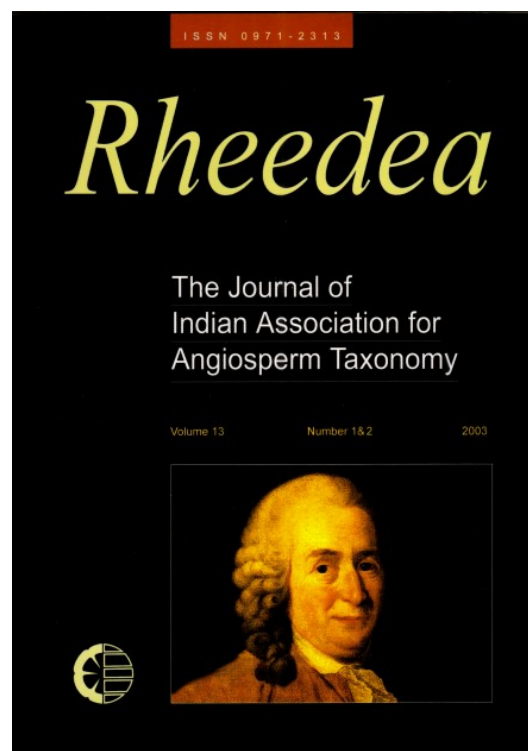




Acacia pruinescens Kurz (Mimosaceae): An Addition to the Western Ghats, India

Murugan C., Manickam V.S., Jothi G.J. & V. Sundareson



How to cite:

Murugan C., Manickam V.S., Jothi G.J. & V. Sundareson 2003. *Acacia pruinescens* Kurz (Mimosaceae): An Addition to the Western Ghats, India. *Rheedeia* 13(1&2): 71–72.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.2003.13.1-2.11>

Published in print: 31.12.2003

Published Online: 01.01.2022

Acacia pruinescens Kurz (Mimosaceae) : An Addition to the Western Ghats, India

C. Murugan, V.S. Manickam¹, G.J. Jothi¹ and V. Sundareson²

Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, TNAU Campus, Lawley Road P. O., Coimbatore 641 003, Tamil Nadu, India.

¹Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai 627 002. Tamil Nadu, India.

²Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow 226 016, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Abstract

Acacia pruinescens Kurz (Mimosaceae) was collected from Tirunelveli Hills in Tamil Nadu. This species was so far reported only from the North Eastern region of India and hence, it constitutes a new distributional record for the Western Ghats. Prominently reticulate nerves on the leaflets distinguish this species from the closely allied *Acacia pennata* L.

Key words: *Acacia pruinescens*, Tirunelveli Hills, New record, Leaflets with prominent nerves

Introduction

The genus *Acacia* Miller (Mimosaceae) with c. 1200 species is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. In India the genus has 88 species which include 20 indigenous and 68 exotic elements (Chakrabarty and Gangopadhyay, 1996).

During a floristic survey of Tirunelveli Hills (1996 - 2000), the authors collected a few specimens of *Acacia* Miller, which on critical study were identified as *Acacia pruinescens* Kurz, a taxon so far reported only from North East India, Myanmar, South China and North Vietnam. The present collection constitutes a new distributional record for the Western Ghats. A short description and illustration of *A. pruinescens* are provided in this paper.

Acacia pruinescens Kurz in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 45: 298. 1876 & For. Fl. Brit. Burma 1: 424. 1877; Kanjilal *et al.*, Fl. Assam 2: 155. 1938; Nielson in *Adansonia* ser. 2, 19(3): 355. 1980; Chakrabarty & Gangopadhyay, J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 20(3): 623. 1996. **Fig. 1.**

Armed straggler; branchlets terete, dark purple with blue tinge, brown pubescent, becoming glabrescent; prickles straight, c. 3 mm long, and broad at base. *Leaves* bipinnate, 20-30 cm long; pinnae 6-15 pairs; paripinnate, rachis armed beneath, brown pubescent, glandular at distal 2 pairs; petioles 3-5 cm long, convex/flat gland at proximal middle; leaflets 25-60 pairs, sessile, brown when dry, linear-oblong, 3-7 x

0.5-1.5 mm, chartaceous, glabrous, base truncate, obtuse-subacute at apex; ciliate at margin; midrib marginal at base; nerves 4-6 pairs, obscure, reticulate. *Panicles* terminal, c. 40 cm long, dark purple with blue tinge, brown pubescent; peduncles 2-3 cm long, 2-4 per axils; heads 8-12 mm across. *Flowers* bisexual, actinomorphic, c. 3 mm across, sessile; bracts minute; calyx campanulate, c. 1.5 mm long; lobes 5, oblong, c. 1 x 0.5 mm, acute at apex; petals united, pale yellow white, tube c. 2 mm long; lobes 5, oblong, c. 1 x 0.5 mm long, margin glandular pubescent, obtusely acute at apex; stamens many, equal; filaments filiform, 4-5 mm long; anthers ovate, 0.1 mm diameter, versatile; style slender, subulate, c. 4 mm long; stigma simple; ovary stipitate, oblong, c. 1 x 0.5 mm, pubescent; ovules c. 16, style slender, subulate c. 4 mm long, stigma simple.

Flowering: August - September.

