. coccineum* (Buch.-Ham.) Muell.-Arg. and allied species to be distinguished by its smaller leaves, fewer-loculed ovary, lesser number of apical stylar lobes and smaller, fewer-lobed, more pubescent capsules.

Trees, 4-6 m high; branchlets greyish, more or less terete, 2-8 mm thick, shortly rufous to whitish pubescent, glabrescent later on; young branchlets striate and often anafractuous. *Leaves* oblong to elliptic-oblong or occasionally widely elliptic-oblong to suborbicular, nearly symmetric, 4.5-7 cm long, 2-3.5 cm wide, equally to subequally rounded or sometimes subobtuse at base, entire at margins, acute-mucronate or obtuse to rounded or rarely obcordate at apex, firmly chartaceous, glabrous above, shortly rufous to whitish pubescent on major nerves beneath (at least on midrib), on drying dark-brown or blackish-brown above, brown or reddish-brown beneath; secondary veins alternate to opposite along the midvein, 4-7 pairs, slender, faint above, prominent beneath, more or less uniformly curved, joining the superadjacents forming weak loops; tertiary veins indistinct above, somewhat prominent beneath, percurrent, unbranched and forked; petioles 2.5-5 mm long, 1-1.5 mm thick, shortly pubescent; stipules subulate, often deltoid at base, 4-5 mm long, caducous. *Inflorescence* axillary, sessile, many-flowered (only fruits and few females seen). MALE

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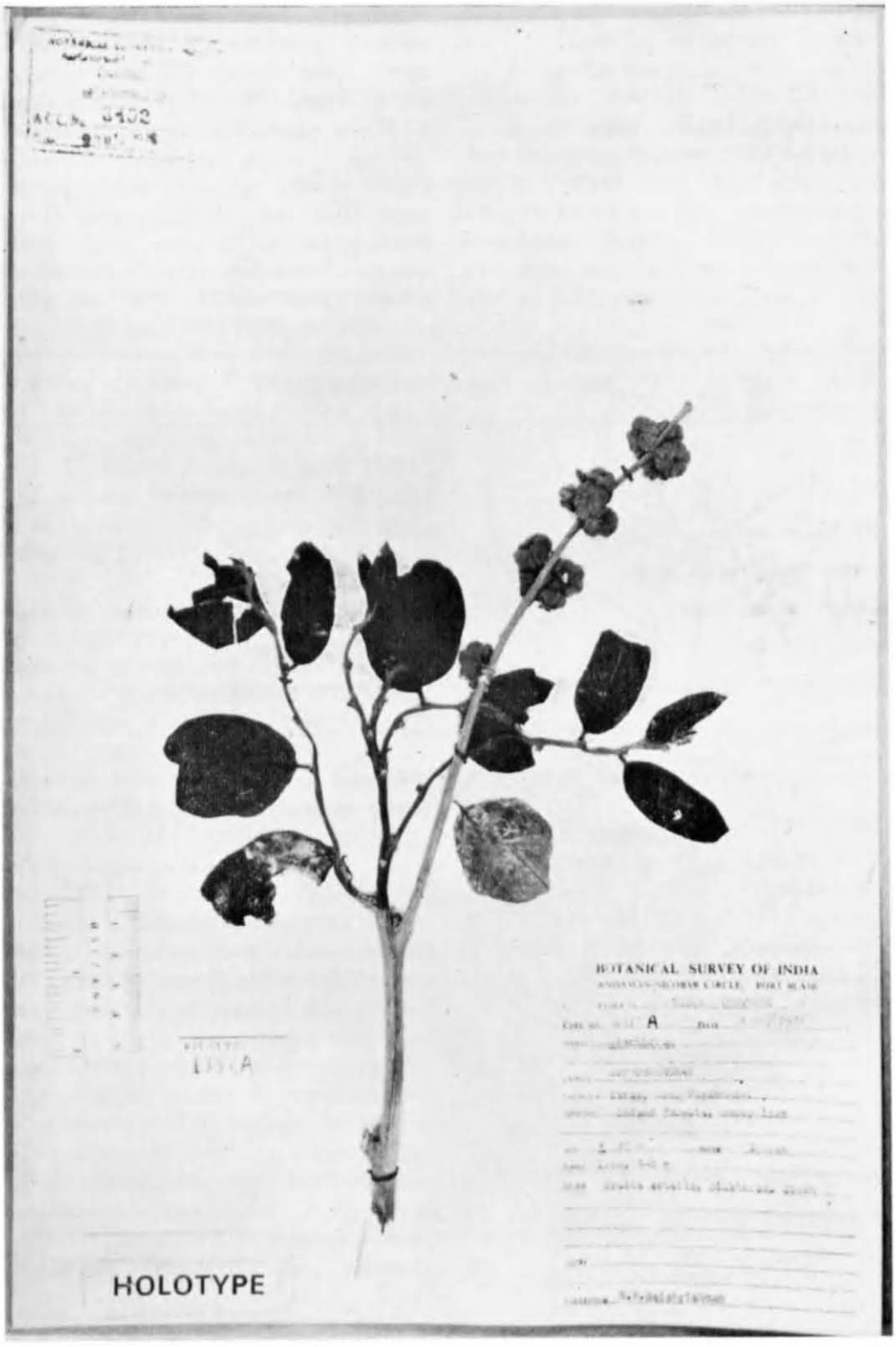


