

CLERODENDRUM ANDAMANENSE (MOLD.) RAJENDRAN & DANIEL
STAT. & COMB. NOV. (VERBENACEAE) - A RARE SPECIES
FROM THE ANDAMANS

Moldenke (1975) described a new variety, *Clerodendrum lankawiense* King & Gamble var. *andamanense* Mold. based on material collected by Kurz in South Andaman. Based on the shape and size of the leaf Moldenke (1975, 1987) concluded that var. *andamanense* is allied to *C. lankawiense* King & Gamble. The type material and relevant literature were re-examined for a revision of the Indian Verbenaceae. It was found that in the nature of the inflorescence, shape of the calyx and corolla lobes this taxon is allied to *C. infortunatum* and distinct from the other 22 species that occur in India so much so it deserves the status of a species. Hence, it is elevated to the status of a species, *C. andamanense*. As Moldenke (1975) provided only a 2-line diagnosis a detailed description is presented along with an illustration. Notes on earlier typification and the rarity of the species are also added.

***Clerodendrum andamanense* (Mold.) Rajendran & Daniel, stat. & comb. nov.** *Type* : South Andaman, North Corbyn's Cove, without date, S. Kurz s.n. (M, No. 3808, holotype!; MH, photo!). South Andaman, without precise locality & date, S. Kurz s.n. (M, No. 1149, paratype!; MH, photo!).

Clerodendrum lankawiense King & Gamble var. *andamanense* Mold. in *Phytologia* 32 : 46. 1975; in *Phytologia Mem.* 2 : 539. 1980 & in *Phytologia* 61 : 465, 1987; Balakr. & M.K.V. Rao in Jain & R.R. Rao, *Assessm. Threat. Pl. India* 193. 1983; M.K.V. Rao in *Journ. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 5 : 139. 1986; H. Naithani, *Fl. Pl. India* 336. 1991. *Type* : South Andaman, North Corbyn's Cove, Kurz s.n. (Mu..1149..isotype; Mu.3808..holotype).

Shrubs. Leaves elliptic, acute at both ends, or slightly subacuminate and very minutely apiculate at apex, slightly undulate along margins, 6 25 × 2 10 cm; lateral nerves 4 8 pairs; petioles up to

10 cm long, sparsely pubescent, stramineous. Inflorescences terminal corymbose panicles, up to 12.5 × 7.5 cm. Calyx campanulate, ca 9 × 7 mm, conspicuously marked with crateriform glands outside during anthesis, glabrous inside, 5-lobed; lobes cleft to about 2/3 the length, lanceolate, acuminate, ca 5×1.5 mm with a prominent midnerve. Corolla hypocrateriform, 5-lobed; lobes oblanceolate, obtuse, ca 1.5 × 0.5 cm; tube narrow, sparsely pubescent outside. Stamens 4, didynamous, attached below mouth of corolla tube; filaments slender, 3 3.5 cm long, glabrous, much exerted; anthers oblong, 2-loculed, basifixed. Ovary subglobose, glabrous; style slender, glabrous, ca 3 cm long, shorter than filaments; stigma 2-fid; lobes linear, unequal. Fruit not seen (Fig. 1 A C).

Distrib. : India. So far known only from South Andaman.

Notes : Moldenke (1975) designated specimen No. 3808 as holotype and No. 1149 as isotype of *C. lankawiense* var. *andamanense*. The presence of a precise locality (N. Corbyn's Cove) and a much faded label in pencil in the former and the absence of such a precise locality, and presence of an unfaded label in ink, and larger subacuminate leaves of the specimen in the latter may indicate that they do not belong to the same gathering. Hence, specimen No. 1149 is designated here as a paratype of *C. andamanense*. Incidentally, Moldenke (1987) inadvertently gave the herbarium acronym of Muenchen (M) as Mu (Oxford, Ohio, U.S.A.).

Clerodendrum andamanense appears to be an extremely rare species. Kurz visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands systematically between 1866 and 1876 and collected extensively in South Andaman (Thothathri, 1979). As a result, the two specimens by which this species is known must have been collected before 1876. It has never been re-collected. Moldenke (1987 : 466) also mentioned

