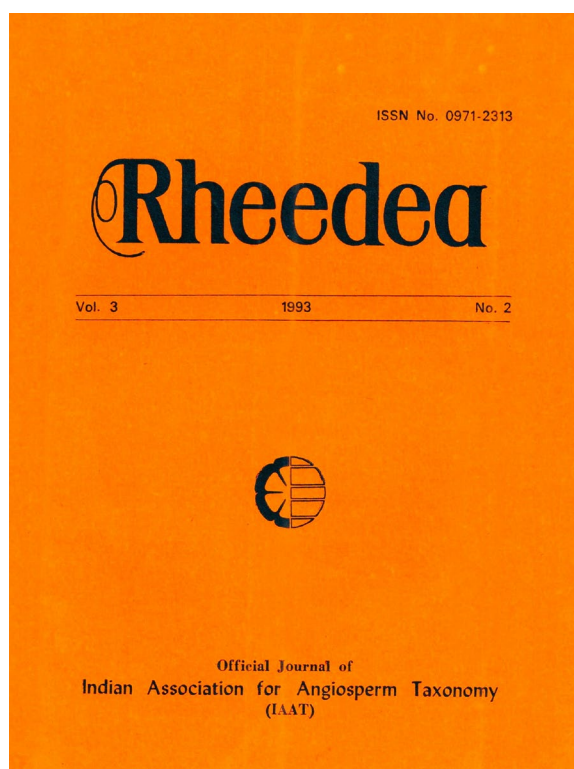




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Additions to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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Abstract

Five species of flowering plants, viz. *Thunbergia fragrans* Roxb., *Hippocratea pauciflora* DC., *Ardisia involucreata* Kurz, *Jasminum arborescens* Roxb. and *Ligustrum perrottetii* A. DC. are reported for the first time from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Since the publication of the preliminary checklist of flowering plant species in Andaman-Nicobar Islands (Rao, 1986), nearly 144 species have been added to the flora of this region, of which 53 are new taxa. During our recent explorations and studies on earlier collections at PBL, we discovered five more taxa found in the mainland of India, but which have not been recorded for this area. Of them, three species, *Ardisia involucreata*, *Jasminum arborescens* and *Ligustrum perrottetii*, have, so far, been thought to be endemic to the Indian mainland, while the other two (*Thunbergia fragrans* and *Hippocratea pauciflora*) were reported also from Nepal, Burma, Malesia and Sri Lanka. So this forms the first report of these species in Andaman-Nicobar Islands. Their nomenclature, brief descriptions and other relevant notes are provided here.

***Thunbergia fragrans* Roxb.**, Pl. Cor. t. 67. 1796 & Fl. Ind. 3: 33. 1832; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 390. 1884; Matthew, III. Fl. Tam. Carnatic 2: t. 547. 1982. (ACANTHACEAE).

Twining. Leaves ovate to lanceolate, acute or acuminate at apex, cordate, cuneate or truncate at base, dentate or undulate on margin; lateral nerves 3—6 pairs. Flowers white, solitary or paired in the axils. Capsules conical, beaked. Seeds rugose.

Occasional in tropical inland forests, 350—450 m. above sea level. Flowers and fruits during September-October.

Distribution: India (throughout the mainland and in Andaman-Nicobar Islands), Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, W. China and Indo-China.

Specimens examined: Andaman & Nicobar Islands: North Andamans, Saddle Peak, Premanath 9232, Ellis 12729. South Andamans: Mount Harriet, Mathew 20576 (PBL, K, L.).

Hippocratea Pauciflora DC., Prodr. 1: 569. 1824.

H. macrantha auct., non Korth. 1842; Kurz, J. As. Soc. Bengal 44 (2): 184. 1875 & For. Fl. Brit. Burma 1: 257. 1877.

Loesneriella pauciflora (DC.) A. C. Sm., Amer. J. Bot. 28: 440. 1941; Ding Hou in Steenis, Fl. Males. 1.6: 400. 1964. (CELASTRACEAE).

