



Jasminum fuchsiifolium (Oleaceae): An addition to the Flora of India

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Abstract

Jasminum fuchsiifolium Gagnep. is reported here as a new addition to the Flora of India. A detailed description and photographic illustration are provided to facilitate easy and correct identification.

Keywords: India, *Jasminum fuchsiifolium*, Nagaland, new record, Oleaceae

Introduction

The genus *Jasminum* L., comprises of *c.* 200 species, is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Australia, Europe and South East Asia (Mabberley, 2008). In India, the genus is represented by 48 species, 3 subspecies and 4 varieties, of which 17 taxa are endemic (Green, 2003; Sabeena *et al.*, 2007), mainly reported from Eastern and Western Himalayas, Deccan Peninsula, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Srivastava, 2002).

During a floristic exploration in Tuensang district of Nagaland, India, an interesting species of *Jasminum* was collected by one of the authors (SD). A perusal of relevant literature (Gagnepain, 1933; Chang *et al.*, 1996) and consulting authentic herbarium specimens, the specimens were identified as *Jasminum fuchsiifolium* Gagnep., a species so far not reported from India. This was further compared and confirmed with the photograph of type specimen deposited at National Museum of Natural History, Paris (P) [available at <https://science.mnhn.fr/institution/mnhn/search>]. Hereunder, follows a detailed description, ecology and distribution accompanied with photographic illustrations.

Jasminum fuchsiifolium Gagnep., Bull. Soc. Bot. France 80: 74. 1933; Chang *et al.* in Z. Wu & P.H. Raven (Eds.), Fl. China 15: 312. 1996. **Figs. 1, 2**

Scandent shrubs, up to 2 m long. Branchlets 4-angled, hollow, glabrous. Leaves opposite, simple, ovate to ovate-lanceolate or narrowly

elliptic, 4.0–9.5 × 1.2–3.5 cm, apex acute or acuminate, base rounded, truncate or cuneate, margin entire or slightly wavy, membranous, adaxial surface dark green, abaxial pale green; primary veins 5–9 on both sides of midrib, arcuate, domatia present in the axils; petioles 0.4–1.0 cm long, narrowly winged, glabrous. Flowers scentless, 1.8–2.3 cm long, in 3–6-flowered lax racemose cymes, or in 3-flowered umbellate cymes. Bracts linear, 3–5 mm long. Pedicels 1.0–2.4 cm long, thickened at distal end, green. Calyx campanulate, 5-lobed, glabrous, green; tube 2.5–3.0 mm long; lobes subulate-deltate, 3–4 mm long. Corolla white, salverform; tube 1.0–1.2 cm long, glabrous; lobes 5–8, oblong to lanceolate, 7–9 mm long, glabrous. Stamens 2, included in corolla tube; anthers 2.5–3.0 mm long, dorsifixed; filaments *c.* 1 mm long, glabrous. Ovary barrel-shaped, *c.* 1 mm, glabrous; style 1.0–1.3 cm long, glabrous; stigma *c.* 3 mm long, bifid, glabrous. Fruits not seen.

Flowering: July – September.

Specimens examined: INDIA, Nagaland, Tuensang district, Helipong forest area, 26°12'8.88" N, 94°44'40.47" E, 2123 m, 21.09.2016, S. Dey 254 (BSD!). CHINA, Guizhou, near Jaô-kia-tchay, 02.07.1917, J. Esquirol 6124 (P Image!); Kouy-Tcheou province, 1300 m, 22.08.1917, J. Esquirol 6202 (P Image!).

Distribution: Northeast India (Nagaland) and China (W. Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan).

