

Blumeopsis flava (DC.) Gagnep. in Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 26: 76, 1920. *Erigeron falcatus* auct. pl. non D. Don, 1825. *Blumea flava* DC. Prodr. 5: 439, 1836. *Laggera flava* (DC.) Benth. in Gen. Pl. 2: 290, 1873; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 270,

1881. *L. falcata* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 1: 350, 1891; Raizada in Indian For. 92: 315, 1966.

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A NEW VARIETY OF *JATROPHA VILLOSA* FROM MADRAS STATE

***Jatropha villosa* Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.**

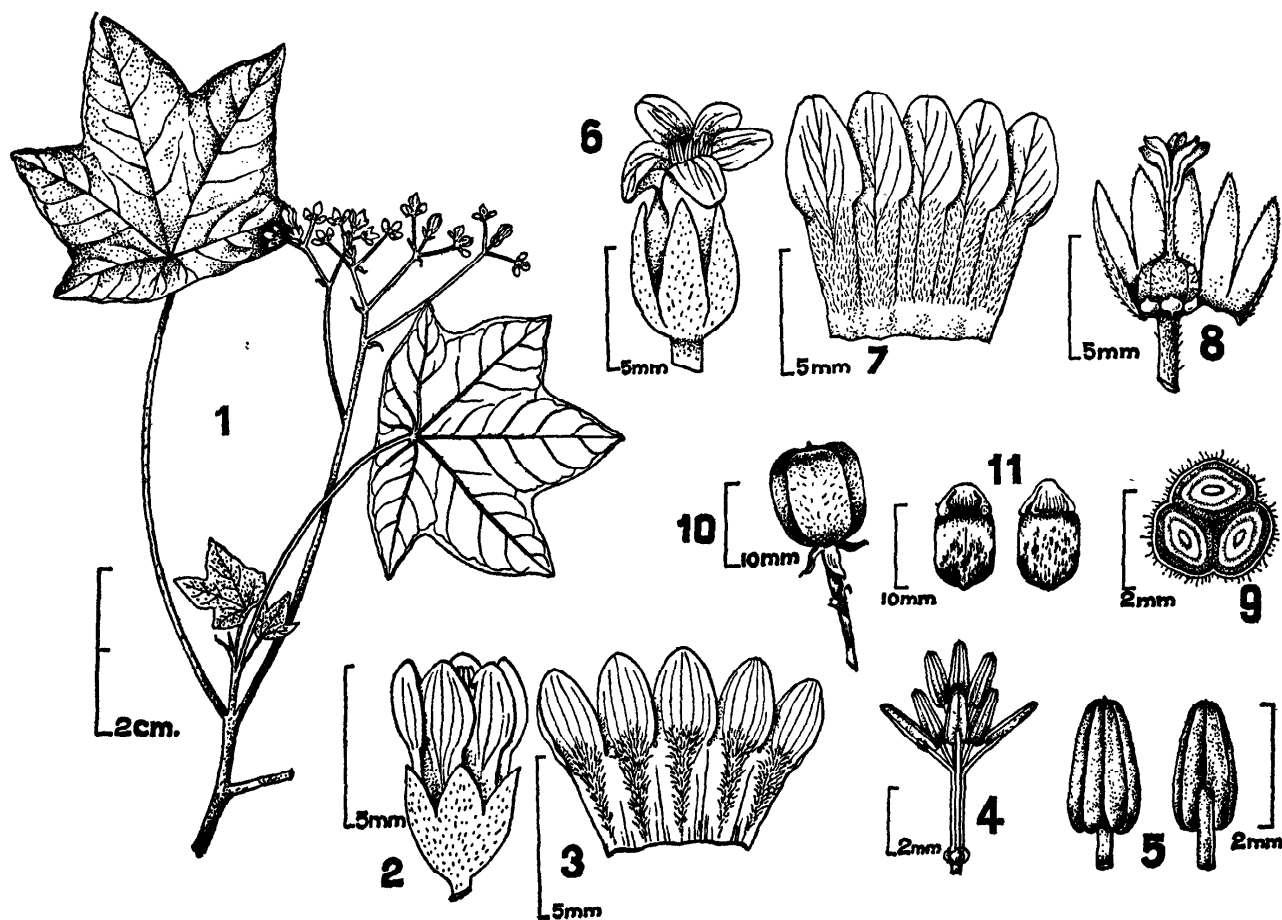
Accedit ad varietatem *villosam* sed ab ea differt ramulis et floribus plus minusve glabris, foliorum lamina palmata, 3-5 loba, lobis late ovatis acuminatis, sepalis masculinis unitis usque ad medium.