Habitat: Along banks of streams in dry deciduous to semi-evergreen forests, between 200 and 600 m, occasional.

Distribution: India (Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu), Myanmar, S. China (Yunnan) and North Vietnam.

Specimens Examined: INDIA, Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli District: Kalakkad Hills, Way to Sengaltheri, 600 m, 17-9-1996, V.S. Manickam *et al.* 10897 (XCH); Courtallum Hills,

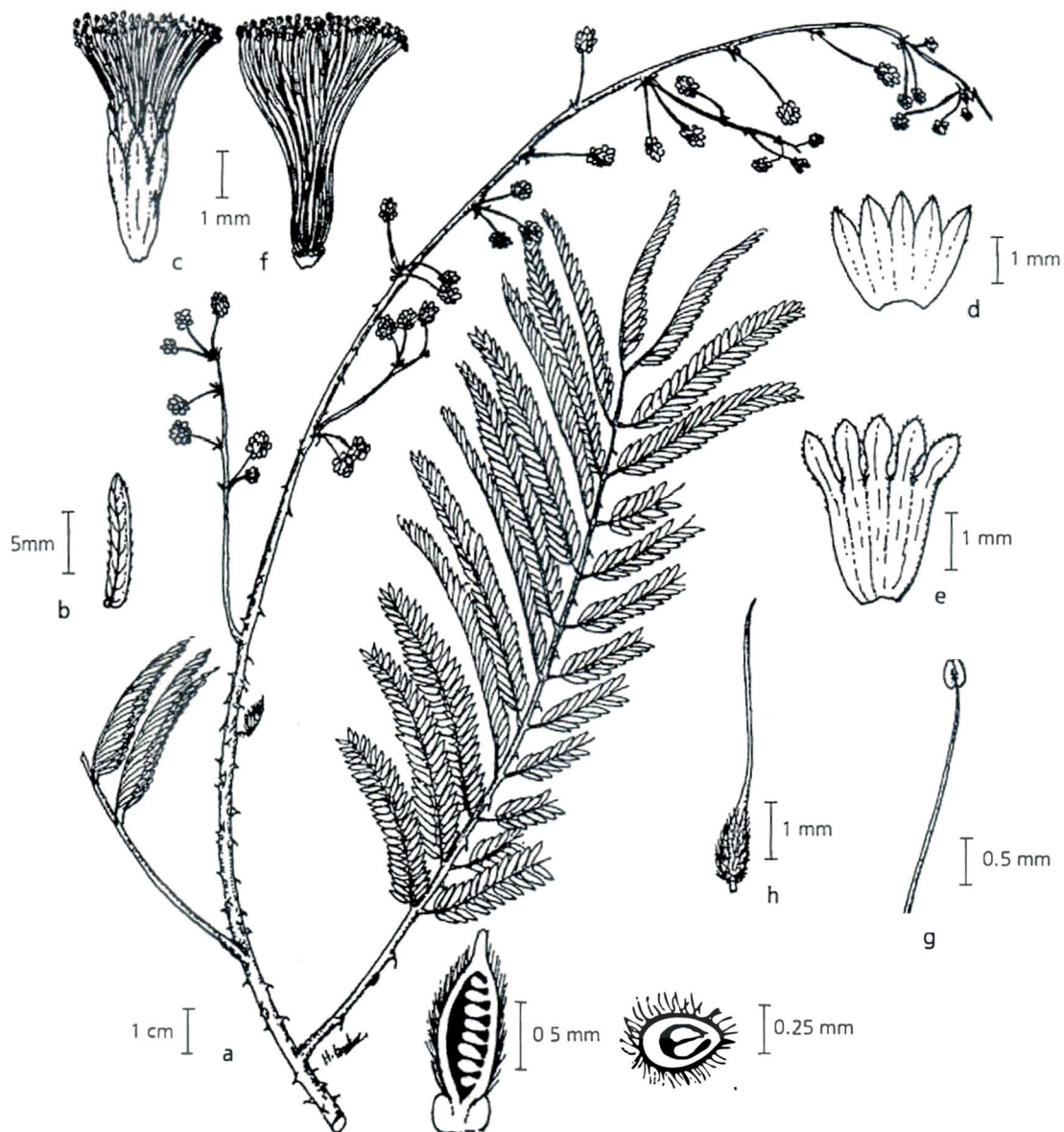


Figure 1. *Acacia pruinescens* Kurz – a. Twig; b. Leaflet; c. Flower; d. Calyx split open; e. Corolla split open; f. Androgynium; g. Stamen; h. Pistil; i, j. Ovary (L.S & C.S)

Puliaruvi, 600 m, 4-9-1997, *V.S. Manickam et al.* 13839 (XCH); Papanasam Hills, Kariar Dam-Pampar path, 200-300 m, 18-8-1998, *C. Murugan et al.* 16959 (XCH).

Note This species is closely allied to *Acacia pennata* (L.) Willd. but differs from it in having prominently reticulate nerves on leaflets.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for financial assistance and

to Shri H. Sankar, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai 627 002 for the illustration.

Literature Cited

Chakrabarty, T. & M. Gangopadhyay 1996. The genus *Acacia* P. Miller (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) in India. *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 20: 599-633.

Received 25.4.2003