

AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF HYPOXIDACEAE

D. B. DEB

Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

ABSTRACT

Molineria prainiana Deb spec. nov. (Family : Hypoxidaceae) is described with illustrations. The specimen was originally collected by I. H. Burkill in 1912, from Janakmukh during Abor Expedition and named by D. Prain as *Curculigo grandis* Prain in MSS., followed by publication of the name only by I. H. Burkill in *Rec. bot. Surv. India* (11 : 386, 1925) without any description. Recently J. Mitra in his *Flowering Plants of Eastern India* (1 : 50, 1958) made the new combination *Molineria grandis* Mitra that stands illegitimate. The same specimen is now named after late D. Prain, and described here anew. A specimen collected by N. L. Bor and published by K. Biswas (1940) under the name *Curculigo grandis* Baker is also included in the description.

INTRODUCTION

The present paper describing a new species of Hypoxidaceae is based on a specimen originally collected by I. H. Burkill in 1912, from Janakmukh during the Abor Expedition. It was named by D. Prain as *Curculigo grandis* Prain MSS., followed by publication by I. H. Burkill in *Rec. bot. Surv. India* (11 : 386, 1925) without any description. Thus the name is invalid. N. L. Bor collected a specimen of the same taxon in 1934, from Aka Hills, which was published by K. Biswas in *Indian For. Rec.* 3 (1) : 53, 1940, as *Curculigo grandis* Baker (probably authorship of Baker is a printing mistake for Burkill). Recently J. Mitra in his *Flowering Plants of Eastern India* (1 : 50, 1958) made the new combination *Molineria grandis* Mitra that stands illegitimate being based on an invalid name.

While working on a collection of specimens from Tirap Frontier Division of NEFA, the author considered one of his specimens as almost allied to *Curculigo grandis* Prain. In order to ascertain the position of the taxon he found that it is not described at all. Hence it is now named here after late D. Prain and described anew.

DESCRIPTION

Molineria prainiana Deb spec. nov.

Affinis *Molineriae recurvatae* (Dryand.) Nel e familia Hypoxidacearum, differt tamen inflorescentia racemosa et ovario clavato-oblongo.

Herba acaulescens, tuberosa, perennis. *Folia* lanceolata, plicata, supra 1 m longa, ad 12.5 cm lata; petioli laminis paulo breviores, canaliculati, ad basin vaginantes, villosi; lamina glabra, supra, pilosa infra, chartacea, integra, acuminata, palmatim nervosa; nervi principes ± 7 ad utrumque latus nervi medii, qui est inconspicuus, convergentes, nervis secundariis inter principes. *Scapa* petiolo brevior ca 25 cm longa complanata, tomentosa. *Flores* racemosi, bracteati hermaphroditi, trimeri. *Bracteae* ad 4 cm longae, 3 - 7 mm latae, lanceolatae, ad margines ciliatae, glabrae intus, villosae extus, nervis parallelis distinctae. *Pedicelli* 5 - 15 mm longi, villosi. *Perianthium* supra ovarium,

constans e duobus verticillis alternis; laciniae regulares, liberae, sessiles, imbricatae, oblongae, 12 x 6.5 mm obtusae ad apicem, villosae extus, 4 - 5, nervis convergentibus ornatae. *Stamina* 6, filamentis brevissimis, ± 2 mm longis; antheris erectis, dorsifixis, lanceolatis, bilobis, ad basin sagittatis, dehiscentibus per suturam longitudinalem prope margines positam. *Stylus* subulatus; *stigma* capitatum, oblongo-trigonum. *Ovarium* inferum, Clavato-oblongum, $\pm 5 \times 3$ mm villosum pilis stellatis, triloculatis, ovulis pluribus in placenta axiali.