Lianas. Leaves oblong or elliptic-oblong, acuminate or obtuse at apex, cuneate at base; lateral nerves 5—8 pairs. Infructescences axillary. Follicles obovoid or ellipsoid, obtuse, dehiscent through the middle, woody; pericarp brownish, prominently, longitudinally veined. Seeds terminally beaked, membranous winged, wings broadly ovate.

Rarely found in tropical inland forests. Flowers and fruits during August-September.

Distribution: India (North East India and Andaman Islands), Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand and Malesia.

Specimens examined: Andaman & Nicobar Islands: South Andamans, Poona Nallah, *Hora* 9128 (PBL, K, L).

Note: Raju's (1965) mention of the occurrence of this species in this area was based on misidentification of king's collection (*King s. n.*, Acc. no. 87175/6, CAL) from North Bay, which actually belongs to *Hippocratea grahamii* Wt. (*H. andamanica* King). Consequently, this species was excluded from this area by both Rao (1986) and Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay (1990). Hora's collection, however, forms the first record of this species in this area. In generic circumscription, we have followed Robson (1965).

Ardisia involucrata Kurz, Jour. As. Soc. Bengal 40 (2): 68. 1871; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 528. 1882; Brandis, Indian Trees 418. 1906.

Parardisia involucrata (Kurz) Nayar & Giri, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 28: 249. t. 1. (1986) 1988. (MYRSINACEAE).

Shrubs to about 4-5 m tall. Leaves elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, rarely elliptic-obovate, acute or acuminate at apex, cuneate or slightly decurrent at base, entire or somewhat undulate; lateral nerves 7—18 pairs. Inflorescence of lateral, corymbose cymes near the branch tips, 5 or more flowered. Flowers pinkish white.

Sparse, near nallahs in the tropical inland forests from sea level to 5000 ft., Flowering and fruiting during February-March.

Distribution: India (Eastern Himalayas and Andaman Islands).

Specimens examined: Andaman & Nicobar Islands: North Andamans, Interview Island, *Lakshminarasimhan* 20704 (PBL, L).

Note: Nayar & Giri (1988) have separated this species into a distinct genus, *Parardisia*, characterised by larger involucral bracts and sepals covering the mature berries, which is not accepted here.

Jasminum arborescens Roxb., Fl. Ind. 1: 94. 1820; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 594. 1882.

J. arborescens var. *latifolium* (Roxb.) Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 594. 1882.

J. arborescens var. *montana* (Roth) Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 594. 1882. (OLEACEAE).

Scandent shrub. Leaves broadly ovate or elliptic, acute or shortly acuminate at apex, truncate or rounded at base; lateral veins 5–6 pairs, obscure. Cymes terminal or axillary, 6–20 flowered, lax, trichotomous. Flowers white, fragrant. Fruits ellipsoid, black.

Distribution: India (North West Himalaya, Gangetic plains, Deccan and Andaman Islands).

Specimens examined: Andaman & Nicobar Islands: North Andamans, Saddle Peak. Balakrishnan 5392 (PBL).

Ligustrum perrottetii A. DC. in DC., Prodr. 8: 294. 1844; Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 615. 1882; Gamble, Fl. Madras 560. 1921. (OLEACEAE).

Large shrubs or small trees. Leaves elliptic to narrowly ovate, acute at both ends; lateral veins 3–4 pairs, obscure. Flowers in clusters of 3–5. Drupe ellipsoid.

In evergreen forests at the Saddle Peak at an alt. of about 720 m. Flowering and fruiting during October–January.

Distribution: Peninsular India and Andamans.

Specimen examined: Andaman & Nicobar Islands: North Andamans, Saddle Peak, Ellis 14199 (PBL).

Note: For the circumscription of the species and exhaustive synonymy, refer Green (1990).

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