

A NEW SPECIES OF *HERITIERA* DRYAND. (STERCULIACEAE) FROM ORISSA

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Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

Heritiera kanikensis Majumdar et Banerjee sp. nov. a *Heritiera fomes* Buch.-Ham. differt fructis sine crista transversali circulari ; a *H. littoralis* Dryand. differt fructis subglobosis lepidotis, cum crista dorsiventrali usque ad 4 mm prope apicem attingenti.

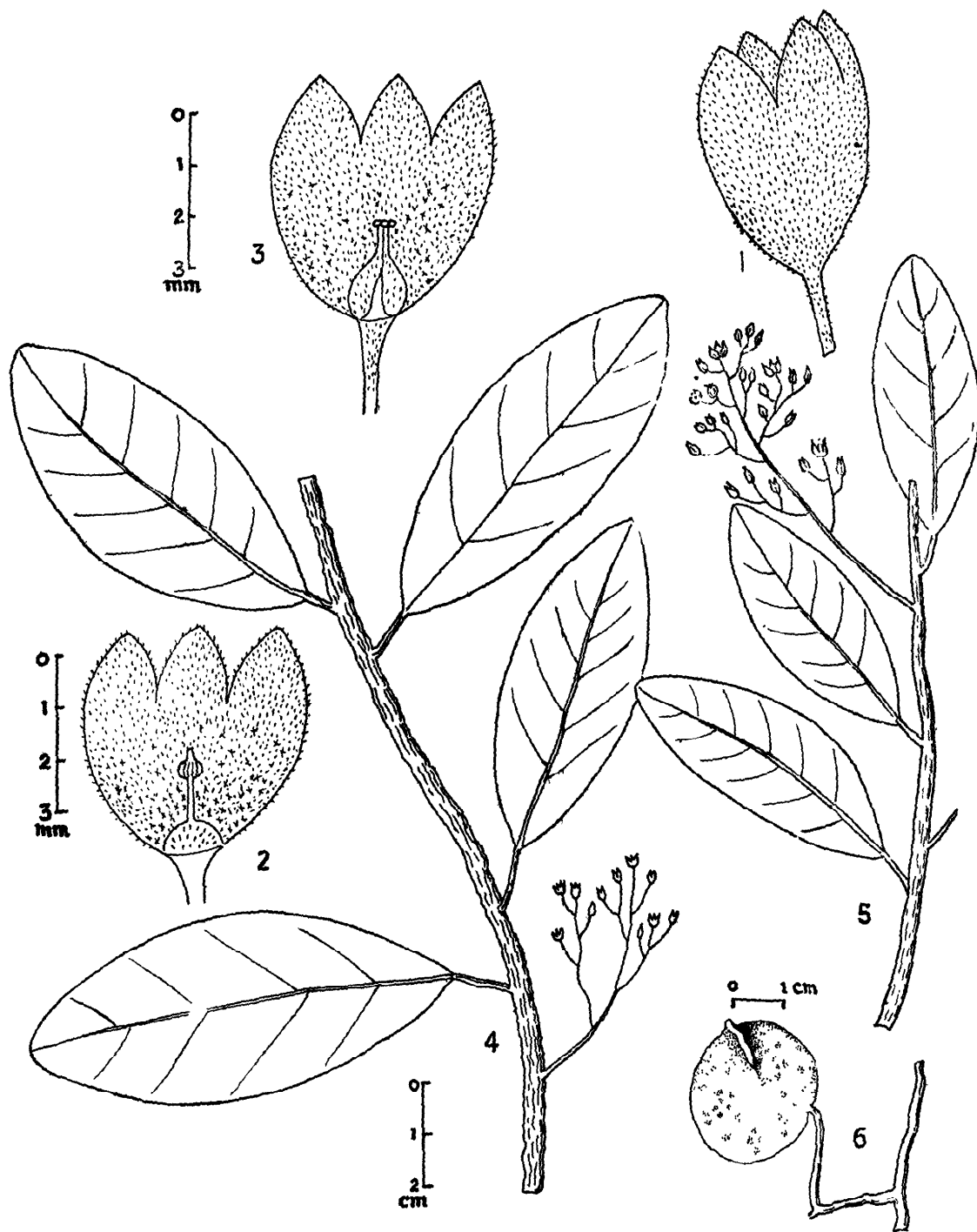
Tree 5-7 m tall, branches rough, pale brown, young branches lepidote. Leaves alternate, elliptic-lanceolate, 4-10 × 2-5 cm, acute or rarely obtuse at apex, acute to subacute at base, entire, coriaceous, upper surface scaly when young, becoming glabrous at maturity, lower surface hairy with adpressed scales, midrib depressed above, prominent below, lateral nerves slender, in 9-12 pairs ; petiole 8-11 mm long, the younger small scaly, the older ones glabrous. Inflorescence axillary, laxly paniculate, 2-8 cm long, peduncle stellate-pubescent, brown, pedicels slender, 5-10 mm long, densely stellate-pubescent. Calyx campanulate, 4-5

mm long, tube ca 3 mm long, lobes 4, erect, triangular, ca 1.5 mm long, both surfaces pubescent with stellate hairs, more in the inside of tube towards base. Petals absent. Male flower with a convex torus at base covered with brownish white granular cells. Androgynophore 1 mm long, glabrous ; thecae 8 in a tube like ring crowned by sterile ovaries at the apex. Female flowers with young ovaries, ellipsoid, ca 0.8 mm long, black, glandular when young, glabrous at maturity ; style very short, ca 0.5 mm, glabrous, stigma minute, globose. Pedicels swollen at maturity. Fruit globose, rough, brown, 1.8 cm diam., with a dorsiventral ridge, developing upto a height of 4 mm towards apex, without a transverse circular ridge.

Bhitarkanika, Orissa, 7.8.73. L. K. Banerjee 10295 A. (Holotype, CAL ; Isotypes, CAL) 10295 B-C.

Distribution : Rare in the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa, India.

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Figs. 1-6: 1. Flower. 2. Male flower split open. 3. Female flower split open. 4 & 5. Branches with inflorescences. 6. Fruit.