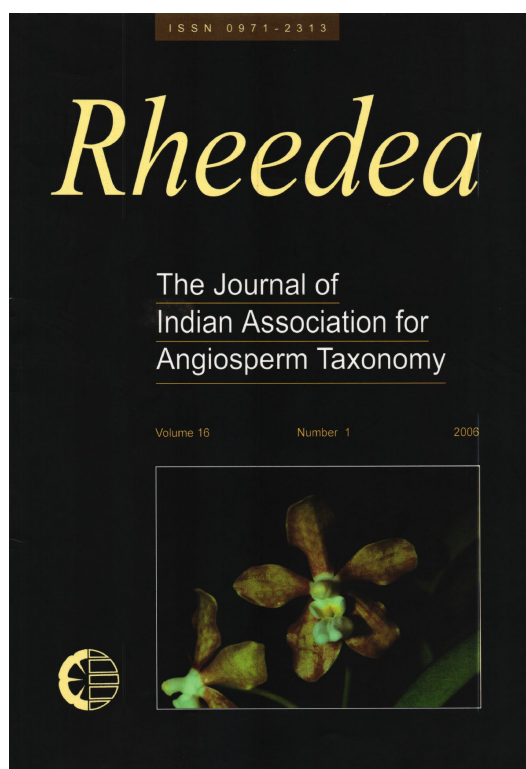




## *Phyllanthus griffithii* Müll. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae): A New Record for Nepal

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# Phyllanthus griffithii Müll. Arg. (Euphorbiaceae): A New Record for Nepal

## Abstract

*Phyllanthus griffithii* Müell. Arg. is reported for the first time from Nepal. It is described and illustrated. Important taxonomic characters of *P. griffithii* are compared with its closely related species.

Keywords: *Phyllanthus griffithii*, New Record, Nepal

## Introduction

Ten species of *Phyllanthus* have been reported from Nepal, out of which nine species occur in Central Nepal (Short & Vickery, 1987). We collected another species *P. griffithii* Müll. Arg. from Duradanda recently and this constitutes a new record for the country. This species is described, illustrated and compared with the related species.

***Phyllanthus griffithii* Müll. Arg.**, Linnaea 32:27. 1863 & in DC., Prodr. 15(2): 384. 1866; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5:294. 1887; Long in Grieson and Long in Fl. Bhutan 1(3):775.1987.

Fig. 1

**Subshrubs** c. 1 m tall, glabrous, branchlets angled or ribbed, solid; stipules minute, caducous. **Leaves** alternate, lamina elliptic or obovate, (2-) 7-30 x (2-) 5-10 mm, apex subacute or obtuse, base subacute to rounded, glabrous and green above, faint whitish beneath, veins 6-8 pairs, inconspicuous above, distinct beneath; petiole 1-1.5 mm, dark reddish. **Flowers** axillary, solitary, 1-1.5 mm across,

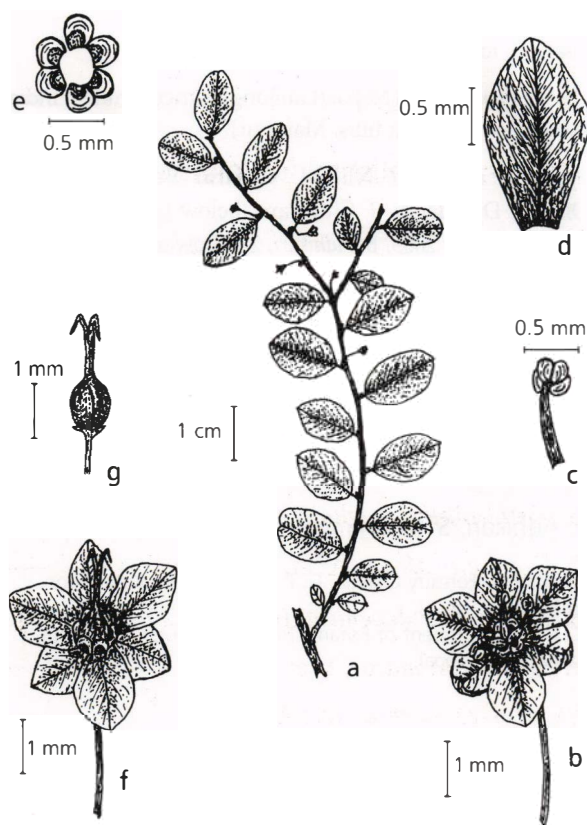


Figure 1. *Phyllanthus griffithii* Müell. Arg. - a. Flowering twig; b. Male flower; c. Stamen; d. Tepal; e. Glands; f. Female flower; g. Pistil;

bracts triangular, pointed at apex, 0.5-1 mm long; pedicels capillary, 2-6 (10) mm long, perianth 6 lobed in two whorls, rounded, or obovate, 0.5-1 mm long, entire. **Male flowers**: disc with small glands; filaments free, recurved; anthers globose, 4-celled. **Female flowers**: ovary globose; styles

Table 1. Comparative morphological account of *Phyllanthus griffithii*, *P. clarkei* Hook. f. and *P. reticulatus* Poir.

Characters	<i>P. griffithii</i>	<i>P. clarkei</i>	<i>P. reticulatus</i>
Habit	subshrub, branchlets smooth.	wiry shrub, shoot rough with papillae on ridges	large climbing shrub, branches lenticellate or thorny
Leaf lamina	elliptic, 15-25 x 7-10 mm	obovate, 1-2.5 x 0.4 -1.2 cm	ovate or broadly elliptic, 1.4-4 (7.5) x 1-2 (3.5) cm
Leaf base	subacute to rounded	cuneate	rounded
Leaf apex	acute or obtuse	obtuse	broadly acute or obtuse
Inflorescence	solitary, axillary	2-8 in axillary fascicles	1-5 flowers per axil on side shoots
Pedicel	8-12 mm	2-18 mm	3-6 mm

stout, united to middle, bifid, recurved. *Capsule* c. 3 mm in diameter, obscurely lobed, smooth.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: April-July.

*Habitat*: Common in shady, bushy forest slopes.

*Uses*: As fodder

*Distribution*: Central Nepal (Lamjung district), Bhutan, India (Meghalaya- Khasia hills, Manipur).

*Specimen Examined*: NEPAL, **Central Nepal**, Lamjung District, Duradanda-9, Chhaharo (below Jamune village), 865m., 17 May 2003, B. Adhikari, 224(flowering), (TUCH).

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