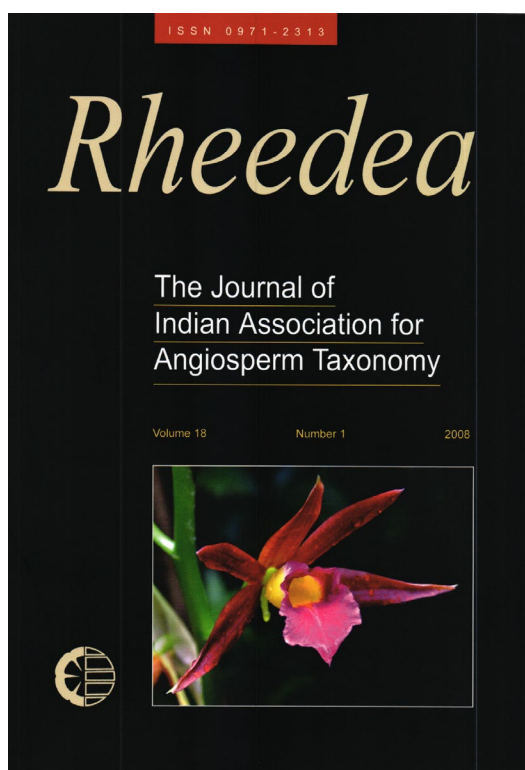




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Ranunculus trigonus var. *strigosus* W. T. Wang (Ranunculaceae): A New Record for India

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Abstract

Ranunculus trigonus var. *strigosus* W. T. Wang (Ranunculaceae) is reported from Arunachal Pradesh, first time for India. Detailed description and relevant notes are provided.

Keywords: *Ranunculus trigonus* var. *strigosus*, New report, Arunachal Pradesh

Introduction

The genus *Ranunculus* L. with c.600 species (Ovchinnikov, 1985) is widely distributed throughout the world, but mostly in North temperate regions (Mao Gen Shu *et al.*, 2001). In India, the genus is represented by 33 species (Rau, 1993).

A few specimens collected from Yingkyong area of the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, after critical study, turned out to be *Ranunculus trigonus* var. *strigosus* W. T. Wang. Native of China, this taxon was hitherto unknown to Indian flora. It is described below.

***Ranunculus trigonus* var. *strigosus* W. T. Wang, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin. 16:164. 1996.**

Erect, perennial herbs. Roots fibrous. *Stem* 40-50 cm high, densely strigose, branched. *Leaves* dimorphic, basal leaves 3, petioles 1.5-6 cm long, 1-2 mm thick, strigose; lamina 3-partite, pentagonal, 5.5 × 3.5 cm, papery, base subtruncate, central segment rhombic-obovate, 3-lobed, incised-dentate; lateral ones rhombic-cuneate or rhombic-obovate, 3-lobed, central leaflet broadly rhombic, 3-partite, petiolulate; leaves on lower part of stem similar to basal ones; upper leaves 3-sect. *Monochasium* terminal, 2- or 3-flowered; bracts polymorphic, 2-24 × 0.5-5 mm. *Flowers* 1-1.6 cm across, yellow; pedicel 0.5-8 cm long, strigose; receptacle strigose; sepals 5, ovate, 4-5 mm long, abaxially pubescent; petals 5, obovate-oblong, 6-8 × 3-4 mm, nectary pit covered by a scale, apices

rounded; stamens numerous, anthers oblong. *Fruits* aggregate, subglobose-oblong, c. 8 mm in diameter; achenes many, flat, obliquely broadly obovate, c. 4 × 2.5 mm, shortly beaked, glabrous, narrowly marginate.

Flowering & Fruiting: March-September.

Distribution: China (SW Sichuan, SE Xizang, Yunnan), India (Arunachal Pradesh).

Habitat: Moist and shady humus rich soil, not common.

Altitude: ± 500 m.

Note: This variety can be easily distinguished from the typical variety by the densely strigose stem and petiole and large petals.

Specimens Examined: INDIA, **Arunachal Pradesh**, Upper Siang district, Yingkyomg R. K. Choudhary 16276 (ARUN).

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