

A NEW SPECIES OF *JUSTICIA* FROM SOUTH INDIA

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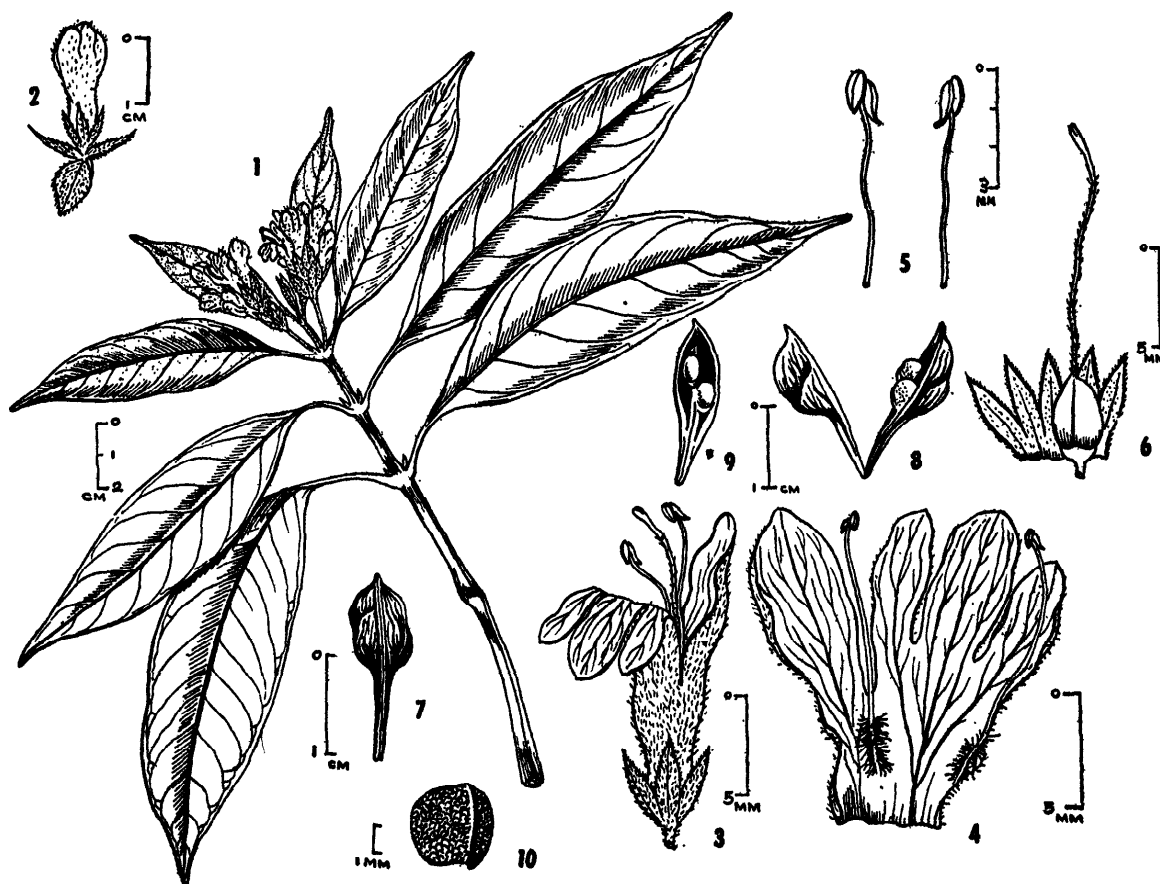
Justicia gingiana Seb. & Ramam. spec. nov.

Pertinet ad *Acanthaceas*, sectionem *Hemichoriste*, affinisque est *J. montanae* Wall., a qua tamen differt praecipue foliis minoribus nervo medio canaliculato ornatis, spicis brevioribus axillaribus pedunculatis, floribus minoribus sessilibus; et ovario glabro.

