

# A NEW SPECIES OF *AESCHYNANTHUS* JACK. (GESNERIACEAE) FROM SOUTH ANDAMANS\*

A new species, *Aeschynanthus andamanensis* Goel, Vasudeva Rao *et* Mehrotra, has been described and illustrated from Alexandria Island in South Andamans.

During the course of botanical explorations to Alexandria Island for collection of plants for biological screening programme of the Institute, the senior author (AKG) collected a beautiful, epiphytic, succulent herb, growing in moist shady places with scarlet flowers. The specimens could not be matched with the known species of *Aeschynanthus* Jack., housed at PBL, CAL, DD, CDRI and LWG herbaria. A critical study of the specimens and scrutiny of literature revealed it to be an interesting new species which is described here.

***Aeschynanthus andamanensis*** Goel, Vasudeva Rao *et* Mehrotra, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1-7).

*A. parasitico* (Roxb.) Wall. distincta foliis latoribus, 3.5-6.0 cm, elliptico-ovatis ad late lanceolatis, subrotundatis vel obliquis ad basin; lobis calycis triangulari-ovatis, obtusis; corolla 30.0-40.0 mm longa, scarlatina, sine maculis ad orem vel in lobis, tubo intus ad basin pilis crassis glandularibus; capsula longiore, 25.0-30.0 cm.

*Type*: SOUTH ANDAMANS: Alexandria Island, October 26, 1986; A. K. Goel 16636 A (HOLOTYPE: CDRI); A. K. Goel 16636 B,C,D (ISOTYPES: CDRI, CAL). NORTH ANDAMANS: Saddle Peak Range, Lamia Bay slope,  $\pm$  200 m, March 28, 1977; N. P. Balakrishnan 5417 A,B (PARATYPES: PBL).

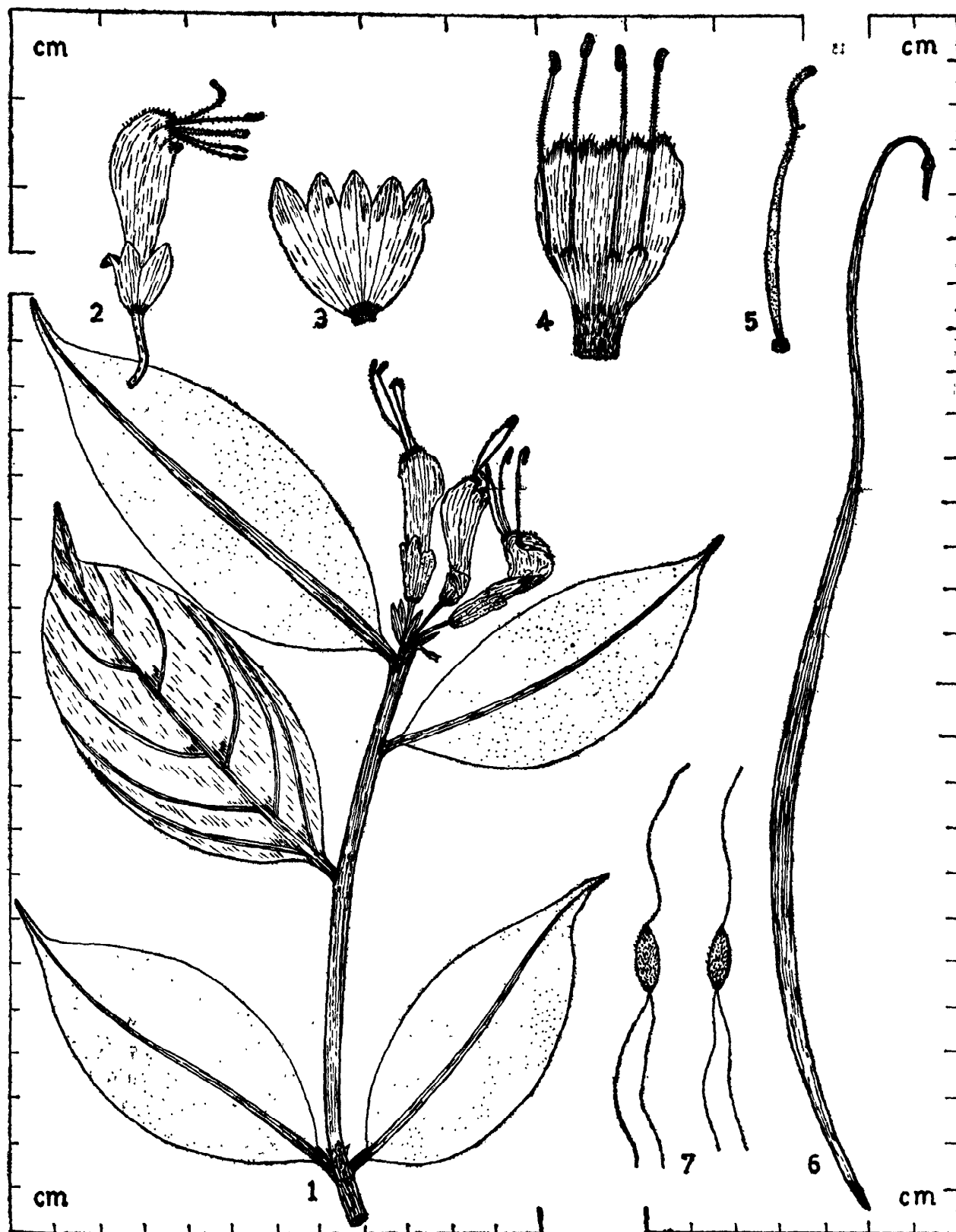
A species, distinct from *Aeschynanthus parasiticus* (Roxb.) Wall. in having leaves broader (3.5-6.0 cm), elliptic-ovate to broadly

lanceolate, base somewhat rounded or oblique; calyx lobes triangular ovate, obtuse; corolla 30.0-40.0 mm long, scarlet throughout, without any marks and stripes at mouth and lobes, corolla tube with stout glandular hairs at base inside; longer capsules, 25.0-30.0 cm.

