

TWO NEW ADDITIONS FOR INDIAN FLORA (THYMELAEACEAE)

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Critical studies of the family Thymelaeaceae materials housed at CAL herbarium resulted in finding two additional species viz., *Daphne composita* (L.f.) Gilg and *Edgeworthia longipes* Lace for India.

These are described below with illustrations.

Daphne composita (L.f.) Gilg in Engler & Prantl., Pfl. Fam. 3(6a): 238. 1894; Gamble in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 75(2): 258. 1912; Hochr. in Candollea 2: 443. 1925; Ding Hou in Fl. Malesiana 6(1): 37. 1960; Back. & Bakh. f. Fl. Java 1: 259. 1963. *Scopalia composita* L.f. Suppl. 409. 1781; Meissn. in DC. Prodr. 14: 540. 1857. *Eriosolena montana* Bl. Bijdr. 651. 1826. *E. pendula* Bl. ex Lace in Not. Syst. 3: 101. 1914. *E. composita* van Tiegr. in Ann. Sc. Nat. Bot. 7: 196. 1893. *Daphne montana* Meissn. in Bot. Ges. Regensb. 3: 284. 1814. *D. pendula* Bl. ex Lecomte, Not. Syst. 3: 101. 1914 p.p. (Fig.-1).

Shrubs or small trees upto 10 m tall. Leaves chartaceous to sub-coriaceous, usually with brown hairs above and glaucous beneath, 10-16 cm × 3-5 cm, elliptic, oblong to lanceolate, acute, acuminate, nerves 9-14 pairs, distinct or faint, base attenuate; petiole 0.3-0.5 cm long. Inflorescence axillary, solitary or 2 in one point, 10-12 flowers. Involucral bracts 2, deciduous, ovate, oblong, 1-2 cm long, pubescent. Peduncle 2.5-6.5 cm long, thin. Flowers light yellow, fragrant, brown

hairy. Perianth tube 3-6 mm long; lobes convolute, 2 longer, 2 shorter, ovate-oblong, 0.2 cm × 0.05 cm or 0.4 cm × 0.1 cm. Stamens 8, sessile or filament 1 mm; anther linear, 1-2 mm long. Ovary ellipsoid, 1-2 mm long, densely appressed hairy; style 2 mm long; stigma globose. Disk lobed. Fruits ellipsoid or ovoid, 10-15 mm × 5 mm, black or deep red.

Type: Mountains of Java, Lobb 247 (Holotype-Microfische CAL).

Fls.: Jan.-Mar.

Distrib.: BORNEO, BURMA, INDO-CHINA, W. JAVA, MALAYSIA, SUMATRA and INDIA (Arunachal Pradesh).

Ecol.: In rain forests.

Use: The leaves are used as cordage and durable hemp.

Specimens cited: Arunachal Pradesh: Egar & Serpo, 1700 m, 23.1.1912, Burkill 36218 (CAL); Rungling Camp, 1400 m, 26.1.1912, Burkill 36281 (CAL).

Edgeworthia longipes Lace in Kew Bull. 380. 1914. (Fig. 2).

Shrub or small tree ca 2-3 m high. Branches spreading, narrow, cylindric, appressed hairy when young, provided with glabrous cortex, reddish-brown. Leaves 10-20 cm × 3-5 cm, alternate, sub-opposite, oblanceolate, membranous, pale green, acute or acuminate at apex, attenuated at base, petiole short, margin frequently recurved, 10-13 lateral nerves on both sides or upper conspicuous, lower slightly raised. Inflorescence multi-flowered, densely crowded in a head, ca 4

