

**MAESA NAYARII — A NEW SPECIES OF MYRSINACEAE FROM
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

An interesting species of the genus *Maesa* Forsk. was collected during recent exploration (1988) in the district of Upper Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh. Critical study reveals that it is closely allied to *Maesa truncata* A. R. K. Sastry, but can be easily distinguished taxonomically by several characters. The species is described below with illustrations.

Maesa nayarii Giri et Das, *sp. nov.*

Affinis *M. truncatae*, sed foliis majoribus, ferrugineopilosis, marginibus late denticulatis, lobi corolla ovate-rotundati tubo longiore, antherae reniformis ad basin incurvatae differt.

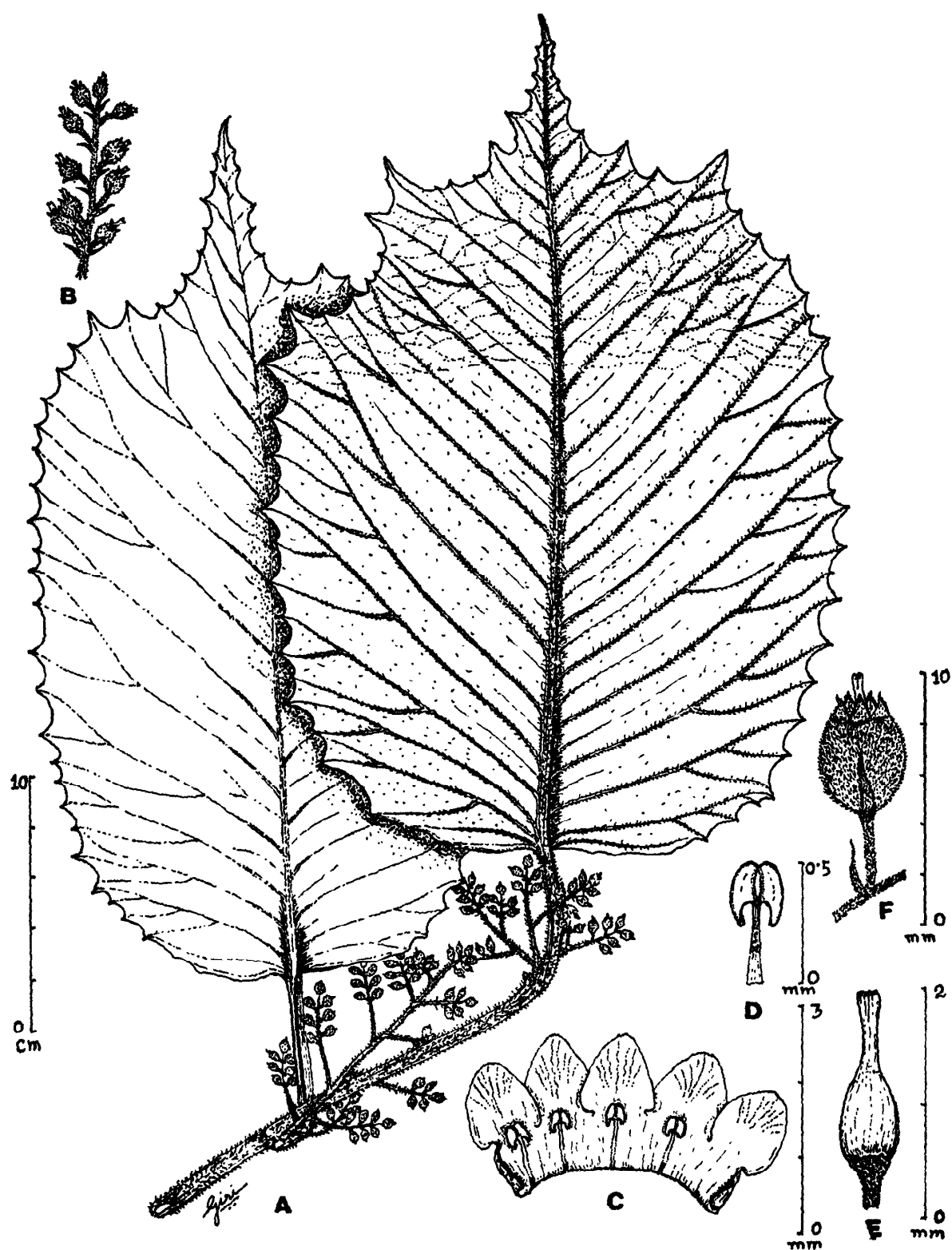
Subscandent trees or shrubs, 5-7 m tall. Branches slender, weak, terete, hollow, longitudinally furrowed, densely ferruginous pilose particularly the younger parts, older parts often become glabrate. Leaves alternate, petiolate; petioles robust, channelled, 4-6 cm long, densely ferruginous pilose; lamina broadly oblong-rectangular, 25-32 × 18-22 cm; base truncate, slightly unequal sided; apex truncate-acuminate; margin sharply dentate, denticles ending in glands; midrib and lateral nerves prominent, raised beneath, lateral nerves 15-20 on each side of midrib, slightly winged or scarious beneath, usually forked towards the margin above the middle, each forking ending in marginal denticle; ultimate reticulations obscure; lamina chartaceous; upper surfaces remain green or turn dull green on drying, glabrous throughout or sparsely ferruginous pilose at the base and near the juncture of petiole with lamina; lower surfaces dull green to pale on drying, ferruginous pilose throughout, hairs long and dense along midrib and lateral nerves. Inflorescence axillary much branched panicle, 3-6 cm long, \pm length of subtending petioles, densely ferruginous pilose throughout. Flo-