***Aeschynanthus andamanensis*** Goel, Vasudeva Rao *et* Mehrotra, *sp. nov.* (Sect. *Diplotrichum* Benth.) (Figs. 1-7).

Epiphytic, succulent herbs. Stems drooping, terete, green with swollen nodes, occasionally rooting at nodes. Leaves opposite, rarely alternate, fleshy, dark green above, light green below, penninerved elliptic-ovate to broadly lanceolate with entire margins, 8.0-14.0  $\times$  3.5-6.0 cm; midrib thick, sunken on upper surface, flat on lower surface or slightly raised, broadening towards base below, lateral nerves obscure; apex acute; base ovate-rounded, sometimes oblique; petioles thick, terete, green, 0.8-1.0 cm long. Flowers 2-4, in terminal cymes, zygomorphic. Bracts yellowish-green, 13.0-16.0  $\times$  3.0-6.0 mm, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, acuminate. Pedicels 10.0-15.0  $\times$  1.0 mm, elongated in fruits, prominently ribbed. Calyx lobes 5, divided to less than half way down, 6.0-15.0  $\times$  3.0-8.0 mm, glabrous, light green; lobes triangular-ovate, subsimilar, obtuse, truncate at base. Corolla scarlet throughout, curved, tubular, bilabiate, 30-40 mm long; lobes ovate, obtuse, 4.0-5.0  $\times$  5.0-6.0 mm, glabrous outside, except for sparsely glandular hairy on the lobes; tube fleshy, glandular hairy on the inner side at base, sparsely thin hairy above. Stamens 4, didynamous, epipetalous; filaments stout, sparsely gland-tipped hairy, 30.0-35.0 mm long; anthers adhering in pairs, brown coloured, 2.5-3.5 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent. Gynoecium 40.0-50.0

\*CDRI Communication No. 4090.



*Aeschynanthus andamanensis* Goel, Vasudeva Rao et Mehrotra

Figs. 1-7 : 1. Flowering twig  $\times 1$ . 2. Flower  $\times 2$ . 3. Calyx  $\times 2$ . 4. Corolla open with stamens  $\times 2$ . 5. Pistil  $\times 2$ . 6. Capsule  $\times 1$ . 7. Seeds (enlarged).

mm long, excluded (included in corolla tube in protandrous flowers); style simple, 14.0-16.0 mm long, glandular hairy; stigma capitate; ovary 25.0-32.0 mm long; disc 1.0-1.5 × 1.5-2.5 mm; glabrous, annular. Capsules 25.0-30.0 × 0.25-0.35 cm, linear, tapering at both the ends. Seeds numerous, small, ca 0.75 mm long with 2 long white hairs near the hilum and one at the apex.

*Fls. & Fruits* : September-November.

*Ecology* Occasional epiphytic on *Ficus* tree trunk in shady moist, damp places along sea shore.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to the Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, for the facilities of work; to Dr. B. L. Burtt, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh for suggestions. Thanks are also due to Dr. N. C. Majumdar, Retired Scientist-C, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for help in Latin diagnosis.

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### TRIGONELLA UPENDRAE H. CHOWDHERY ET R. R. RAO, SP. NOV. (FABACEAE) —A NEW SPECIES OF TRIGONELLA FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

During a routine scrutiny of the herbarium specimens housed at BSD, Dehra Dun, the authors came across an interesting specimen of *Trigonella* wrongly identified as *T. foenum-graceum* L. A critical study of the specimen revealed it to be a new species, closely allied to *T. corniculata* L. and is described here.

***Trigonella upendrae*** Chowdhery et R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.* (Figs. A-G).

*T. corniculata* proxime affinis, sed facile distinguenda habitu erectis, parce ramosis, petiolis foliolis brevioribus, dentibus calycis tubis longioribus, alis carinam aequantibus.

Herbae erectae, parce ramosae, caulis glaber. Foliola minute dentata, obovato-cuneata, ~~glabra~~. Petioli foliolis breviores. Stipulae lanceolatae, basi auriculatae, profunde dentatae, incisae, caulem cingentes. Flores flayi, 12 vel plures in racemo condense, pedunculi apice aristati. Corolla calyce duplo longior.

*Holotypus lectus*—K. P. Janardhanan Subnumero 47716 A ad locum Pangi Village,

Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh, India et positus in CAL. *Isotypus* 47716 B et C positus in BSD.

***Trigonella upendrae*** Chowdhery et R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.* (Figs. A-G).

Erect, sparingly branched, glabrous herbs, 40-60 cm tall. Stem 2-3 mm thick, smooth. Leaves stipulate, pinnately trifoliate, petiole shorter than the leaflets. Leaflets 2-2.5 × 5-11 mm, minutely dentate in the upper portion of the leaflet, obovate-cuneate, glabrous. Stipules lanceolate, deeply toothed, incised, points setaceous, 8-11 mm long, auricled at the base, encircling the stem. Flowers 12 (15-30) in condensed racemes, yellow. Peduncles far exceeding the leaves, 2.5-3.5 cm long, awned at the tip. Calyx 5-7 mm long, teeth longer than the tube. Corolla twice as long as the calyx, wings equal to the keel. Stamens diadelphous. Ovary sessile, many-ovuled. Fruits not seen.

*Flowers* : June.

*Ecology* : Herbs, growing in moist places along the banks & streams.