

A NEW VARIETY OF *ASPIDOPTERYS CORDATA* (WALL.) JUSS.
(MALPIGHIACEAE) FROM INDIA

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During the course of studies on the family Malpighiaceae under Flora of India Project, the authors came across some specimens from Dangs forest, Gujarat which were found to be an undescribed new variety of *Aspidopterys cordata* (Wall.) Juss. and hence it is described below :

Aspidopterys cordata* (Wall.) Juss. var. *vermae
Srivastava et Balakr. var. nov. (Fig. A)

Differt a var. *cordata* samaris paucioribus, majoribus, late ellipticus, subovatis, pallidocinereis vel fuscis, haud, fuligineis HOLO-TYPUS : *Wadhwa* 60930 A (BSI).

Climbers. Stems woody, young branches white tomentose or woolly. Leaves orbicular or ovate-cordate, 7.5-14 × 5-13.5 cm, cordate at bases, acuminate at apices with broad-based and abrupt acumen, glabrous above, white tomentose below ; petioles 2.2-6 × 0.15-0.3 cm, white tomentose. Panicles axillary or terminal, 9-17 cm long, lax, few branched ; pedicels (in fruits) ca 18 × 0.75 mm, articulated at ca 9 mm from base, white tomentose

above the articulation. Samaras broadly elliptic or almost ovate, 3.5-4.5 × 2.4-3.5 cm, entire to slightly at bases, retuse at apices, pale grey to greyish-brown, ecristate ; carpophores ca 2 mm long.

Differs from the allied variety var. *cordata* in samaras being fewer, larger, broadly elliptic or almost ovate, pale grey or greyish brown, never deep brown (Plate I).

Fls. & Frts. : August-November

Type : Gujarat, Dangs forest, Ahwa, *Wadhwa* 60930 (Holotype and Isotype in BSI).

The varietal epithet is given in honour to Dr. D. M. Verma's contributions in plant taxonomy.

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Table 1. Differences between two varieties of *Aspidopterys cordata* (Wall.) Juss.

Characters	var. <i>cordata</i>	var. <i>vermae</i>
Panicles	decompound, 10-22 flowered	compound, 4-6 flowered
Pedicels (in fruits)	ca 14 mm long	ca 18 mm long
Samaras	narrowly elliptic, tapering at base, 2.75-3 × 2.0-2.2 cm, dark-brown in colour, margins wavy.	broadly elliptic, rounded at base, 3.5-4.5 × 2.4-3.5 cm, grey to greyish-brown in colour, margins entire.

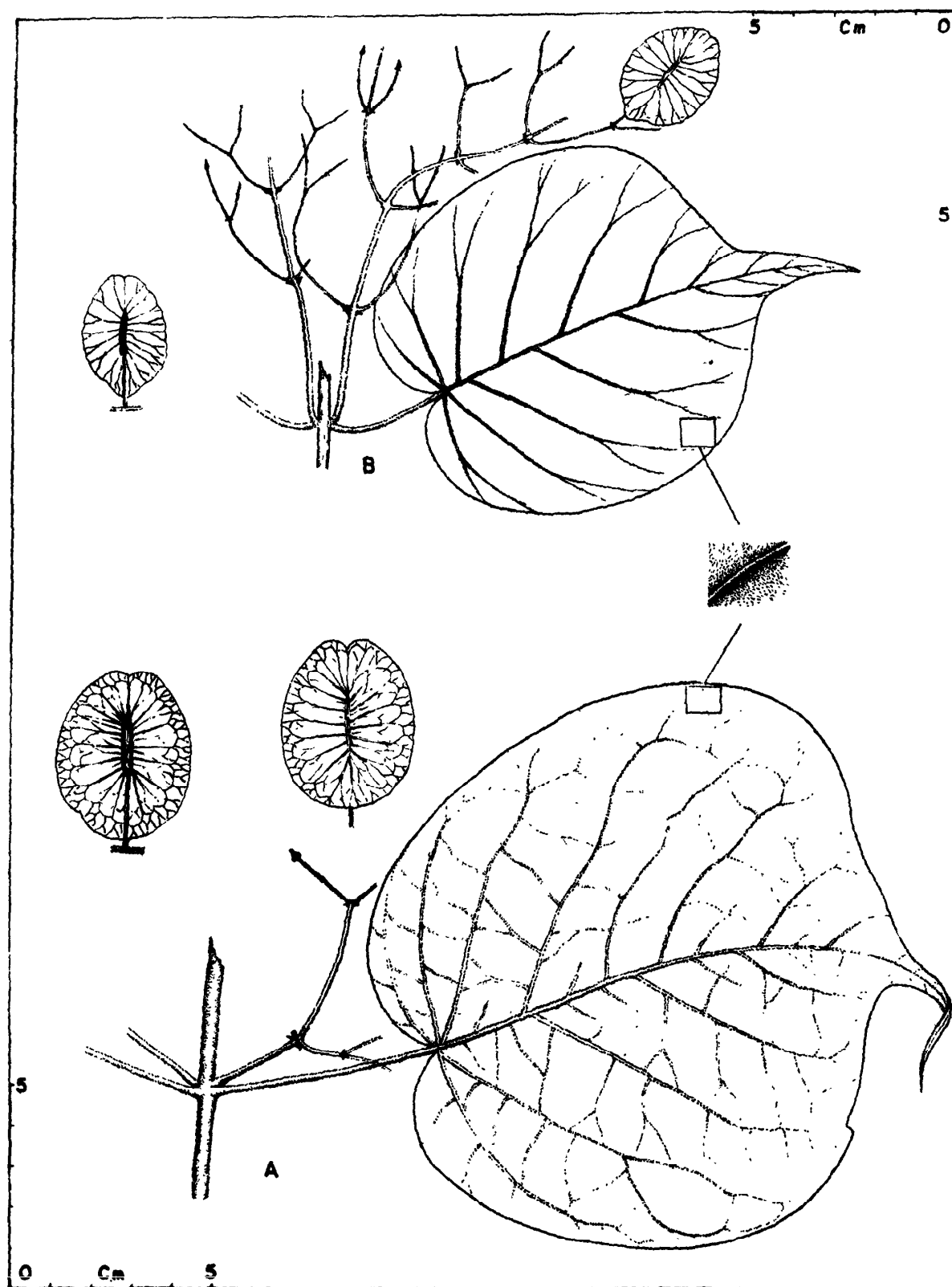


Plate 1.

Fig. A : *Aspidopterys cordata* var. *vermae* Srivastava et Balakr.
A twig and two samaras showing dorsal and ventral surfaces

Fig. B : *Aspidopterys cordata* var. *cordata*
A twig with samaras