wers pedicellate, bracteate bracteolate; pedicels 1.5-2.5 mm long, fruiting pedicels often become as long as 7 mm, densely ferruginous pilose; bracts linear or narrowly triangular, 1.25-1.5 mm long, dorsal side densely ferruginous pilose, ventrally glabrous; bracteoles 2, remain closely pressed at the base of flowers, linear, 1.0-1.5 mm long, ferruginous pilose as those of bracts. Calyx cupular, 2.0-2.5 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm across, densely ferruginous pilose, elineolate; lobes 5, ovate, acute, 1.0-0.5 mm, dorsally dense ferruginous pilose, ventrally glabrous, margin entire, ciliate, fine glandular lined. Corolla glabrous, tube 0.5-0.75 mm long; lobes 5, slightly longer than the tube, lobes ovate-rounded, imbricate, 0.75-1.0 mm long, 0.75 mm broad, margin entire or slightly undulate, black glandular lined at the apices. Stamens 5, free, opposite to corolla lobes, included, attached near the middle of corolla tube; filaments 0.5 mm long, glabrous; anthers remain at the throat of corolla tube, reniform, distinctly bilobed, emarginate at apex, pointed and curved at base, basifixed, 0.25 mm long. Ovary semi-inferior, conical, ca 1 mm long, glabrous. Style short, \pm 0.5 mm long, glabrous; stigma subequally 3-lobed. Fruit fully adnate to calyx-tube and remain enclose, crowned with persistent calyx lobes and persistent style.

Fls. & Frts. : April.

Type : Upper Subansiri Dist., Arunachal Pradesh, 26.4.1988, S. K. Das 4038A (Holotype CAL); *Isotypes* : S. K. Das 4038B (CAL); S. K. Das 4038C (AFS).

The new species is allied to *M. truncata* A. R. K. Sastry, but can be easily distinguished by larger ferruginous pilose leaves with widely dentate margin; corolla lobes ovate rounded, longer than tube; anther reniform with pointed incurved base. Whereas in *M. truncata*, leaves are smaller brownish pilose with subentire or minute callose



Maesa nayarii Giri et Das

Figs. A-F. A. Habit. B. Part of inflorescence. C. Corolla. D. Stamen. E. Gynoecium. F. Young fruit.

denticulate margin ; corolla lobes are ovate-acute, shorter than tube ; anthers are broadly triangular, lobes divergent at base.

The species is named in honour of Dr. M. P. Nayar, former Director, Botanical Survey of India for the contribution he has made in the field of taxonomic studies of Indian plants.

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ON THE IDENTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF *OLEANDRA PISTILLARIS* (SW.) C. CHR. IN INDIA

A genus of about 40 species, *Oleandra* Cav. is fairly common in America, Africa and Asia to Polynesia (Copeland, 1947). In India it is known to be represented by four species which are mainly confined to the Eastern Himalayas and South India (Clarke, 1880 ; Beddome, 1892). The species grow either as epiphytes or lithophytes and are characterised by the presence of long-wiry roots on the rhizome, simple lamina, sori in one row on either side of the mid-rib. During the course of the study of the pteridophytic flora of the Pithoragarh district of Kumaon, the authors collected *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr. from near Namik (2400 m).

Although this region is accepted as a part of the Western Himalayas, it is also often termed as Kumaon Himalayas (Wadia, 1975) or Kumaon section under Lower Himalayas (Meddicott, 1882). But the climate is undoubtedly western Himalayan and apparently the vegetation. However, some elements which are common in the Eastern Himalayas are also found in this region but they do not extend further west in the Western Himalayas. It seems to be true for *O. pistillaris* (Sw.) C. Chr. also, which is known to be common in many parts of the Eastern Himalayas (Clarke, 1880 ; Beddome, 1892 ; Panigrahi, 1960 ; Kachroo, 1975) but so far not recorded from Western Himalayas. Earlier

reports (Clarke, 1880 ; Beddome, 1892 ; Hope, 1903, Duthie, 1906, Dhir, 1970 ; Bir, 1983 ; Punetha and Kaur, 1987) from various parts reveal that this genus is represented by only one species, *O. wallichii* (Hook.) Presl in the Western Himalayas.

The two species can be differentiated with the help of the following key :

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| 1a. Rhizome ascending ; fronds in tufts ; lamina small ; rhizome scales entire ... | <i>O. pistillaris</i> |
| 1b. Rhizome creeping ; fronds solitary ; lamina large ; rhizome scales fibrillose .. | <i>O. wallichii</i> |

O. pistillaris (Sw.) C. Chr., Index Fil. Suppl. 3 : 132. 1934 ; Holtt., Fl. Malaya 2 : 386. 1954. Basyn. *Aspidium pistillare* Sw., Schard Journ. 1800/2 : 30. 1801.

Rhizome ascending, stout, 4 mm thick, scaly ; roots in clusters, wiry, to 12 cm long ; stipe scaly ; fronds tufted, 2-4 in one whorl, lamina simple, oblong 15-30 × 2-3.5 cm, narrowed towards base, apex acuminate, mid-rib scaly ; veins once or twice forked, parallel ; sori apart from mid-rib, on upper veinlets, dark brown, globose, indusiate ; indusium reniform, orbicular ; spores bilateral, brown, perisporiate, perispore spinulose, 65 × 50 μ, (Figs. 1-6).

This fern has been described under the name *O. neriiiformis* Cav. by authors dealing