



Grewia palodensis (Tiliaceae), a new species from Kerala, India

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***Grewia palodensis* (Tiliaceae), a new species from Kerala, India**

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Abstract

A new species, viz., *Grewia palodensis* (Tiliaceae), is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Grewia* Linn., with about 150 species, is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the Old World (Mabberley, 1990). It is represented in India by 31 species (Daniel & Chandrabose, 1993), of which 23 species occur in Peninsular India.

During the course of floristic studies on the Sacred Groves in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala, the senior author collected a specimen of *Grewia* that did not fit with any of the hitherto described species mentioned by Gamble (1915), Masters (1874), or Daniel and Chandrabose (1993). Detailed studies proved it to be a species new to science belonging to the subgenus *Eugrewia*, series *Columnares*.

***Grewia palodensis* Santhosh, Shanavas, Binu et Almeida, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).**

Grewia umbellifera affinis, in cymis axillaribus vel terminalibus multifloris, andro-gynophoro distincte 4-sulcato, drupis bipartitis differt.

Type: India, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram district: Manthuruthy Kavu, Palode, 20 June 1994, Santhosh Kumar 20091 (*Holo* - TBGT; *Iso* - CAL, MH, BLAT).

Lianae; branchlets brown, stellate-tomentose. Leaves 8-12 x 4-6 cm, broadly elliptic or oblong, rounded at base, abruptly acuminate at apex, crenate-serrate at margin, thin-coriaceous, stellately pubescent, sparsely so above and along the nerves beneath; basally 3-nerved; petiole 0.7-1 cm long, stellate-pubescent; stipules 0.5-0.6 cm long, linear, caducous. Inflorescence axillary and terminal, many-flowered umbellate cymes; peduncles 1-3 together,

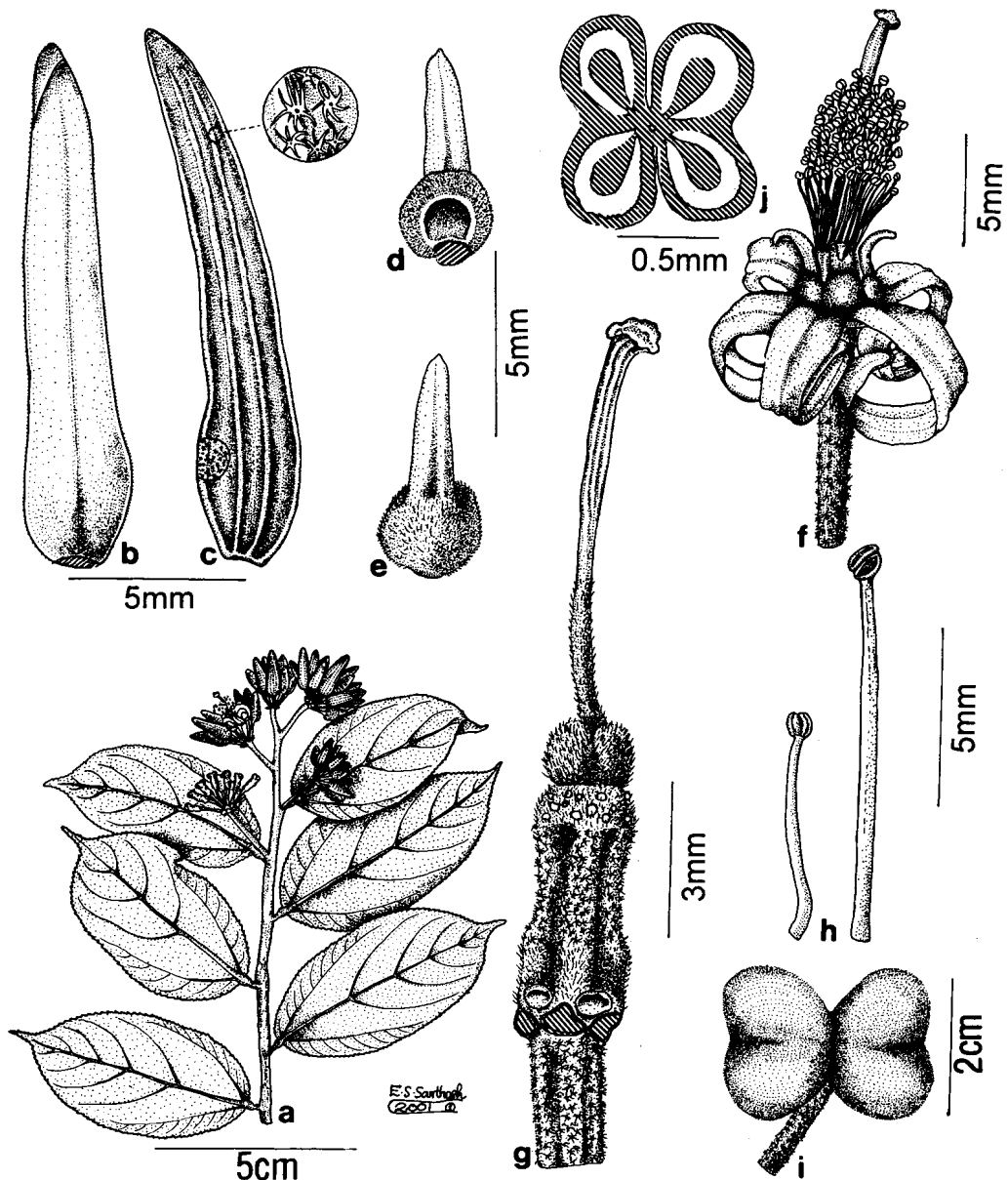
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Fig. 1. *Grewia palodensis* Santhosh *et al.*: a. Flowering branch; b & c. Sepals - dorsal and ventral views; d & e. Petals - ventral and dorsal views; f. Flower; g. Torus with pistil; h. Stamens; i. Fruits; j. C.S. of ovary.

