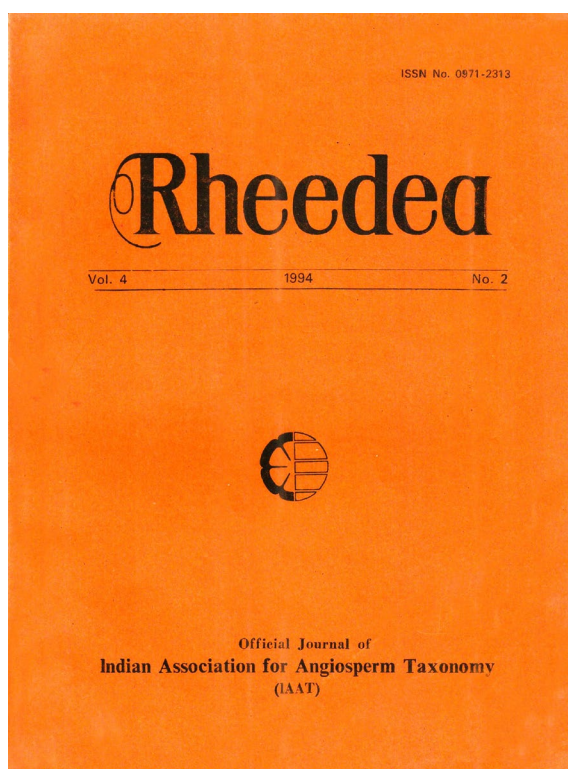




A new species of *Ardisia* Sw. (Myrsinaceae) from Peninsular India

Sasidharan N. & V.V. Sivarajan



How to cite:

Sasidharan N. & V.V. Sivarajan 1994. A new species of *Ardisia* Sw. (Myrsinaceae) from Peninsular India. *Rheedeia* 4(2): 116–119.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.1994.04.02.07>

Published in print: 31.12.1994

Published Online: 01.01.2022

A new species of *Ardisia* Sw. (Myrsinaceae) from peninsular India

N. Sasidharan

Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi 680 653, Kerala, India

and

V. V. Sivarajan

Department of Botany,
University of Calicut, 673 635, Kerala, India

Abstract

Ardisia stonei, a new species belonging to the *Afrardisia* group is described and illustrated.

During floristic studies in Kerala state, some interesting specimens of Myrsinaceae were collected from the Peechi-Vazhani wildlife sanctuary in Thrissur District and the Shenduruny wildlife sanctuary in Kollam District, with 5-merous, bisexual flowers, deeply cleft corolla lobes, linear anthers with longitudinal dehiscence, and 9—10 uniseriate ovules at the equator along the margins of the free central placentum. Among the myrsinaceous genera reported from the Indian subcontinent, only *Sadiria* Mez. has pauci-ovulati (5) uniseriate placentum, but the corolla is tubular or urceolate. On further studies it appeared that the specimens belong to *Afrardisia* Mez., which is characterized by pauci-ovulate (4—8), uniseriate placentum and deeply cleft corolla lobes. The material was compared with the revision of *Afrardisia* (de Wit, 1958) and was found distinct from all species covered in the revision. Recently Taton (1979) has reduced *Afrardisia* Mez. to *Ardisia* Sw. The specimens were further referred to Dr. B. C. Stone, who after critical examination, agreed with our findings. We have named the species as *A stonei*, in honour of Dr. B. C. Stone, for his distinguished contributions to the knowledge of the genus *Ardisia*.

Ardisia stonei* Sasidharan & Sivarajan, *sp. nov.

(Fig. 1).

Folia elliptico-oblonga vel obovate, apice acuto acuminata, basi attenuate, ultime assymetrice minuteque subcordata. Inflorescentia 1—4 florum, brevis, axillaris pendulis. Corolla lobis ovatis oblonga, 6—7 mm. longis, pubes-

