

montibus Nilgaricis (2030 m) et positus in BSMH; paratypi: *Bidie* s.n. lectus in Montibus Nilagiricis anno 1873 et positus in BSMH sub numero 58871; Ramamurthi 23411 lectus ad Kodaikanal in dist. Madura et positus in BSMH.

**D. linearis** (Burm. f.) Underw. var. **sebastiana** Panigr. et Dixit var. nov.

Lateral branche system several times forked; branches at successive forks conspicuously alternately unequal; successive larger branches forming almost a straight line; ultimate branches always with accessory branches, 8-16 × 3-4 cm; costules on the ultimate branches 5-6.5 mm apart; segments of lamina tapering from base to apex; texture thin but firm, apex acute, margin slightly reflexed when dry, lower surface glabrous and slightly glaucous; veins concolourous to lamina, distinctly prominent on the upper surface and slightly so on the lower surface; accessory branches at the lower forks attached opposite to the fork. Spores could not be studied due to young sporangia seen.

This variety differs from var. *demota* Holtt. in having its accessory branches opposite the successive forks, not distinctly below the fork, as in var. *demota*.

*Holotype*: Kotagiri 2030 m, Nilgiris—*Sebastine* 981 (MH).

*Paratypes*: Nilgiri hills, 1873—*Bidie* s.n. (MH); Perumalmalai, 2000 m, Kodaikanal, Madurai—*Ramamurthy* 23411 (MH).

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#### PENTABOTHRA NANA HOOK. F.—A LITTLE KNOWN ASCLEPIADACEAE MEMBER

The monotypic genus **Pentabothra** was established by Hook. f. based upon *Cynanchum nanum* Buch.-Ham. ex Wt. which in its turn was described from a single specimen collected from northern Kamrup in Assam by Buchanann-Hamilton which is represented only at the Kew Herbarium. Since then the genus has neither been collected nor recorded from any part of the world.

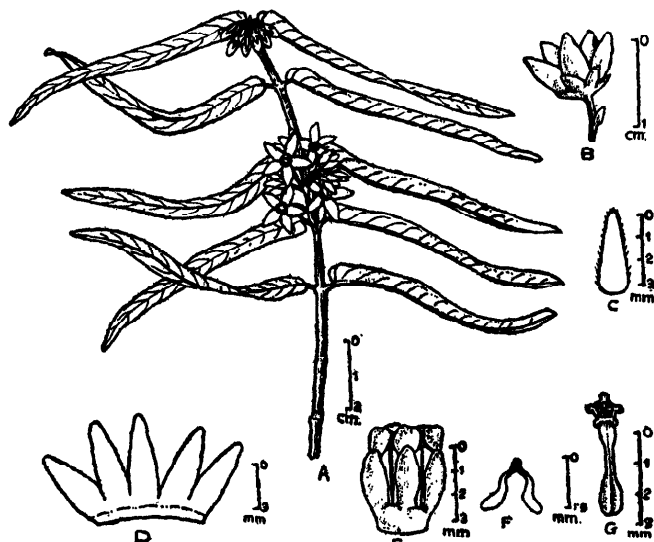
In the course of studies on the flora of Darjeeling district, the authors collected a solitary specimen of the remarkable species from Sevoke forest division, which was hitherto known only from the type locality. A detailed description together with illustration based on the present collection is provided here to enable others to collect this interesting and rare specimen from other parts of India, particularly from Eastern India.

**Pentabothra nana** (Buch.-Ham. ex Wt.) Hook. f. in Hooker's Ic. Pl. 15: 21 t. 1426. 1883 & in Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 19. 1883. *Cynanchum nanum* Buch.-Ham.

(ex Wall. Cat. No. 8230. 1847, *nom. nud.*) ex Wt. Contrib. 59. 1834. T: India, Assam, Kamrup, Sannyashikate, *Hamilton* 765 (K).