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3-4.5 cm long, stellate-pubescent; bracts 0.5-0.6 cm long, linear, channelled, puberulent; pedicels 0.8-1.2 cm long in flower, to 2 cm long in fruits. Flowers 0.8-1 cm across. Sepals 5, narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 1.5-1.8 x 0.3 cm, light greyish, reflexed and curled, longitudinally ribbed, stellately-tomentose without, and pubescent at the base within. Petals 5, linear-oblong, narrow, 0.5-0.6 cm long, obtuse-apiculate at apex, base densely appressed pilose, gland to 0.2 cm. Andro-gynophore distinctly 4-grooved, to 2.5 mm, stellate-hairy discoid glands at base. Stamens 5-10 mm long; filaments glabrous; anthers 2-celled. Ovary globose, villous, to 1 mm long, 4-locular with 1-ovule in each locule; style 0.6-0.7 cm long, puberulent 1/3 from the base; stigma shallowly 4-5-grooved. Drupe deeply 2-partite, lobes emarginate, 1.5-2 cm wide, black at maturity, sparsely stellate-hairy. Pyrenes 2-per lobe, glabrous.

Grewia palodensis is allied to *G. umbellifera* Bedd. in many respects, but clearly to be distinguished by the many-flowered axillary and terminal cymes, distinctly 4-grooved andro-gynophore, and the bi-partite fruits.

Flowering and fruiting: May - October.

Distribution: India, Kerala State, Thiruvananthapuram district.

Habitat: Sacred Groves and evergreen forests of southern most part of Kerala.

Etymology: The new species is named after its type locality, Palode.

Other specimens examined: INDIA, Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram district: Bonaccord, Santhosh Kumar 16067 (Paratype - TBGT); Ayaniyerathala Kavu, Santhosh Kumar 34495 (Paratype - TBGT).

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