Frutex ramis pluribus oppositis ascendentibus, 1-2 m altus; caulis erectus, subtetragonus, fere glaber. *Folia* 15-20 × 3-6 cm, elliptico-lanceolata, acuminata, minute puberula cum juvenilia, matura vero plus minusve glabra, integra, fusce viridia supra, pallidiora infra, in petiolum attenuata; nervi principes 8-10 ad utrumque latum nervi medii, nervulis reticulatis per totum folium; nervus medius sulcatus supra; petioli ad 2 cm longi. *Flores* ad apices ramorum, in spicis axillaribus, pedunculatis, 3-4 cm longis; pedunculi 2 cm;

bracteae ad 13 × 5 mm ovato-oblongae vel ellipticae, acutae, plus minusve puberulae; bracteolae 1 cm longae, ellipticae. *Calyx* 4 mm longus, pubescens, 5-lobus, laciniis lineari-lanceolatis inter se aequalibus acutis, *Corolla* 1.5 cm longa, alba, extus pubescens, bilabiata infra dimidium; labium superius oblongum, curvatum, incisum; inferius vero alte 3-lobatum, lobo medio duplo latiore quam lateralibus. *Stamina* bina, filamentis glabris praeter punctum insertionis quod est dense pilosum; antherae duplici cellula constantes, quarum altera altius posita, altera vero inferior calcarata. *Ovarium* glabrum, stylo pubescenti ad partem inferiorem. *Capsula* 2.2 cm longa, clavata, glabra, 4-ovulata prope apicem. *Semina* 3 mm diam., suborbicularia glabra et intense rugosa.

Holotypus, *Sebastine & Ramamurthy 12360A*, et isotypi, *Sebastine & Ramamurthy 12360 B-F*, lecti



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1. Portion of a branch. 2. Bud with bract and bracteoles. 3. Entire flower. 4. Corolla split open showing stamens.
5. Stamens. 6. Calyx split open to show Gynoeceum. 7. Fruit. 8. Capsule showing dehiscence.
9. Inner portion of the capsule showing seeds. 10. Seed.

die 22 martii anni 1961 in silva Gingee dicta in ditione Arcot meridionali, Madras; paratypus, *Sebastine & Ramamurthy* 17592 A-E, lecti eodem in loco, die 26 junii anni 1962. Holotypus positus in herbario calcuttensi (CAL); caeteri typi in herbario regionali Bot. Surv. Ind. ad Coimbatore.

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Acanthaceae, under Section *Hemichoriste* allied to *Justicia montana* Wall. but differs chiefly in having smaller leaves with grooved midrib; shorter axillary pedunculate spikes; smaller flowers without pedicels and glabrous ovary.

Shrub with many opposite ascending branches, 1-2 m high; stem erect subtetragonal, nearly glabrous. *Leaves* 15-20 × 3-6 cm, elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate, minutely puberulous when young, more or less glabrous when mature, entire, dark green above, paler beneath, attenuated into the petiole; main nerves 8-10 pairs with reticulate venation; midrib grooved; petioles upto 2 cm long. *Flowers* in short axillary pedunculate spikes 3-4 cm long, towards the ends of the branches; peduncles 2 cm; bracts reaching 13 × 5 mm, ovate oblong or elliptic, acute, puberulous or nearly so; bracteoles 1 cm long, elliptic; pedicels absent. *Calyx* 4 mm long, pubescent, 5 lobed, segments linear-lanceolate, equal, acute. *Corolla* 1.5 cm long, white, pubescent outside; two lipped, more than half way down; upper lip oblong, curved, notched; lower lip deeply 3-

lobed, the middle lobe twice as broad as the lateral ones. *Stamens* 2, filaments glabrous except at their insertion which is densely hairy; anthers two celled, one cell higher up than the other, the lower cell with a spur. *Ovary* glabrous, lower part of style pubescent. *Capsules* 2.2 cm long, clavate, glabrous, 4-seeded near the top. *Seeds* 3 mm in diameter, sub-orbicular, glabrous and intensely rugose.

The holotype of this species *Sebastine and Ramamurthy* 12360A and the isotypes *Sebastine and Ramamurthy* 12360 B-F were collected on 22-3-1961 in Gingee Reserve Forest, South Arcot District, Madras State and the paratypes *Sebastine and Ramamurthy* 17592 A-F were collected in the same locality on 26-6-62. The holotype has been deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta; the isotypes and paratypes have been deposited in the Regional Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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