

A NEW VARIETY OF *ABUTILON NEELGHERRENSE* MUNRO EX WT.
(MALVACEAE) FROM TAMIL NADU, INDIA

T. K. PAUL AND M. P. NAYAR

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

Abutilon neelgherrense Munro ex Wt. var. *fischeri* T. K. Paul et Nayar, var. nov. A typo differt staminorum columnalis brevioribus 5 mm longis dense stillato-pubescentibus.

Typus: INDIA: Coonoor river beach, Coimbatore Dt. (Tamil Nadu), 1200' (363 m), 10.1.1910, C. E. C. Fischer 1581 (Holotypus—CAL).

Erect, branched undershrub or shrub, densely stellate velutinous. *Leaves* 7-9.5 × 5.5-8 cm, broadly ovate, base cordate, apex acute to acuminate, coarsely crenate to dentate or nearly entire, 7-9 nerved at the base, both the surface stellate pubescent, denser in the lower surface; *petioles* 3-8 cm long, densely stellate pubescent. *Stipules* 5-12 mm long, linear, stellate pubescent. *Flowers* in axillary loose corymbose racemes; *peduncle* with 3-5 flowers, 7-9 cm long, densely stellate-pubescent; *pedicel* 2-3.5 cm long, jointed near the apex, densely stellate pubescent. *Calyx* campanulate; *lobes* 5, connate below the middle, 6-10 × 4-5 mm, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute to acuminate, each with one prominent midvein, both surfaces stellate pubescent, persistent. *Corolla* c. 1.5 cm across, yellow; *petals* 5, 10-15 × 8-13 mm, broadly obovate, apex rotund or truncate, margin of the base ciliate. *Staminal column* c. 0.5 cm long, conical at the

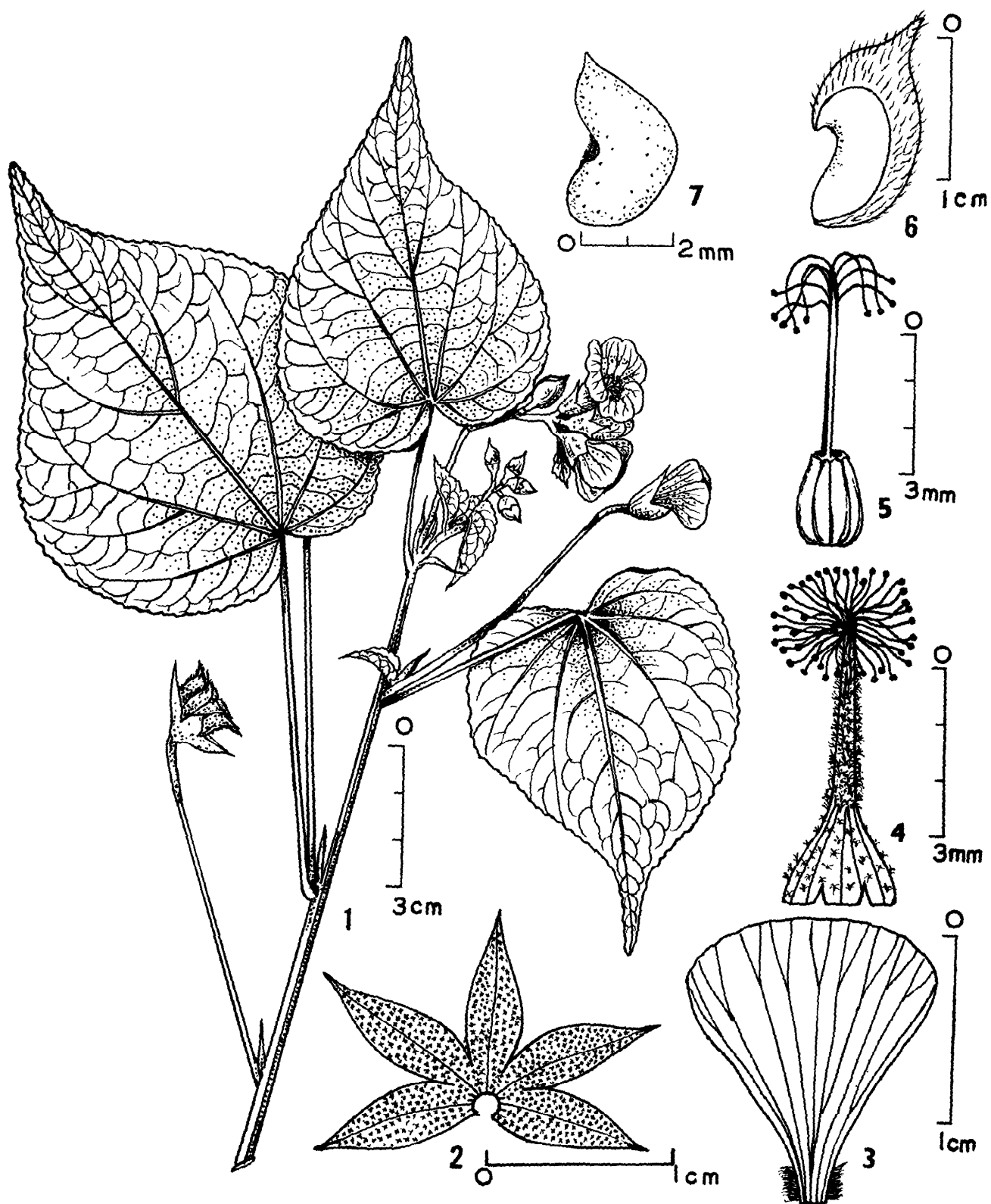
base, tubular towards the apex, densely stellate hairy, antheriferous towards the apex, filaments 2-3 mm long. *Ovary* c. 3.5 × 3 mm, ovoid, stellate-tomentose, 8-12 loculed, 2-3 ovules in each locule; *style* branched, c. 3 mm long, as many as the carpels; *stigmas* capitate. *Schizocarp* c. 1.2 × 1.3 cm, subcylindric, deeply indented at the apex; *mericarps* 8-12, c. 14 × 5 mm, flattened reniform with a short mucro, densely pubescent with both long and short stellate hairs. *Seeds* 2-3 in each mericarp, c. 2 mm across, subreniform, glabrous, hilum pubescent.

Notes: This interesting taxon is easily distinguished from the type of *A. neelgherrense* Munro ex Wt. in having shorter (c. 5 mm), densely stellate pubescent staminal column, whereas in the type (*A. neelgherrense* Munro ex Wt.) it is longer (8-10 mm) and glabrous.

The varietal epithet of this taxon is named after C.E.C. Fischer, the co-author of Gamble's Flora of Madras presidency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for providing necessary facilities and for awarding a Senior Research Fellowship to one of us (TKP).



Abutilon neelgherrense Munro ex Wt.
 Figs. 1-7 : 1. Flowering twig. 2. Calyx split open. 3. Petal. 4. Staminal column.
 5. Gynoecium. 6. Mericarp. 7. Seed.