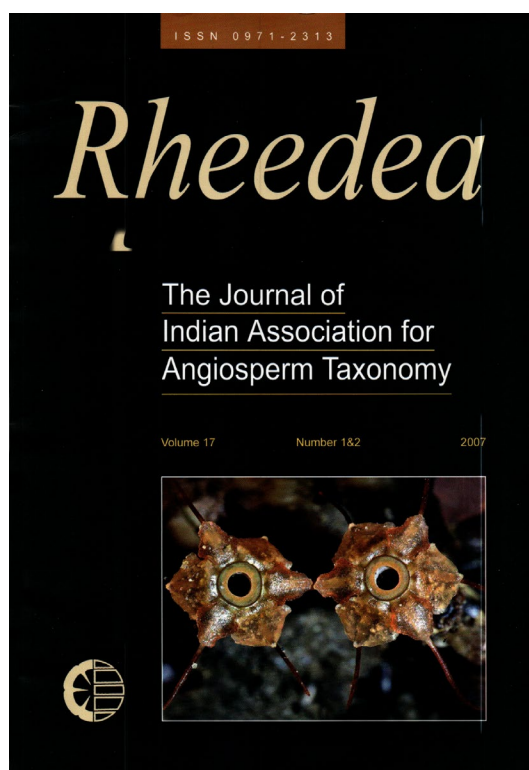




## *Natsiatopsis* Kurz (Icacinaceae): A New Generic Record for India

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# Natsiatopsis Kurz (Icacinaceae): A New Generic Record for India

Kumar Ambrish

Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Field Station, Itanagar 791 111, Arunachal Pradesh, India.  
E-mail: ambrishbsi@yahoo.co.in

## Abstract

The genus *Natsiatopsis* and a species under it, *N. thunbergiaefolia* Kurz (Icacinaceae) are reported first time for India from Daporijo in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. Detailed description and illustrations are provided.

Keywords: *Natsiatopsis thunbergiaefolia*, Icacinaceae, New generic record, Arunachal Pradesh

## Introduction

Icacinaceae is represented by 11 genera and 16 species in India (Mathur, 2000). *Natsiatopsis* Kurz belonging to Icacinaceae is a monotypic genus reported so far only from Myanmar and China (Yunnan).

Author collected an interesting plant in fruiting condition while exploring the flora of Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. Critical study revealed that the species was distinct from all other known members of Indian Icacinaceae (Kurz, 1875-1877; Mathur, 2000). The plant could be identified as *Natsiatopsis thunbergiaefolia* Kurz with reference two herbarium specimens (*D. J. Anderson* 84084, 84085, CAL) collected from Yunnan in China. So, this is a new generic as well as species record for India.

*Natsiatopsis thunbergiaefolia* Kurz in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 44(2): 201. pl. 15, f. 8-9. 1875; For. Fl. of Brit. Burma 1: 237.1877; Chuang Hsuan in Fl. Reipubli. Pop. Sinicae 46:62. 1981; Peng Hua & Richard A. Howard in Fl. China 11:15.2006. **Fig. 1**

*Twining shrub*; dioecious, stem and branches partially strigose, minutely scabrous-pubescent. *Leaves* 18.5 x 11 cm, ovate to oblong, broadly cordate at base, shortly acuminate (1-2 cm) at apex, denticulate along margin, repand-toothed, chartaceous, rough above, densely pubescent beneath, venation multicosted, divergent, 7 nerved at the base, petiole 8-18 cm long. *Inflorescence* 12-18 cm long, pendulous, in axillary, elongate, fascicled racemes. *Flowers* unisexual, small,

pedicels 2 to 4 mm long; calyx distinctly 4 cleft, pubescent; corolla gamopetalous, tubular, 4 lobed; lobes short, reflexed, appressed pubescent outside. *Male flowers*: pedicel very short, c. 2 mm long, forming elongate, simple, shortly tomentose, 2 or 3 racemes arising from above the axils of leaves; stamens 4, filaments broadly filiform, long, free. *Female flowers*: ovary 1 celled, densely tawny-hispid. *Drupes* 2.5-3.0 x 1.5-1.8 cm, ovoid, indehiscent, single seeded with fleshy exocarp and brown stony endocarp.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: March-October.

*Habitat*: Dense tropical secondary forest, along road sides in shady conditions in association with *Thunbergia coccinia*, *Mastersea assamica*, *Tricosanthes bracteata*, *Rubus rosifolia* and a few fern species, very rare. Only three individuals could be located at the collection site.

*Distribution*: India (Arunachal Pradesh), China, Myanmar.

