

A NEW SPECIES OF *DICHROSTACHYS* FROM SOUTH INDIA

K. M. SEBASTINE AND K. RAMAMURTHY

Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Dichrostachys* by name *Dichrostachys santapaui* Sebastine and Ramam. collected from Kudiraimoli Teri Reserve Forest, Tirunelveli District, South India has been described with illustrations.

Dichrostachys santapaui Sebastine et Ramam. spec. nov.

Pertinet ad Leguminosas Mimosaceas, affinisque est *D. spicatae* (v. Mueller) Domin, a qua tamen differt praecipue numero florum minori, petalisque relative latioribus, inflorescentia tenuiori, et foliolorum numero maiori.

Frutices vel *arbores* parvae, ramosissimae, 6-9 m. altae, cortice griseo, sulcato, ramulis glabris, in spinas

desinentibus. *Folia* bipinnata; rachis primaria 2-4 cm. longa, glabra, glandula parva erecta inter singula pin-
narum juga; pinnae paripinnatae, 2-3-jugata, 2-3.5 cm. longa. *Foliola* sessilia, 3-12-juga, inter se proxima, sed altera alteris haud impendentia, 7-8 × 3-4 mm., oblique oblonga, subtruncata ad basin, nonnihil mucronata ad apicem, glabra ad utramque paginam; stipulae 3-4 mm. longae, subulatae e basi triangulari. *Flores* plures,