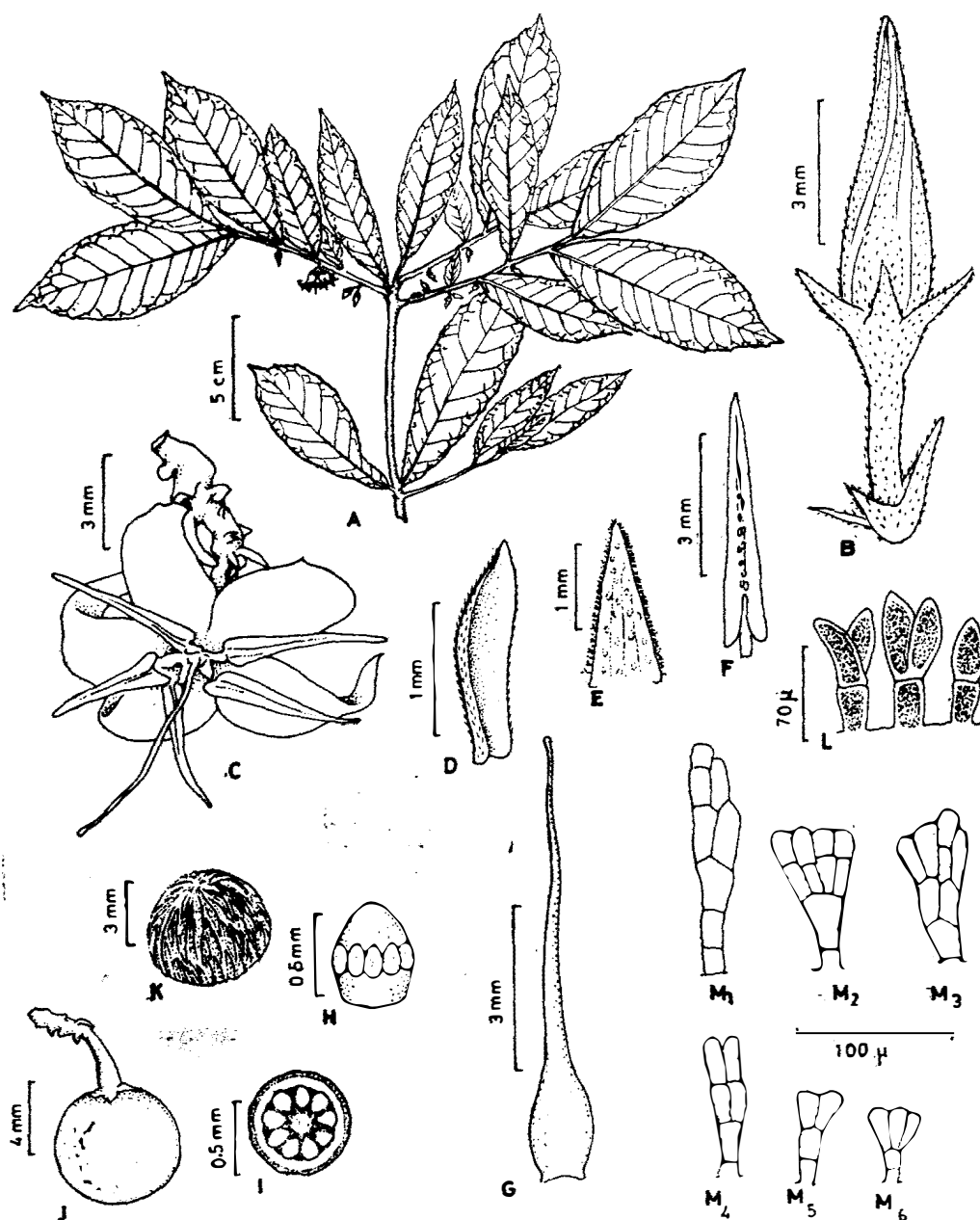
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Fig. 1. *Ardisia stonei* A. flowering twig, B. flower bud., C. flower, D. bract, E. calyx lobe, F. stamen, G. pistil, H. placenta with ovules, I. C. S. of ovary, J. fruit, K. seed, L. trichomes along margins of calyx lobe, M₁-M₆ trichomes on inner side of corolla lobe at base.

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centes, pauci-glandulosus. Stamini-bus brevifilamentus, anthera 5 mm longa. ovulis 9—10 uniseriatis. Fructus maturitate rubris globosis, 7 mm diametro. Ovario glabra,

Typus: India, Kerala State, Thrissur District, Peechi ca., 600 m, 18.9.1990, *Sasidharan* 5719 (holo MH; iso KFRI, CALI)

Paratypus: Kollam District, Rosemala ca. 500 m, 10.5.1994, *Sasidharan* 10954, (KFRI).

Subshrubs. Stem to 50 cm high; branches terete or angular; young shoots covered with brown lepidote tomentum. Lamina 7—14×2—5 cm elliptic-oblong or obovate, acute to acuminate at apex, cuneate and unequally cordate at base, chartaceous, denticulate to subentire on margin, punctate on the undersurface, mostly towards the margins; lateral nerves 12—16 pairs, regularly arching and joining along the margin, midrib and nerves channelled and impressed above, tomentose beneath when young; petiole 5—8 mm long, glabrous. Flowers axillary, solitary or in 2—4 flowered (mostly 2) pendulous racemes; peduncle to 3 mm long, brown tomentose. Bracts cymbiform, 1.5 mm long, tomentose. Calyx lobes imbricate, 2×1 mm, narrowly ovate-acuminate, tomentose; trichomes along the margins often stalked and forked, others unicellular. Corolla pink or pale purple, deeply lobed; tube very short; lobes 6—7 mm long, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, pubescent except along the hyaline margins; trichomes at the base of the lobes multicellular; aestivation dextrorse. Stamens 5, spreading; filaments short, united basally; anthers basifixed, 5 mm long, dehiscence longitudinal; connective with a few glands on dorsal side. Ovary 1 mm long, glabrous, 1-celled; ovules 9 or 10, uniseriate, at the middle of the placenta; style 6 mm long, slender, glabrous; stigma punctiform, entire. Drupe globose, red, ca. 7 mm across, subtended by the erect, persistent calyx. Seed one, subglobose, ca. 5 across, vertically striate; endosperm horny.

Habitat: An undergrowth in evergreen forests.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Note: The discovery of *A. stonei* in India is interesting in that this is the first report of the *Afrardisia* group in the country. The other species of the *Afrardisia* group are so far known only from tropical Africa, *A. stonei* with its axillary, pendulous, short inflorescence is allied to *A. zenkeri* Gilg. However the pubescent corolla and 9—10 ovules distinguish it from all other species of the group. The pubescence of the corolla except on the hyaline margins, is rather an unusual character in *Ardisia*, (B. C. Stone, *personal communication*) so also the trichomes along the margins of calyx lobes which are often stalked and forked.

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Acknowledgements

The authors are deeply indebted to late Dr. B. C. Stone, Senior Research Botanist, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Inc. for critical examination and comments on the specimen, to Dr. John J Pipoly, Missouri Botanical Garden St. Louis, for reviewing the MS and to Dr. S. Chand Basha, Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute for encouragement and facilities.

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