

IMPATIENS AGANANTHA HOOK. F. (BALSAMINACEAE) —
A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

J. D. Hooker (1874) recorded 96 species of the genus *Impatiens* L. (Balsaminaceae) from the Indian region in his Flora of British India. He treated many new Eastern Himalayan species in a short descriptive key in his epitome (1905) of the British Indian species of *Impatiens* L. One of them is *I. aganantha* Hook. f. based on a collection from Tibet, Chumbi valley at Lingmoo tong by King's Collector in 1884. Subsequently, another collection of W. W. Smith from Gnatong, Sikkim deposited in CAL was also identified to be the same species showing its extension of distribution to India. As Hooker treated the plant only in a brief key, a detailed description with an illustration is provided here.

Impatiens aganantha Hook. f. in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. 5 : 16, 21. 1905.

Erect herbs ; branches slender, glabrous. Leaves $2-3.5 \times 0.8-1$ cm, ovate, cuneate, acuminate, margin crenate with bristles in the notch, glabrous on both surfaces, pale beneath, exstipulate, veins 4-5 pairs ; petiole 1-2 mm long, slender. Inflorescence a raceme, 5 cm long, very slender, usually terminal, glabrous ; pedicels 8 mm long, filiform, glabrous. Flowers 6-8 mm long, bracteate. Bracts 1 or 2, each 2×1 mm, lanceolate, glabrous. Sepals 3, lateral sepals

2, 2×1 mm, oblong, aristate ; lower sepal obliquely navicular, 3-4 mm long, 3-4 mm deep, constricted into a narrow curved spur 3-4 mm long. Petals 5, reddish-white, dorsal petal 3×2.5 mm, obovate ; lateral united petals 6-7 mm long with a short narrow appendage. Stamens 5, filaments 2 mm long, petaloid, glabrous. Carpel 2 mm long ; ovary glabrous. Fruit a capsule, 8-10 mm long, clavate, glabrous, seeds many (Figs. 1-9).

Flowering & Fruiting : July-August.

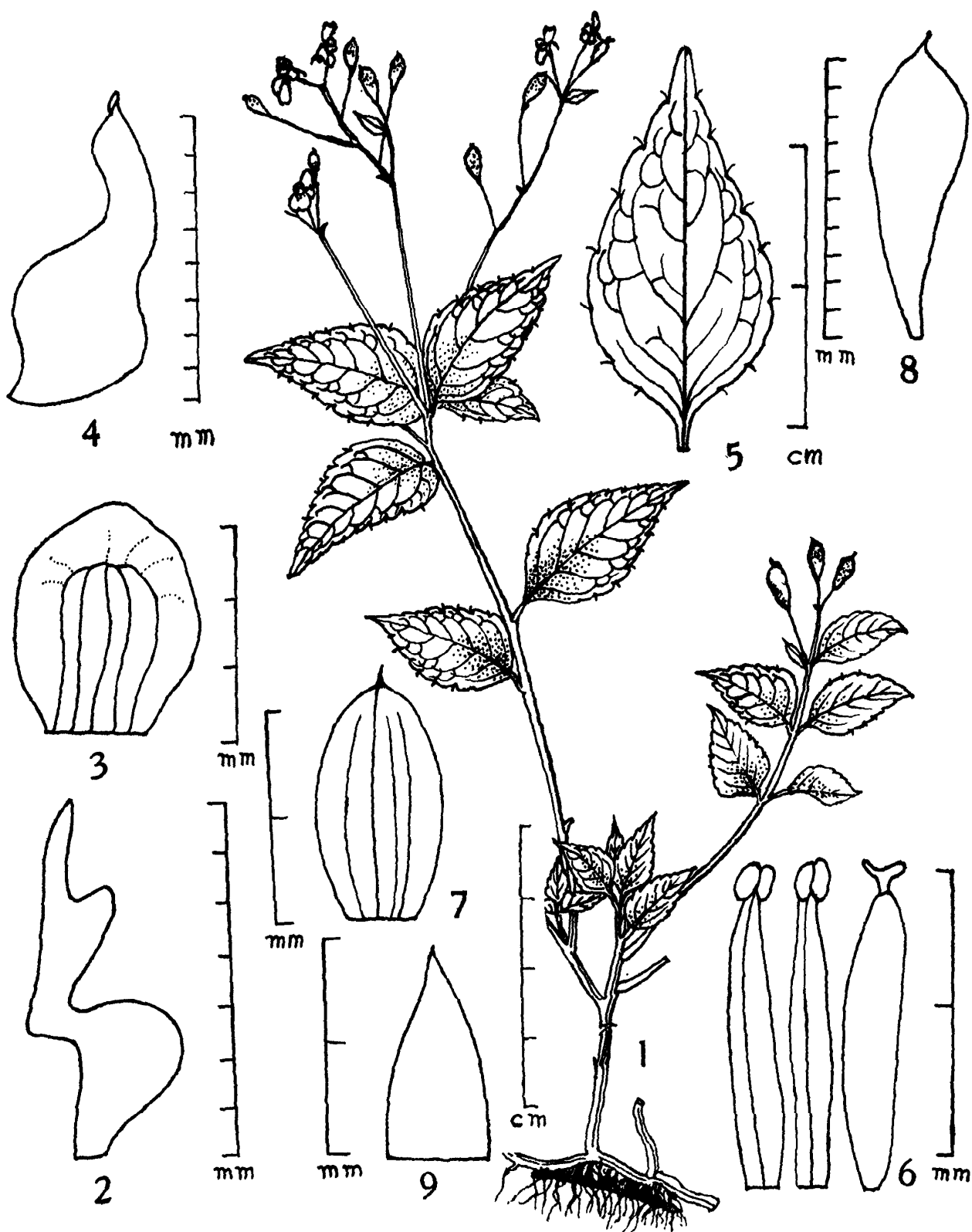
Distribution : Tibet (Chumbi) ; India (Sikkim).

Specimens examined : TIBET : Chumbi, Lingmoo tong, 31 July, 1884, Dr. King's Collector 145 (Cal acc. no. 72162, Photo CAL !). INDIA : Sikkim, Gnatong, 3648-3952 m, 16 Aug. 1910, W. W. Smith 4320 (CAL) ; Yeumthang, 6 Sept. 1911, Ribu & Rhomoo 5423 (K ; in the Kew neg. Card no. 1159-CAL.)

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L. K. GHARA AND CHHABI GHARA
Botanical Survey of India, Howrah



Impatiens aganantha Hook. F.

Figs. 1-9 : 1. Habit of the plant. 2. Lateral united petal. 3. Dorsal petal. 4. Lower sepal. 5. A leaf showing crenations with bristles. 6. Stamens & Carpel. 7. Sepal. 8. Fruit. 9. Bract.