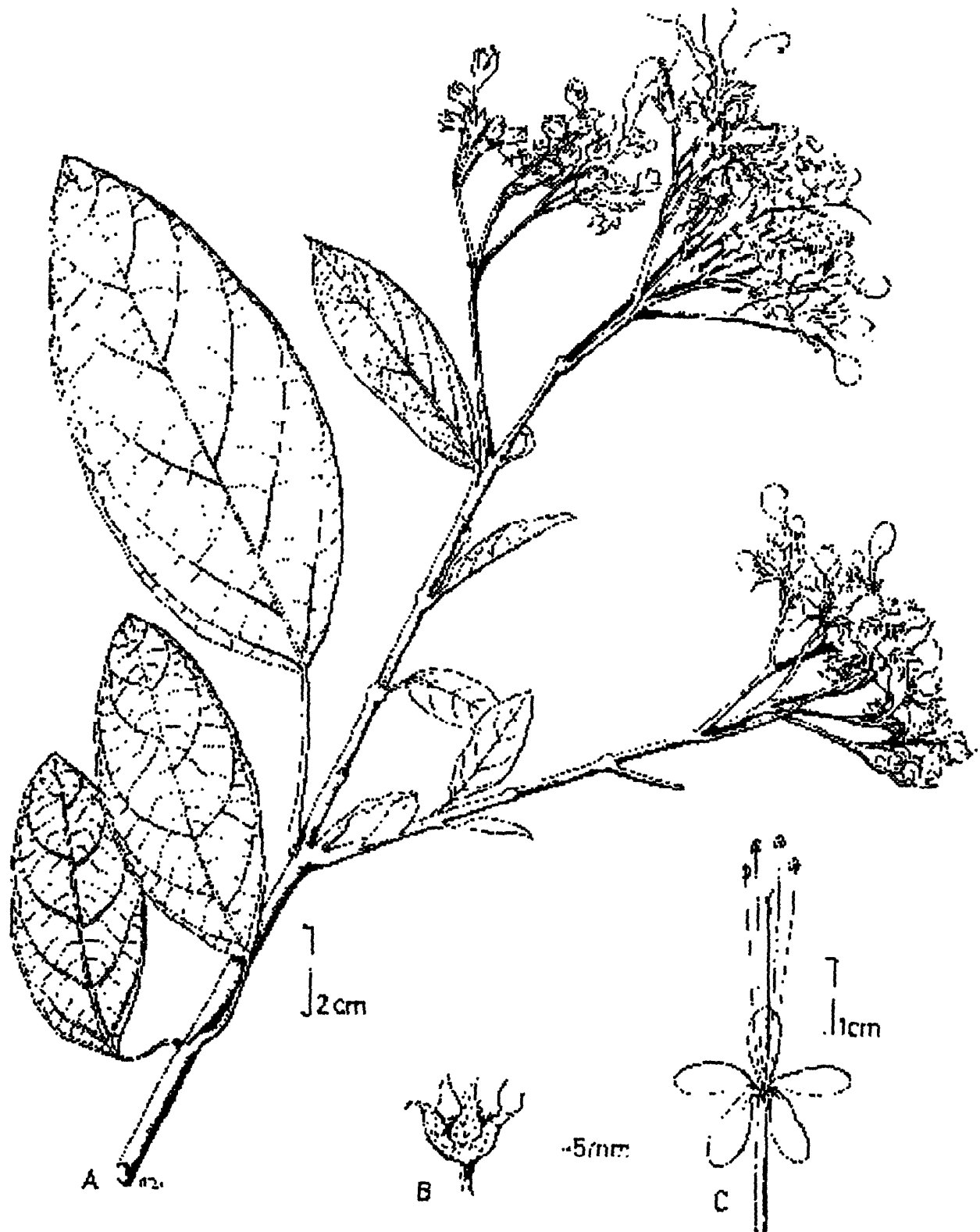


Fig. 1 (A-C) : *Clerodendrum andamanense* (Mold.) Rajendran & Daniel,
A. A twig, B. Calyx, C. Corolla, Stamens and Style.

that there is another specimen of this taxon, *Helper* 6046/1, at L. But no such specimen exists there (Brinkman, in litt.). The tropical evergreen lowland forests in South Andaman remain much disturbed (N.P. Balakrishnan, personal communication). Nothing much is known about this species including the habit and specific habitat. However, as Kurz mentioned a specific locality, North Corbyn's Cove, we suggest that intensive searches be made in this area to rediscover this plant. Because only a rediscovery can prove the present existence of this species.

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CHOEROSPONDIAS AURICULATA DALI CHANDRA IS *AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA*

(MILL.) SWINGLE (SIMAROUACEAE)

P.W. Mackinnon in 1899 collected a few specimens (CAL, Acc. No. 98623, 98625 & 98626) of a tree having pinnate leaves and male flowers in terminal panicles from the Missouri hills in Uttar Pradesh and identified them in *schedule* as *Pistacia integerrima* Stewart (Anacardiaceae). Dali Chandra (1978) while revising the genus for a Flora of India account of the family Anacardiaceae found that the above noted specimens so identified by Mackinnon do not belong to the genus *Pistacia*. She however, mistook them as some undescribed species of *Choerospondias* and described the same as *C. auriculata*.

Burtt and Hill (1937) established *Choerospondias* as distinct from *Spondias* L. on the basis of seed morphology to accommodate the lone species *Spondias axillaris* Roxb. One of us (RLM) while scrutinising the manuscript of Anacardiaceae for Flora of India became sceptical about the identity of the second species of *Choerospondias* *C. auriculata* Dali Chandra described on a few specimens having only male flowers! This prompted the authors to examine the type of *C. auriculata* in CAL (P.W. Mackinnon s.n., CAL, Acc. No. 98623!). The general texture of

the ovate-lanceolate leaflets all of which are having a few, large basal teeth marked with a gland beneath, indicated that *C. auriculata* specimens are nearer to *Ailanthus* Desf. (Simaroubaceae) and not to *Choerospondias*. Further comparison with *Ailanthus* collections in CAL confirmed that Mackinnon, CAL, Acc. No. 98623, 98625 & 98626 from Missouri are neither *Pistacia* nor *Choerospondias* but are *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle. The plant is a native of China, introduced and naturalised in the hills of northwestern India up to 1800 m and is known earlier under the replaced name, *A. glandulosa* Desf. in Indian Floras.

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