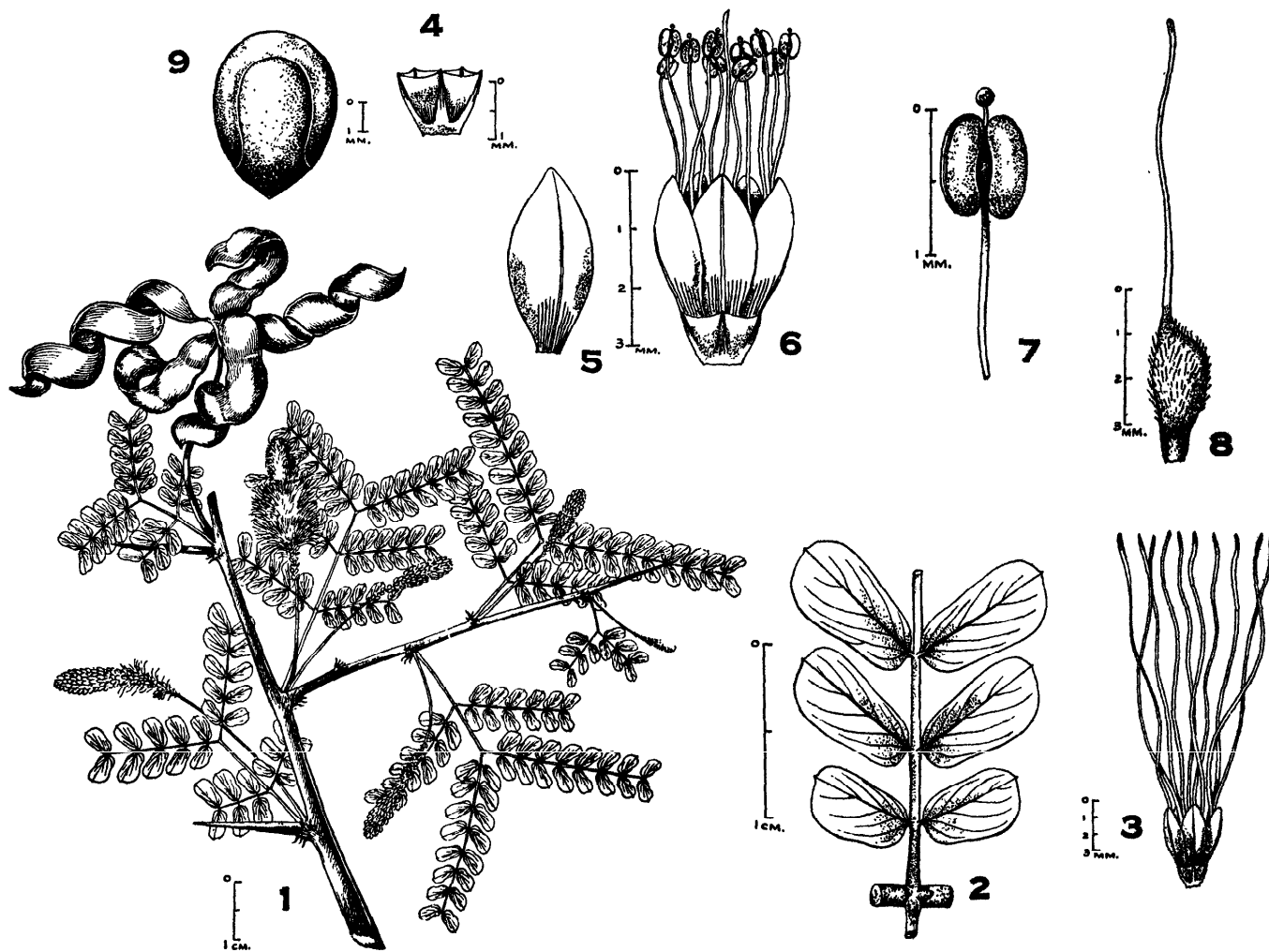


Plate 1. *Dichrostachys santapaui* Sebastine et Ramam.

1. Branch showing inflorescence and fruits. 2. Portion of leaf showing arrangement of leaflets. 3. Neuter-flower from base of inflorescence. 4. Calyx. 5. Petal. 6. Bisexual flower from upper part of inflorescence. 7. Anther. 8. Pistil. 9. Seed.

aggregati in spicas densas axillares vel extra-axillares 3.5-6.5 cm. longas, superiores quidem hermaphroditi, lutei, inferiores vero neutri, staminodiis rosaceis filiformibus ornati. *Petala* 5, ca. 3 mm. longa. *Stamina* 10, libera, exserta; antherae desinentes in glandulas pedicellatas. *Ovarium* subsessile; stylus filiformis; stigma terminale, truncatum. *Legumina* linearia, compressa, glabra, 13-14 × 0.9-1.3 cm., ad maturitatem spiraliter curvata. *Semina* 6-10, singula 5 × 4 mm., obovata, compressa, brunneola.

Holotypus, *Sebastine et Ramamurthy 13612A*, et isotypi, *Sebastine et Ramamurthy 13612B-F*, lecti in silva Kudiraimoli Teri, ad Tiruchendur, in Dist. Tirunelveli, in Statu Madras, die 26 novembris anni 1961 a K. M. Sebastine et K. Ramamurthy, positi in herbario regionis australis Bot. Surv. Ind. ad Coimbatore.

Dichrostachys santapau *Sebastine and Ramam.* spec. nov. (Mimosaceae), allied to *D. spicata* (v. Mueller) Domin, but differs chiefly in having smaller flowers with relatively broader petals, more slender inflorescence and more number of leaflets.

Much-branched *thorny shrubs* or *small trees*, 6-8 m. tall; bark grey coloured, furrowed; branchlets glabrous, ending in spines. *Leaves* bipinnate; primary rachis 2-4 cm. long, glabrous, with a small erect gland between each pair of pinnae; pinnae paripinnate, 2-3 pairs, 2-3.5 cm. long. *Leaflets* sessile, 3-12 pairs, close to one another but not overlapping, 7-8 × 3-4 mm., obliquely oblong, subtruncate at base, somewhat mucronate at apex, glabrous on both the sides; stipules 3-4 mm. long,

subulate from a triangular base. *Flowers* numerous, crowded in dense axillary and extra axillary spikes 3.5-6.5 cm. long, the upper flowers hermaphrodite, yellow and the lower ones neuter with pinkish filiform staminodes. *Calyx* membranous, campanulate, shortly toothed, 0.8-1 mm. long. *Petals* 5, ± 3 mm. long. *Stamens* 10, free, exserted; anthers ending in stalked glands. *Ovary* subsessile; style filiform; stigma terminal, truncate. *Pods* linear, compressed, glabrous, 13-14 × 0.9-1.3 cm., twisted up when ripe. *Seeds* 6-10, each 5 × 4 mm., obovate, compressed, brownish.

The holotype of this species *Sebastine and Ramamurthy 13612A* and the isotypes *Sebastine and Ramamurthy 13612B-F* were collected at Kudiraimoli Teri R. F., Tiruchendur Taluk, Tirunelveli District, Madras State on 26-11-1961 by K. M. Sebastine and K. Ramamurthy and have been deposited in the Southern Circle Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.

This species is named in honour of Rev. Fr. Dr. H. Santapau, S.J., Ph.D. (Rome), Ph.D. (Lond.), A.R.C.S., D.I.C., F.N.I., Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India.

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