Dwarf herb, about 20 cm tall; stem simple or rarely branched at the base, striate, glabrous except for appressed hairy young tops. *Leaves* subsessile, linear, 5-8(-10) × 0.5-1 cm, connate at the base to form an interpetiolar ridge, cordate at base, sharply acute at apex, with an entire purple-tinged thickened margin, subcarnose, dark green above, pale beneath, glabrous, midrib depressed above, raised and prominent beneath, lateral nerves 15-16 pairs, faint, spreading. *Inflorescence* axillary and terminal, cymose umbels 1.5-2 cm across; peduncle stout, 2.5-5 mm long, glabrous or thinly appressed-hairy, bracts linear-subulate 1.5-2 mm long; pedicels slender, terete, 4-6 mm long, glabrous or sparingly hairy. *Calyx* 5-partite to the base, segments 4 × 1.5 mm, lanceolate-oblong, acute, broadly scarious-margined, ciliate with upcurved hairs, glabrous within,

glabrous or thinly hairy without. *Corolla* 5-partite near to the base, campanulate in outline rotate, tube



*Pentabothra nana* Hook. f.,  
A. Habit. B. Flower. C. Sepals. D. Petals. E. Corona.  
F. Pollinia. G. Carpel.

1-1.5 mm long, segments 6-7 × 3.5-4 mm, broadly oblong, obtuse-rounded, imbricate (overlapping wide

Hooker), fleshy, adnate to the corona at base. *Corona* 7-8 mm long, single, adnate to the base of corolla-tube, inserted on the staminal tube, of 5 laterally compressed, fleshy, 3 mm long scales which are adnate to the filaments, and of 5 pouch-like folds at base of the column alternating with the anthers; stamens 5, filaments connate; anthers with round incurved 1 mm long membranous appendages; translator inverted Y-shaped 1 mm long, corpusculum minute, dark-brown, retinacula minute, pollinia solitary in each cell, clavate. *Ovary* of 2 carpels, style linear, free, 2 mm long; stigma 5-gonal, 1 mm across, with a slightly raised surface; disk small. Fruits not seen.

INDIA: West Bengal, Darjeeling, Sevoke Forest, 16.5.1966. D. Das 37 (Cal.).

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#### A NOTE ON *DERRIS SCANDENS* (ROXB.) BENTH.

Pittier in his monograph (1917) on the Middle American species of *Lonchocarpus* changed the nomenclature of *Derris scandens* (Roxb.) Benth. to *D. timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier, basing on *Dalbergia timoriensis* DC. (1825). He argued that the name *Dalbergia scandens* Roxb. (1805) upon which *Derris scandens* was erected (Benth., 1860), has been antedated by the existence of an earlier name *Deguelia scandens* Aubl. (1775) for a distinct species of present day *Derris* from Guiana. According to him the Guiana plant (*Deguelia scandens*) should be rightly called *Derris scandens* (Aubl.) Pittier and the name of the Asiatic plant in question (*Derris scandens* Benth.) should be changed to *Derris timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier, basing upon the next available epithet *Dalbergia timoriensis* DC. (1825).

The author too at first concurred with Pittier's argument in recognising (Thothathri, 1972) *Derris timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier as the correct name for the Asiatic plant (*Derris scandens* Benth.) and described a new variety 'saharanpurensis' under the changed nomenclature. Later a critical analysis of Pittier's argument revealed that he was not justified in making the above name changes. Though *Deguelia*

*scandens* Aubl. was earlier to *Dalbergia scandens* Roxb., yet the specific epithet *scandens* in the genus *Derris* was occupied (1860) when Pittier (1917) proposed the name *Derris scandens* (Aubl.) for the Guiana plant which is therefore illegitimate. Consequently the new combination *Derris timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier for the Asiatic species is also not valid.

*Derris timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier var. *saharanpurensis* Thoth., a new variety, described by the author (1972) should be changed as follows:

***Derris scandens* (Roxb.) Benth. var. *saharanpurensis* (Thoth.) Thoth. comb. nov. *D. timoriensis* (DC.) Pittier var. *saharanpurensis* Thoth. in Bull. bot. Surv. India 12: 105. 1972.**

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