*Specimens Examined*: INDIA, Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Subansiri district, Daporijo ± 450 m, K. Ambrish 17130 (ARUN). CHINA, Yunnan, Joneshee, 8.3.1868, D. J. Anderson 84084, 84085 (CAL).

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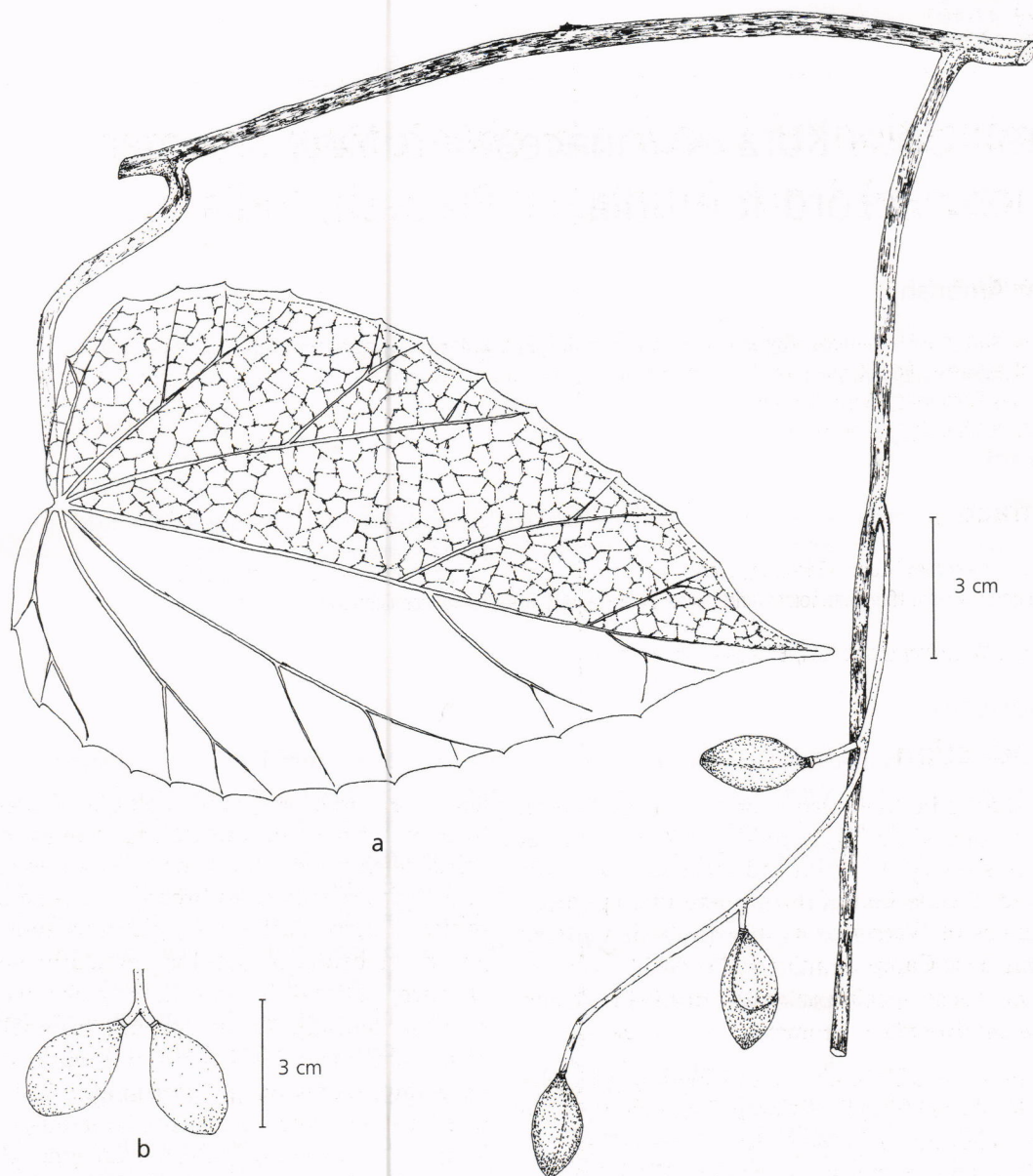


Figure 1. *Natsiatopsis thunbergiaefolia* Kurz – a. Twig with infructescence; b. Fruits (from Ambrish 17130).

facilities, Dr H. J. Chowdhary, Joint Director, Central National Harbarium, Howrah for help in identification, Dr Lakshminarasimhan, CNH, Howrah for guidance and Mr M. Bhaumik, BSI, Shillong for illustration.

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