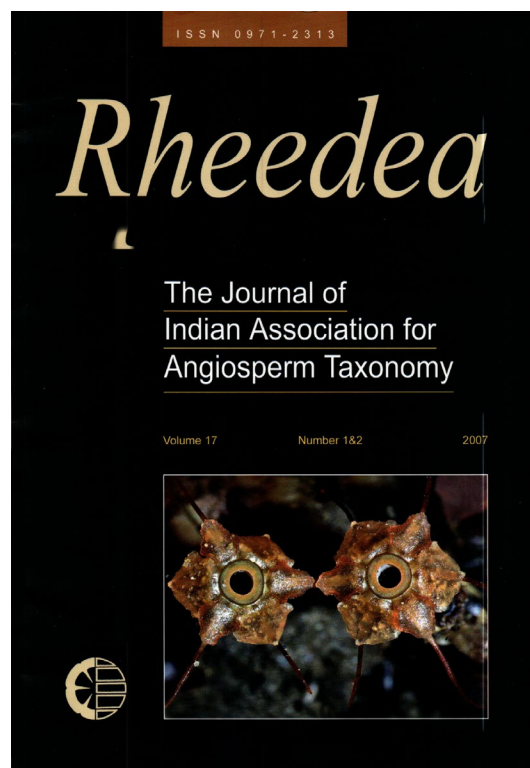




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# Recollection of *Agapetes miranda* Airy Shaw (Ericaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

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## Abstract

*Agapetes miranda* Airy Shaw was recollected from Arunachal Pradesh after a gap of 69 years. The species is described and illustrated, and its fruit is described for the first time.

Keywords: *Agapetes miranda*, recollection, fruit, Arunachal Pradesh

## Introduction

During the field studies conducted in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh in December 2002, an interesting epiphytic specimen of *Agapetes* D. Don ex G. Don was collected near Lebya-Penggo Pass, way to Talle Valley from Pange. This was identified as *Agapetes miranda* Airy Shaw.

Airy Shaw (1948) described *Agapetes miranda* based on a collection made by Ludlow, Sheriff and Taylor on 6 May 1938 from Lalung, Pachakshiri district, Xizang, China (specimen at BM, photo!). At about the same time, Kingdon-Ward collected this species from Poshing La in Arunachal Pradesh, along the Indian territory ('Assam') (no. 13651, BM, photo!). Since then, this species has not been collected from India and its fruits remained un-described even in China. A new description including that of fruits and illustration are provided below.

***Agapetes miranda*** Airy Shaw, *Kew Bull.* 3:102.1948; H. B. Naithani, *Flower. Pl. India, Nepal & Bhutan* 254. 1990.

### Fig. 1

*Types:* CHINA, **Xizang**, Pachakshiri district, Lalung, 28°45' N, 94°15' E, 2400 m, 6 May 1938, Ludlow, Sherriff & Taylor 3718 (Holotype, BM, photo!; Isotype, CAL!).

*Stout, pendent, epiphytic shrub*, 0.3 - 0.6 m high, hanging down from old tree trunks. *Stem* usually with adventitious roots and tuberous root stocks, profusely branched, densely setose; twigs terete,

densely blackish-brown hispid-setose. *Leaves* coriaceous, lamina broadly elliptic, ovate-elliptic to suborbicular, 5-9 × 3-6 mm, reflexed, obscurely serrulate at margin, broadly cuneate to rounded at base, shortly apiculate to rounded at apex, dark green, glabrous, drying rugulose above, light green, glabrous beneath; secondary veins obscure on both surfaces; petioles 0.5-1 mm long, glabrous. *Racemes* axillary, solitary to fascicled of 2 flowers, sometimes from defoliated axil; rachis very short, 1-2 mm long, puberulous. *Flowers* 5-merous, 6-12 mm long; pedicels greyish-white, 3-7 mm long, densely setulose with crown of hairs tufted at the top; bract 1, basal, greyish-white with pinkish stripes, oblong-triangular, c. 1.5 × 1 mm, obscurely toothed at margin, acute at apex, glabrous; bracteoles 2, subbasal, subopposite, greyish-white with pinkish stripes, ovate, minute c. 0.5 × 0.5 mm, obscurely toothed at margin, acute at apex, glabrous; calyx 5-lobed, lobes basally connate, equal, ovate-triangular, c. 2 × 1 mm, glandular-ciliate at margin, acute at apex, glabrous above, puberulous beneath; corolla globose-urceolate, lemon-yellow, 3-5 mm long, c. 3 mm diameter, densely puberulous outside, glabrous inside, 5-lobed, lobes equal, ovate-deltoid, minute, green; stamens 10, c. 1.5 mm long, loosely epipetalous; filaments greyish-white, minute, c. 0.5 mm long, slender, glabrous, slightly dilated at base; anthers 2-lobed, greyish-white, oblong, c. 1 mm

long, smooth, each lobe with c. 0.5 mm long single tubule; pistil c. 3.5 mm long; ovary inferior, subglobose, c. 1.5 × 2 mm, glabrous, 5-locular, ovules 4–6 on axile placenta in each locule; style c. 2 mm long, slender, pilose; stigma truncate. *Fruit a*

berry, snow-white, subglobose with long (c. 15 mm) persistent style, c. 10 × 8 mm; seeds 15–20, ovoid to obconical, c. 1 mm, scarious.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: May–December.

