

RE-COLLECTION OF *AGAPETES MITRARIOIDES* HOOK. F. EX C.B. CLARKE (ERICACEAE) FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

DIPANWITA BANIK

Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, P.O: Botanic Garden, Howrah - 711 103

C. B. Clarke (1881) described *A. mitrarioides* based on Griffith's collection of 1837 from Mishmi Hills. Kanjilal (1939) mentioned the species in Flora of Assam but the material (Watt 5984, CAL!) was misidentified as *Agapetes mitrarioides*. A review of literature (Airy Shaw in Kew Bull. 1935, 1948, 1958, 1967) revealed that the species was not recollected after its type collection.

During botanical exploration in Mehao Wild Life Sanctuary, a species of *Agapetes* was found to be very common from Myudia to Deopani track and in the surroundings of Mehao Lake. A critical study of collected specimens revealed that they belong to *A. mitrarioides* Hook.f. ex C.B. Clarke.

A brief description of the species with line drawing is given here for its easy identification.

***Agapetes mitrarioides* Hook.f. ex C.B. Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 3 : 447. 1881; Airy Shaw in Kew Bull. 13 : 497. 1958. Type : Assam, Mishmi hills : Laimpha, 1837, Griffith (Kew distrib.) 3466. (K, cibachrome CAL!).** **Fig.1**

Epiphytic shrubs 30-40 cm high, erect when young. Stems weak, hispidulous, brown, ligno tubers amorphous, 1.5-4 cm long, rooting at nodes and bulbs. Leaves 2-3 stichous, petiole 1-1.5 mm long, glabrous; lamina elliptic, 9-18 × 5.5-10 mm, cuneate at base, acuminate at apex, serrate at margin, coriaceous, glabrous, glaucous above, dull below; midrib faintly raised above, lateral veins 4-6, alternate, brochidodromous. Flowers solitary or in 2-flowered drooping cymes; peduncles 1.6-1.7 cm long, minutely puberulous; hairs hyaline; bracts - 2, linear, c. 1 mm long, minutely puberulous outside; bracteoles 2-3, triangular, 1-2 mm, similar to bracts; pedicels 1-1.6 cm long, articulate

at base of calyx tube, finely puberulous. Calyx-tube campanulate, $6.5-7 \times 3.5$ mm, puberulous outside; glabrous inside, lobes lanceolate to ovate-acuminate, $3.5-3.7 \times 1.5-1.9$ mm, acuminate at apex, prominently veined outside. Corolla tubular-urceolate, $2.5-3 \times 1-1.5$ cm, membranous, minutely puberulous on mid vein, orange red, with dark red reticulations; free lobes broadly ovate, $2.5-3 \times 4$ mm, acuminate at apex, greenish yellow. Stamens 10 in 2 whorls, inner 5, 23.5 mm long, outer 5, 25 mm long; filaments spathulate, 1.5-2 mm long, incurved, minutely puberulous to glabrous outside, hyaline; anther lobes elliptic, c. 25 mm long, yellow; anther sacs c. 5 mm long, verrucate; tail c. 1 mm, downwardly projected, bilobed; horns linear, c. 18.5 mm long. Ovary inferior, c. 3 mm in diam., 5 chambered, 2-3 ovules in each chamber; placentation axile. Styles linear, 2.5-3 cm long, inserted c. 1 mm inside ovary, glabrous; stigma truncate.

Specimens examined : Arunachal Pradesh, Dibang Valley district, Mehao Lake, Nov 2000, *D. K. Singh & Party* 97601 (ASSAM, BSD); Myudia I.B. to Deopani track, 2250 m, 5.11.02, *D. Banik* 27417, fl; Mehao lake island, 1550 m, 14.11.02, *D. Banik* 27430, fl.(CAL).

Distrib. : India, Arunachal Pradesh : Dibang Valley District, Mishmi Hills; Myudia to Deopani Track, Mehao lake,

Habitat : The species was found to be common between 1500 and 2250 m altitude, either as epiphyte on tall trees or on mossy covered rocks, associated with members of Lauraceae and Fagaceae. A population found near water source in sunlight.

Fl. : October-November.