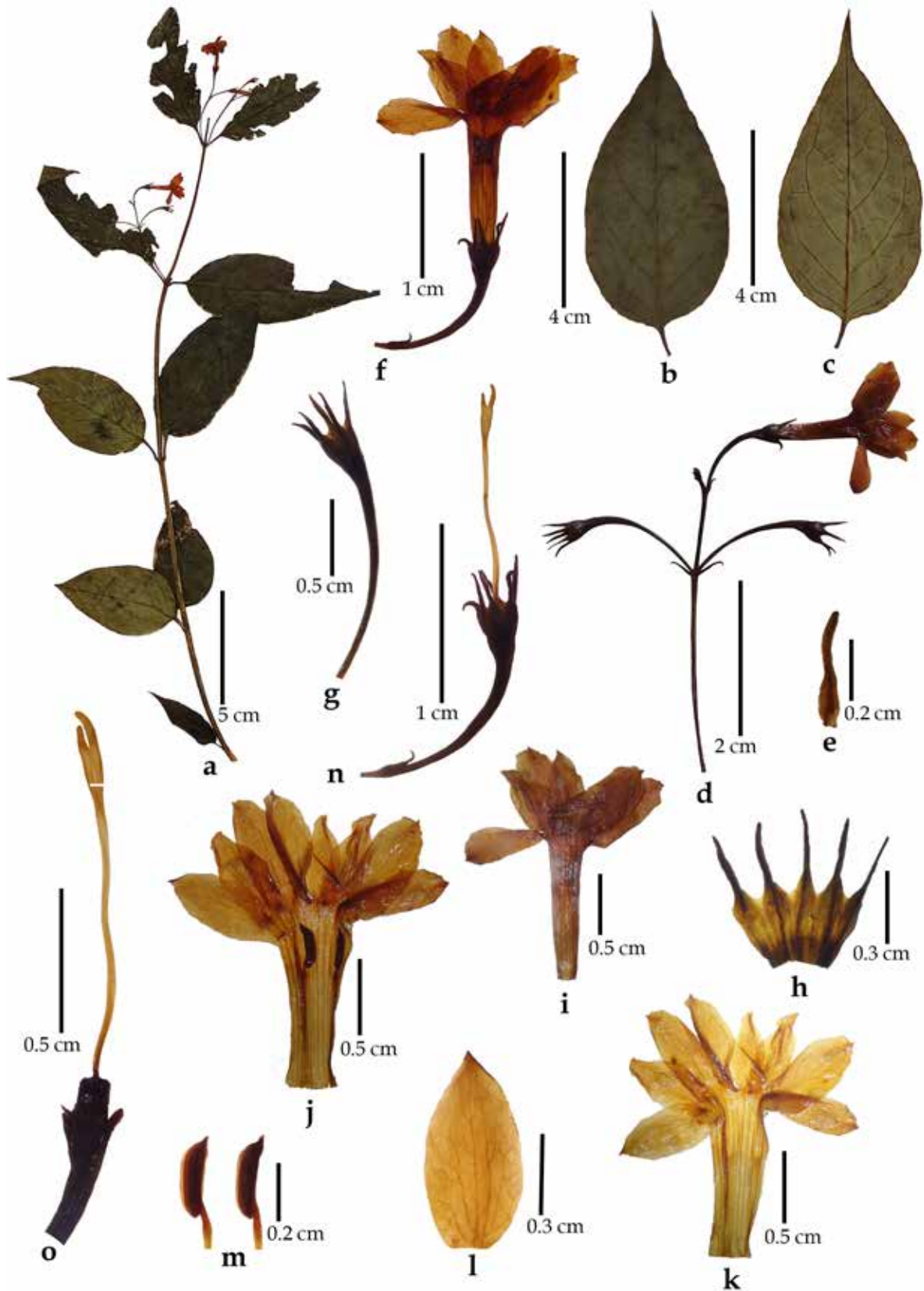


Fig. 1. *Jasminum fuchsifolium* Gagnep.: **a.** Flowering twig; **b.** Leaf (adaxial view); **c.** Leaf (abaxial view); **d.** Inflorescence; **e.** Bract; **f.** Flower; **g.** Calyx with pedicel; **h.** Calyx split-open; **i.** Corolla; **j.** Corolla tube split-open to show attachment of stamens; **k.** Corolla split-open; **l.** Corolla lobe; **m.** Stamens; **n.** Gynoecium with pedicel, calyx and bract; **o.** Ovary, style and stigma with a portion of pedicel [Photographic illustration by D. Verma based on S.Dey 254].



Fig. 2. A flowering twig and flowers enlarged in inset [Photographs by S. Dey].

Habitat and ecology: Found growing at moist shady places near road side areas along hilly slopes in sub-tropical semi evergreen forests amongst *Dichroa febrifuga*, *Laportea terminalis*, *Strobilanthes* sp. and *Thelypteris* sp.

Notes: The species was first described by Gagnepain (1933) based on the collections made by J. Esquirol in 1917 from Guizhou, China. Only few specimens of these collections are deposited at Paris (P). The present collections form a new report of this species from Nagaland (NE India), and it represents an extension of its distribution in South Asia. Extensive field surveys are required to ascertain its distribution and conservation status.

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