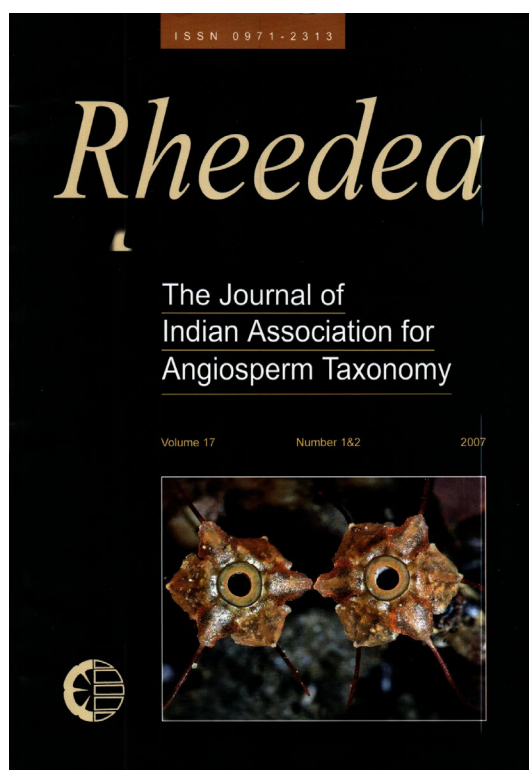




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Recollection of *Vaccinium chaetothrix* Sleumer (Ericaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Vaccinium chaetothrix Sleumer (Ericaceae), a rare epiphytic shrub, was recollected after 75 years of its first collection by F. Kingdon-Ward in 1928 from Lohit district in Arunachal Pradesh. The species is described and illustrated.

Keywords: *Vaccinium chaetothrix*, Ericaceae, Recollection

Introduction

Field studies in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh were conducted during April-May in 2003 as part of the revisionary work on Indian Ericaceae. This resulted in collection of three interesting epiphytic specimens of *Vaccinium* L. on way to Simbi from Malinja Base Camp at altitudes between 2600 and 3000 m. These specimens were later identified as *Vaccinium chaetothrix* Sleumer.

This species was first collected by Kingdon-Ward (no. 6785, K, photo!) from Base Camp, Seinghku Wang in northern Myanmar in May 1926. He described it in 1928 based on another specimen (no. 8174, K, photo!) collected from Dalai Valley ("Delei Valley") of Lohit district in Arunachal Pradesh. This was the basis for the description of this species by Sleumer (1941). Since then it has not been collected from India. This species is very rare at Simbi in Arunachal Pradesh. It is described and illustrated.

***Vaccinium chaetothrix* Sleumer, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 71: 432. 1941.**

Fig. 1

Type: MYANMAR, Base Camp, **Seinghku Wang**, 9000 ft, 28.05.1926, *Kingdon-Ward* 6785 (Holotype, K, photo!).

Stout, pendent, epiphytic shrub, 0.3-1 m high, often hanging down from old tree trunks. *Stem* rhizomatous, profusely branched, glabrous; twigs terete, densely blackish-brown hispid-setose. *Leaves*

alternate, coriaceous, lamina elliptic, ovate-elliptic to ovate, 4-8 × 3-6 mm (tender leaves obovate, serrulate-ciliate, 4-6 × 2-4 mm), serrate to serrulate at margin, narrowly to broadly cuneate at base, retuse at apex, dark green, glabrous above, light green, glabrous or setulose beneath; venation obscure; petioles 1-2 mm long, glabrous above, setulose beneath. *Racemes* pseudoterminal, short, congested, often fasciculate or pseudocorymbs, eperulate; rachis up to 1 cm long, 5-7 flowered, densely puberulous. *Flowers* (4-) 5-merous, c. 11 mm long; pedicels greyish-white, c. 5 mm long, glabrous; bract 1, basal, caducous, greyish-white with pinkish stripes, broadly ovate, c. 3 × 2.5 mm, ciliate at margin, acute at apex, glabrous; bracteoles 2, opposite, basal, caducous, greyish-white with pinkish stripes, elliptic-orbicular, c. 1.5 × 1 mm, ciliolate at margin, rounded to rounded-acute at apex, glabrous; calyx (4-) 5-lobed, lobes equal, broadly ovate, c. 0.5 × 1.5 mm, ciliolate at margin, acute at apex, glabrous; corolla tubulo-urceolate, waxy white, c. 5 mm long, c. 2.5 mm diameter, glabrous outside, pilose inside, (4-) 5-lobed, lobes equal, ovate-deltoid, minute; stamens 8, c. 3.5 mm long; filaments greyish-white, c. 1.5 mm long, slender, pilose, slightly dilated at base; anthers brown, oblong, c. 1 mm long, smooth, each lobe with c. 1 mm long single tubule and 2 equal, minute spurs at anther lobe-tubule junction; pistil c. 5 mm

long; ovary oblong-globose, c. 1×1 mm, glabrous, (4 -) 5 locular, ovules 6 - 8 on axile placenta in each locule; disc annular, minute; style c. 4 mm long, slender, glabrous with 6-8 fluted central canals; stigma truncate. Fruits not seen.