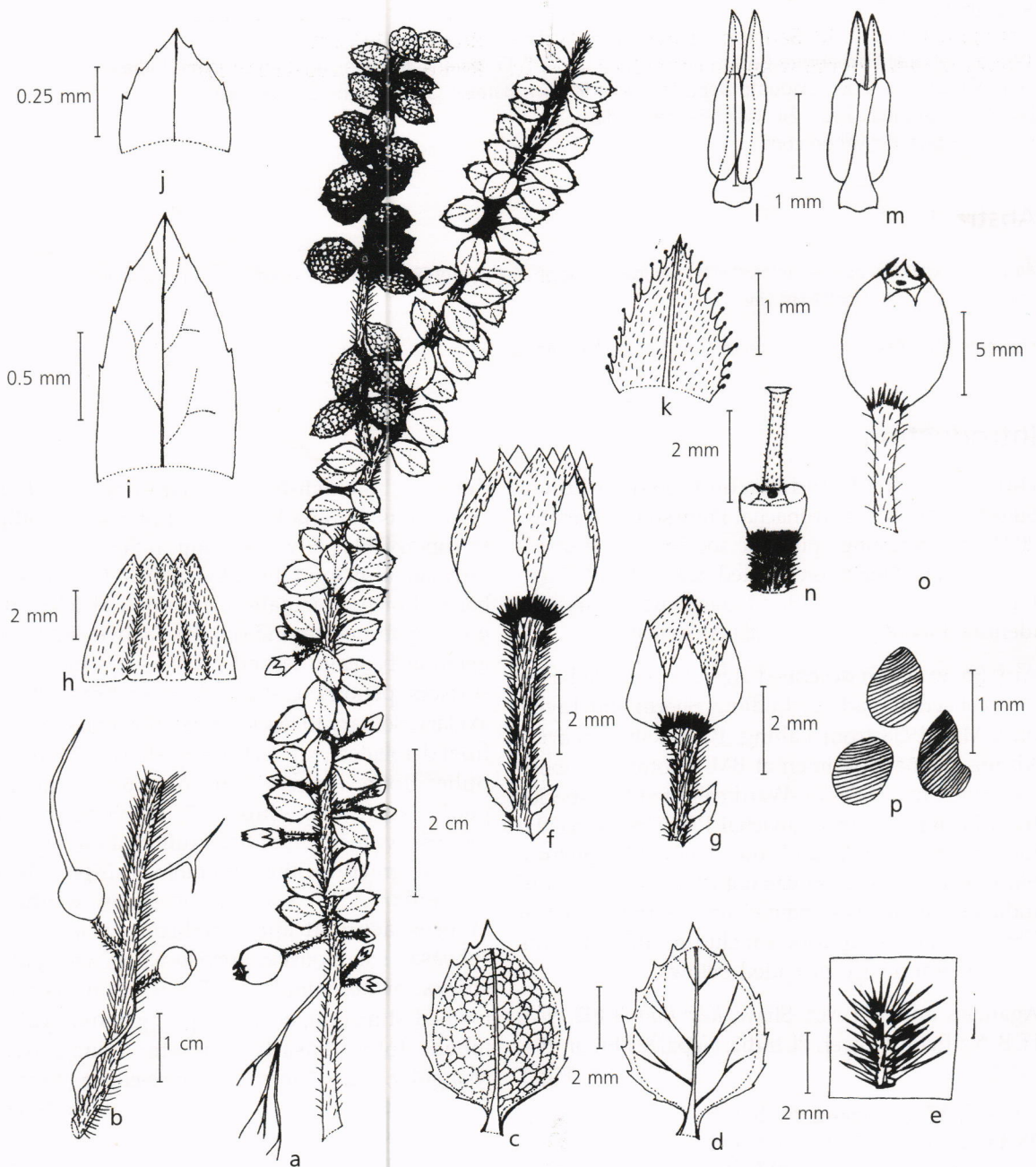


Figure 1. *Agapetes miranda* Airy Shaw – a. Habit; b. Part of stem with tuberous root stock and fruits; c. Leaf (adaxial view); d. leaf (abaxial view); e. Stem (part magnified); f, g. flowers; h. Corolla (outer surface); i. Bract; j. Bracteole; k. Calyx lobe (ventral surface); l. Stamen (ventral view); m. Stamen (dorsal view); n. Pistil; o. Fruit; p. Seeds (a-p drawn from S. Panda 30843 (CAL), by S. Panda).

*Specimens Examined:* INDIA, **Arunachal Pradesh**, Way to Talle valley from Pange, near Lebya-Penggo Pass, Lower Subansiri district, 2725 m, 31.12.2002, S. Panda 30843 (CAL) ; 'Assam', Poshing La, 16 May 1938 *Kingdon-Ward* 13651 (BM, photo!).

*Distribution:* India (Arunachal Pradesh) and South-western China (Xizang).

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