Holotypus Ramamurthy 20937 A et isotypi Ramamurthy 20937 B-E lecti 15-8-1964 in silva Melamadam, in Ramnad Dist. in ditone Madra-

sensi, paratypi Ramamurthy 25824 A-E lecti eodem loco 15-9-1965. Holotypus et paratypus Ramamurthy 25824 A positi in CAL, caeteri in MH ad Coimbatore.

***Jatropha villosa* Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.**

Allied to *J. villosa* Wight var. *villosa* but differs in having more or less glabrous branchlets and leaves; lamina palmate, 3-5 lobed; lobes broadly



Jatropha villosa Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.

Figs. 1-11: 1. Portion of a branch. 2. Male flower. 3. Corolla (Male) split open. 4. Staminal column. 5. Stamens. 6. Female flower. 7. Corolla (Female) split open. 8. Calyx split open showing gynoeceum. 9. C.S. of ovary. 10. Fruit. 11. Seeds.

ovate, acuminate; sepals of the male flower united to the middle.

The holotype of this species *Ramamurthy 20937 A* and the isotypes *Ramamurthy 20937 B-E* were collected on 15-8-1964 in Melamadam forest, Tirupathur taluk, Ramnad District, Madras State and the paratypes *Ramamurthy 25824 A-E* were collected in the same locality on 15-9-1965. The holotype and the paratype *Ramamurthy 25824 A* have been deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta (CAL); the isotypes and other paratypes have been deposited in the Regional Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH).

Shrubs erect, low branching, glabrous, ± 1.5 m high; shoots villous-pubescent. *Leaves* simple, alternate, peltate; petioles usually glabrous or puberulous, ± 22 cm long; lamina palmate, 3-5 lobed, ± 15 cm diam.; lobes broadly ovate, acuminate with entire margins; nerves 5-7 from the base, prominent, venation palmately reticulate. *Flowers* in terminal trichotomous cymes, central flowers of cymes usually female; *bracts* linear-lanceolate, puberulous without, ± 12 mm long. *Male flowers*: Calyx 5 lobed, united to the middle, ± 4 mm long; lobes broadly ovate, puberulous without; corolla 5 lobed, spatulate, contorted, cohering to the middle, yellow, glabrous without, cohering portion villous within, ± 7 mm long; disc of 5 distinct glands

around the base of the staminal column, subsessile; glands ovate, pointed at the tips; stamens 8, monadelphous, slender filaments, 5 exterior short and 3 interior long; anthers linear-oblong, dorsifixed, dehiscing longitudinally. *Female flowers*: Calyx 5 lobed, united near the base, lanceolate, puberulous without, ± 4 mm long; corolla 5 lobed, salver-shaped, contorted, cohering to the middle, glabrous without, villous within, ± 8 mm long; disc as in male flowers; ovary ellipsoidal, pubescent, 3-celled; ovules one in each cell, pendulous; styles 3, united below, puberulous, each bifurcating into two stigmata. *Capsules* oblong-globose or subglobose, brownish, puberulous, rough, ± 18 mm \times 15 mm; seeds oblong, crustulinus, shining, caruncle prominent, ± 10 mm long (Figs. 1-11).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A NOTE ON *ELATOSTEMA CUNEATUM* WT. (URTICACEAE)

During floristic studies of Tollygunge in 24 Parganas district, West Bengal, *Elatostema cuneatum* Wt. was collected. In India the species has been reported from Western Ghats, Rampa district in Eastern Ghats, Sikkim Himalayas and recently from West Bengal.

Hitherto the male flowers of *E. cuneatum* were not described; it was noticed that the male flowers are few in number compared to the female and restricted only to the topmost or the next lower receptacles. Evidently, it has escaped the attention of the earlier workers. A detailed description of the taxon is given below:

Elatostema cuneatum ("cuniata") Wt. Icon. 6: 35, t. 2091, f. 3, 1853; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 568, 1888; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 3: 134, 1958 (repr. ed.); Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 3: 963, 1957 (repr. ed.); Santapau in Rec. Bot. Surv. India

16(1): 226, 1960 (ed. 2); Chatterjee in Sci. & Cult. 26(5): 232, 1960.

Erect annual herbs, monoecious, up to 12 cm tall (20 cm as recorded in floras); stems simple, faintly angular, minutely hairy along the angles; hairs up-curved. Leaves membranous, subsessile, mostly alternate and aggregated towards the top; upper leaves up to 3.8 \times 1.8 cm, oblique, hatchet-shaped, crenate above the middle, sparsely setose and marked with numerous scattered cystoliths above, hairy on the veins below, obtuse at apex, cuneate at base; lower leaves smaller than the upper, nearly entire, with a pair of minute opposite suborbicular leaves at the lowest node; stipules minute, ovate. Flowers minute, regular, subsessile, capitate, arranged on axillary involucre receptacles; bracts of involucre variable, broadly ovate to oblanceolate, mostly cucullate and prominently keeled dorsally; outer bracts larger, confluent into a disc; bracteoles many,