Flowering: May.

Habitat: On old tree trunks.

Altitude: 2600 - 3000 m.

Distribution: India (Eastern Himalayas-Arunachal Pradesh, Dalai Valley and Simbi), South-western China and Northern Myanmar.

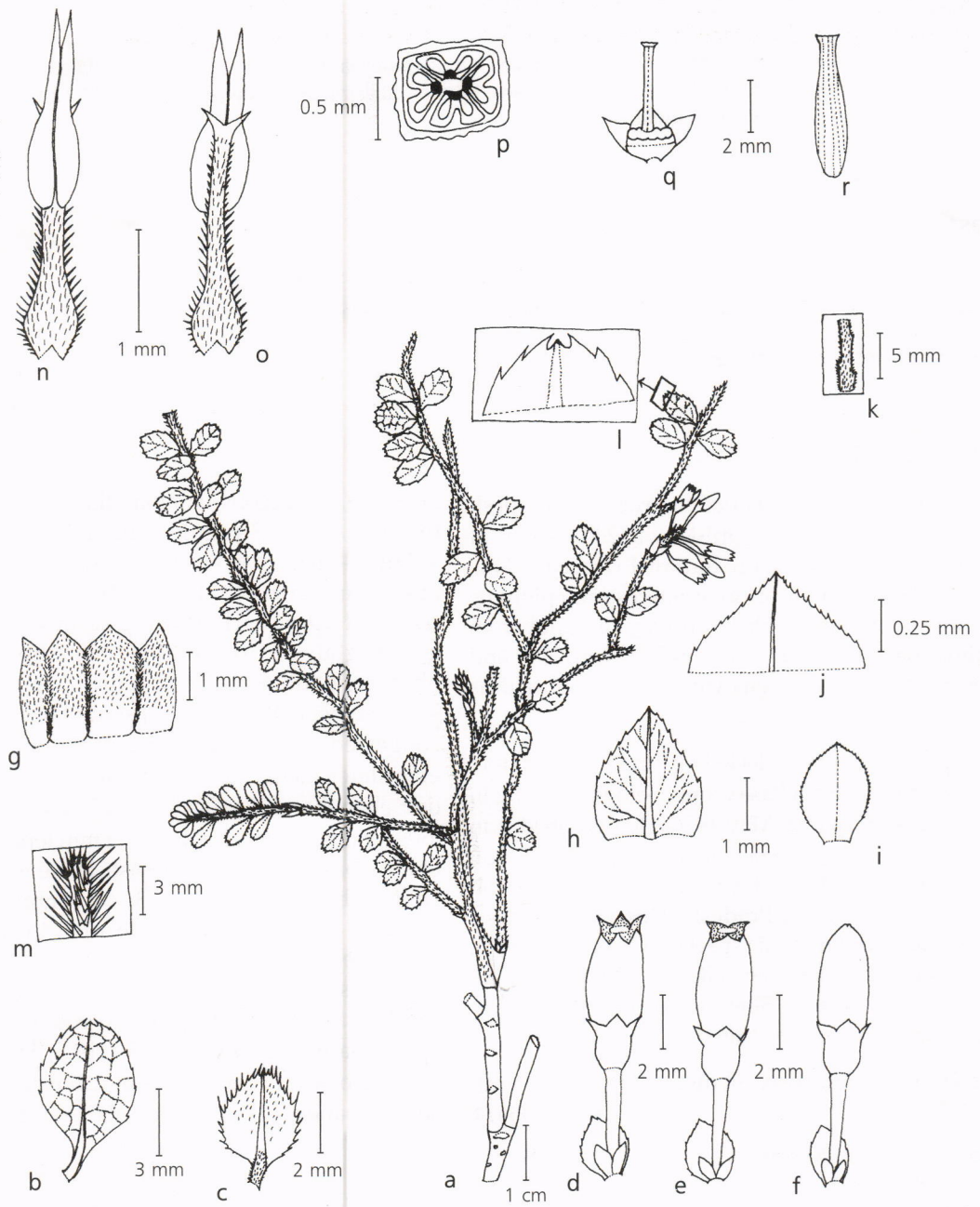


Figure 1. *Vaccinium chaetothrix* Sleumer - a. Habit; b. Older leaf (adaxial view); c. Tender leaf (abaxial view); d. Flower bud; e, f Flower; g. Corolla (ventral surface); h. Bract (ventral surface); i. Bracteole; j. Calyx lobe; k. Rachis; l. Leaf apex; m. Stem; n. Stamen (ventral view); o. Stamen (dorsal view); p. T.S. of ovary; q. Pistil; r. Style and stigma (drawn from S. Panda 30764, CAL by S. Panda).

Specimens Examined: INDIA, **Arunachal Pradesh**, Way to Simbi from Malinja, Lohit district, 2800 m, 5.5.2003, S. Panda 30764 (CAL).

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