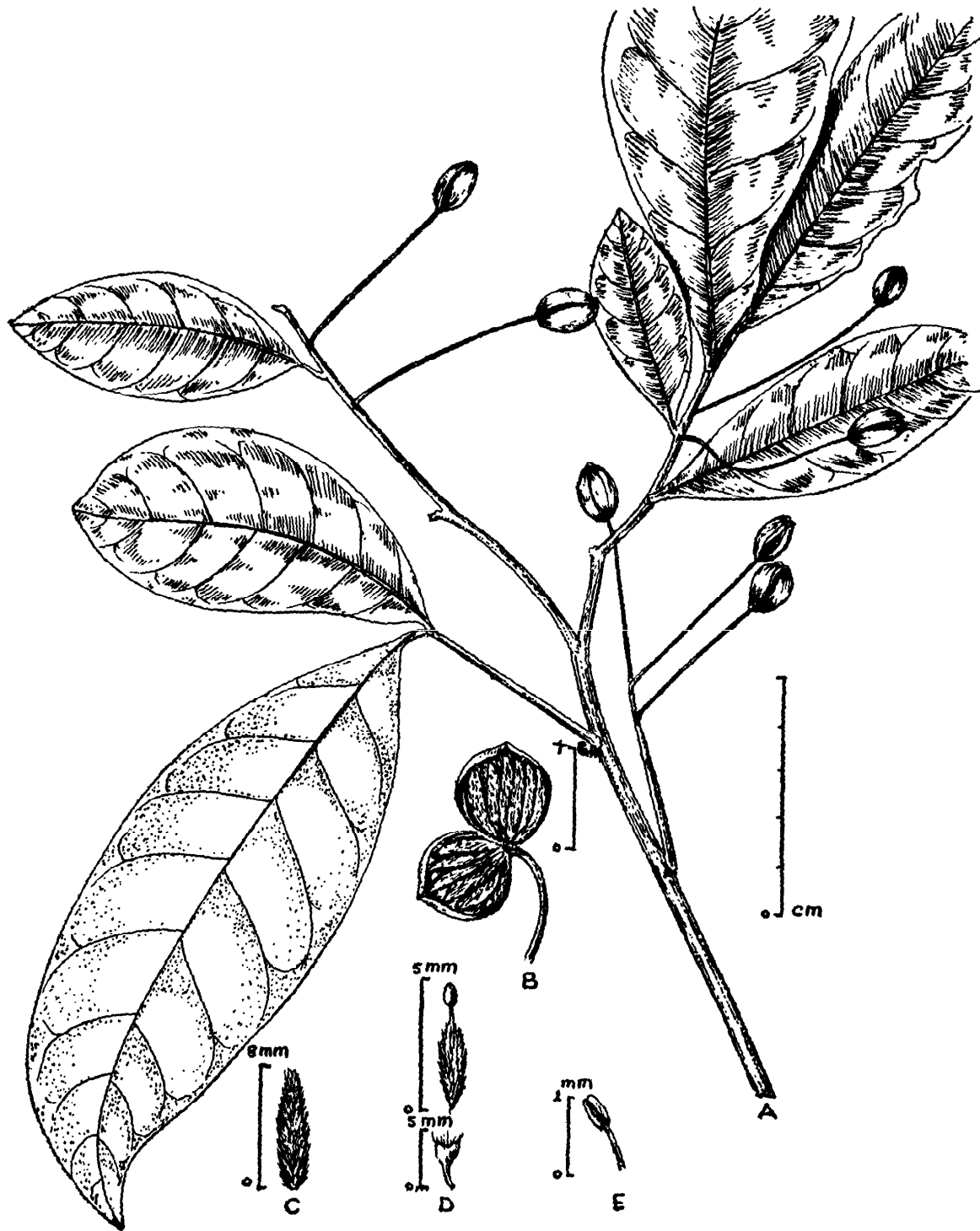


Fig. 1. A-E A. A portion of plant. B. Opened bracts with flowers. C. A complete flower. D. Carpel. E. Stamen.