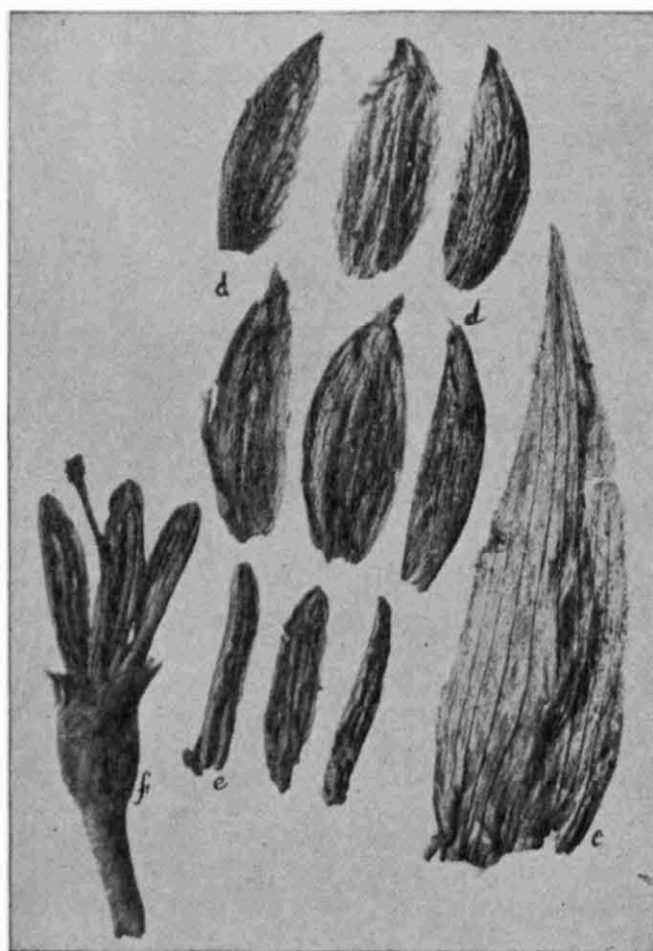
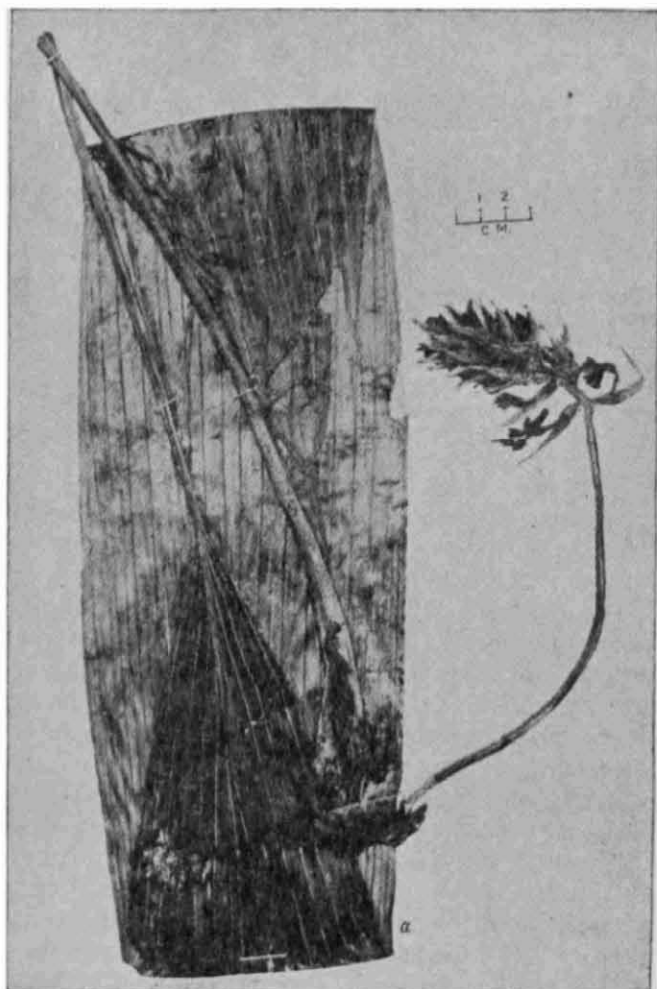
Typus I. H. Burkill 36471, lectus ad Janakmukh in collibus Abor dictis in ditone NEFA, die 23 Januarii anni 1912, et positus in herbario calcutensi (CAL); paratypus N. L. Bor 15221 lectus in collibus Aka dictis in eadem ditone in NEFA anno 1934 et positus in herbario regionali, Bot. Surv. Ind. ad Shillong in Assamia.

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Curculigo grandis Prain MSS. in Herb. Calc. nom. nud.; *C. grandis* Herb. Calc. ex Burkill in *Rec. bot. Surv. India* 11 : 386, 1925, nom. nud. *Molineria grandis* Mitra in *Flowering Plants of Eastern India* 1 (Monocot.): 59, 1958, nom. illeg.

This species is nearer to *Molineria recurvata* (Dryand.) Nel (Family Hypoxidaceae) differing in racemose inflorescence and clavate-oblong ovary.

Herb acaulescent, tuberous, perennial. *Leaves* lanceolate, plaited, more than 1 m long, up to 12.5 cm broad; petiole slightly shorter than the lamina, channelled, sheathing at the base, villous, lamina glabrous above, pilose underneath, chartaceous, entire, acuminate, palmately veined; primary veins about 7 on either side of the midrib that is inconspicuous, convergent, having secondary ones in between. Scape shorter than the petiole, about 25 cm long, flattened, tomentose. Flowers racemose, bracteate, bisexual, trimerous, pentacyclic. *Bracts* up to 4 cm long, and 3-7 mm broad, lanceolate ciliate at the margin; glabrous within, villous at the back, parallel veined. *Pedicel* 5-15 mm long, villous. *Perianth* produced above the ovary, in 2 alternating whorls; segments regular, free, sessile, imbricate, oblong, $\pm 12 \times 6.5$ mm, obtuse at the



Malinella prainiana Deb spec. nov.
 a. holotype ; b. a flower with a bract ; c. a bract ; d. perianth ; e. 3 detached stamens showing attachment of the filament and form of anthers ; f. pistil with 3 stamens attached above the ovary.

apex, villous at the back, 4 – 5, convergent veined. *Stamens* 6; filaments very short, ± 2 mm long; anthers erect, dorsifixed, lanceolate, 2 lobed, sagittate at the base, dehiscent down the face through a slit near the edge. *Style* subulate; stigma capitate, oblong-trigonous. *Ovary* inferior, clavate-oblong, $\pm 5 \times 3$ mm, villous with stellate hairs, trilocular with many ovules in axile placentation.

NEFA: Janakmukh, Abor Hills, 23-1-1912, *I. H. Burkill* 36472; Aka Hill, 1934, *N. L. Bor* 15221.

Holotype: *I. H. Burkill* 36472 collected from Janakmukh, Abor Hills, NEFA on 23-1-1912, is preserved in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL.). Paratype: *N. L. Bor* 15221 collected from Aka Hills, NEFA, in 1934 is preserved in the Regional Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Shillong, Assam.

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