Fig. 1: *Glochidion airyshawii* Balakr. & T. Chakrab.

FLOWERS : not seen. FEMALE FLOWERS : sessile to subsessile ; tepals 3 + 3, free oblong, to ovate-oblong or triangular, 1.5-2.5 mm long, 0.5-1.5 mm wide, the inner tepals smaller than the outer, puberulous outside ; ovary depressed-globose, 1-1.2 mm long, 2-2.3 mm diam., densely rufous puberulous, shallowly lobed, (4-) 5-6-loculed ; style shortly conical, (subglobose when young), more or less 1 mm long, 1-1.2 mm thick at apex, 1.5-1.8 mm thick at base, shortly (4-) 5-6-fid at apex, hollow at the tip, minutely puberulous at base, persistent, the apical lobes occasionally connivant occupying the apical cavity. CAPSULES: depressed, 1.3-1.5 cm diam., distinctly (4-)5-6-lobed with the lobes again somewhat bilobulate, intruded at apex, rufous to whitish puberulous, green (*teste collectore*) brownish when dry ; fruiting pedicels 2-5 mm long ; seeds triquetrous, somewhat convex on dorsal surface, 5-6 mm diam., smooth, dark red (Fig. 1).

Diagnostic features of *G. airyshawii*

G. coccineum	*G. airyshawii*
Leaves 6-17.5 cm long, 2.5-6 cm wide	Leaves 4.5-7 cm long, 2-3.5 cm wide
Ovary 8-12-loculed	Ovary (4-)5-6-loculed
Style shortly 8-12-fid at apex	Style (4-)5-6-fid at apex
Capsule 15-20 mm diam.	Capsule 13-15 mm diam.
Capsule 16-20-lobed	Capsule (4-)5-6-lobed
Capsule sparsely puberulous to ± glabrous	Capsules ± densely puberulous.

Flowering and *fruiting* : April-May.

Specimens : INDIA. Andaman & Nicobar Islands : Middle Andaman Island, Lataw, Near Mayabunder, ± 20 m, 4 may 1974, ***Balakrishnan*** 1337 A (CAL, Holotype) ; *ibid.*, ***Balakrishnan*** 1337 B (K, Isotype) ; *ibid.*, ***Balakrishnan*** 1337 C — 1337 F (PBL, Isotypes).

Ecology : Scarce in inland evergreen forests on rocky loam at ± 20 m above MSL.

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