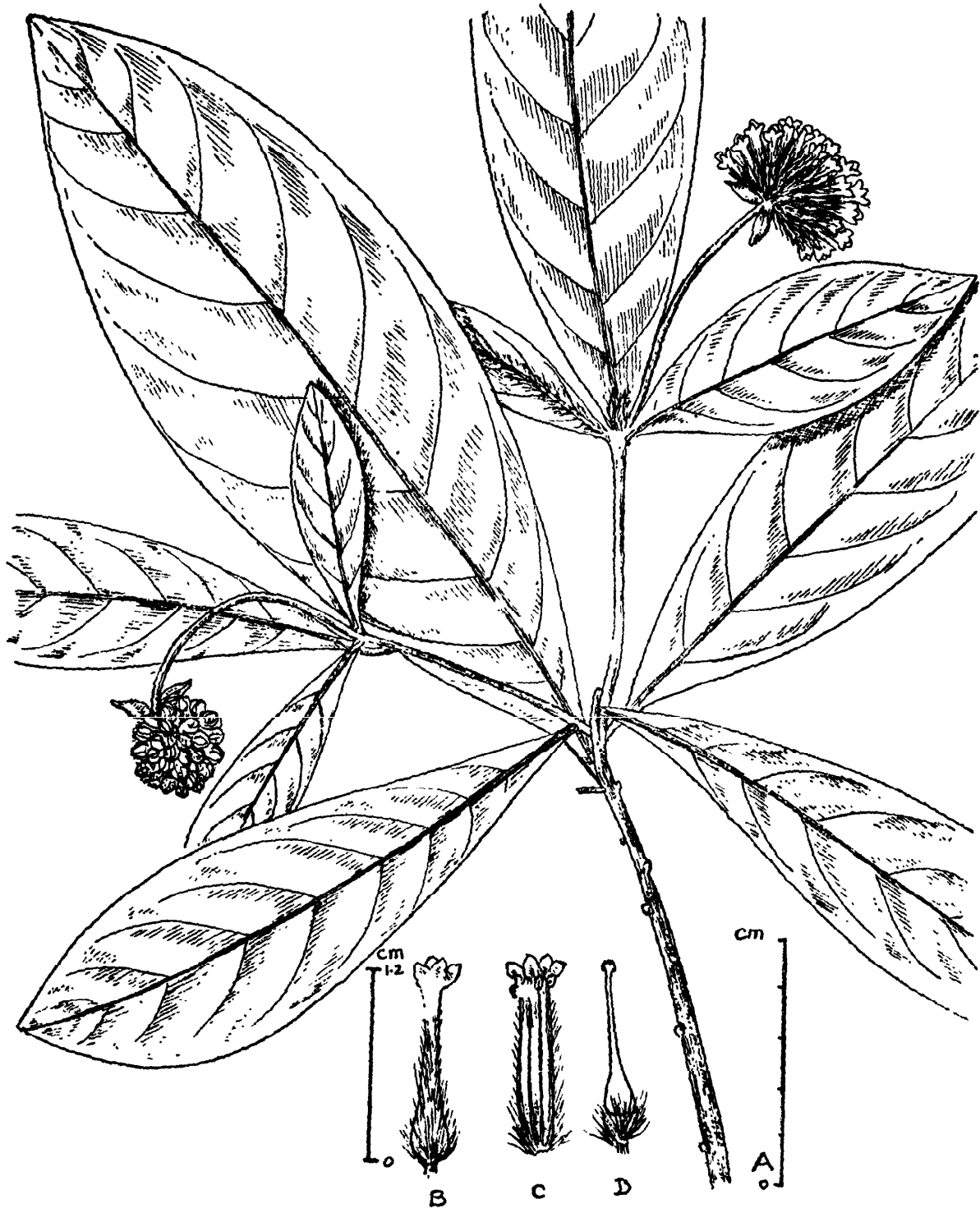


Fig. 2. A-D : A. Portion of plant. B. A complete flower. C. Flower opened. D. Carpel.

cm in diam., bracts solitary, linear or in 2 bracteoles, deciduous. Flowers white, hairy, peduncle 6-10 cm long, curved, stout. Perianth tube 1.5-2 cm long, cylindric, outer sericeous, golden yellow, linear inner glabrous; lobes 4, acute, acuminate, 5-6 mm long, stamens 8, biseriate; anthers 3-5 mm long, upper series partly exserted; ovary 1-celled, superior, sessile, apex dense hairy; style 1 mm long, glabrous; stigma linear.

Fls. : Dec.-Mar.

Type : Burma, Magok to Berrardamys 1600 m, 25.10.1912, *Lace* 6005 (Holotype-CAL).

Specimens cited : Mizoram, Mizo hills, 21.1.1963, *Deb* 31087 (CAL); Arunachal Pradesh, Lohit camp, 4.1.1970, *Krishna* 48798 (CAL).

E. longipes can be distinguished from *E. gardneri* by the following key :

Branches yellow-brown; peduncle 1.5-5 cm long, bracts many. Flowers golden-yellow, hairy outside, fragrant; perianth-tube broad, lobes spreading, ovary densely hairy throughout. Disk present	.. <i>E. gardneri</i>
Branches red; peduncle 6-10 cm long, curved, bracts solitary, deciduous. Flowers silvery-white, hairy outside, not fragrant; perianth tube linear, lobes twisted; ovary densely hairy at the apex	.. <i>E. longipes</i>

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