Note : Though in protologue inflorescence was referred to as 2 flowered. In the present collection 1-2 flowered condition was observed on the same plant (*D. Banik* 27417).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is thankful to Dr. M. Sanjappa, Director, Botanical Survey of India for his guidance, to Dr. K. P. Singh, Joint Director (BSA) and all colleagues of the group

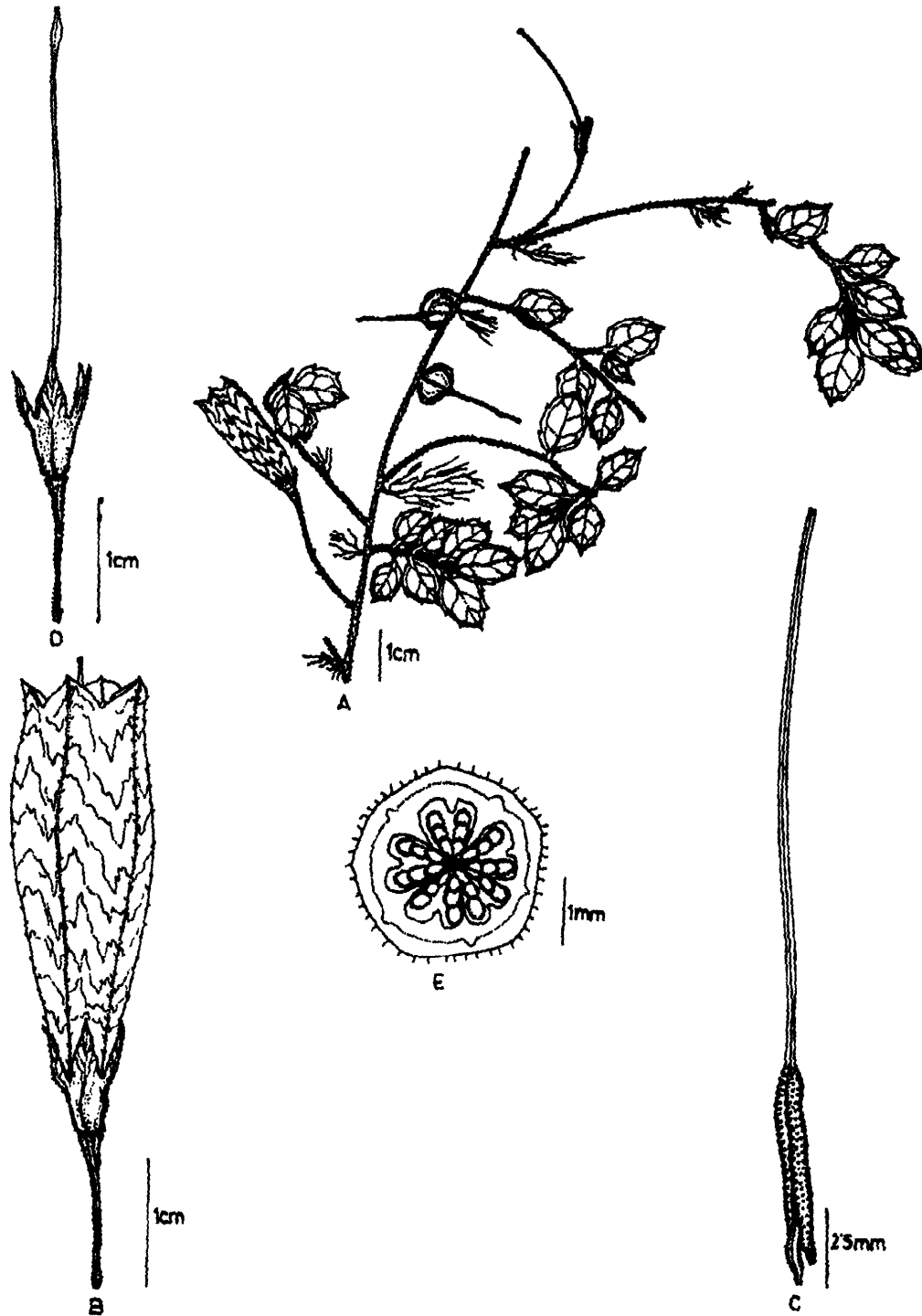


Fig.1 (A-E) : *Agapetes mitrarioides* Hook.f. ex C. B. Clarke
 A. Flowering twig; B. A flower; C. A stamen; D. Calyx tube and style; E. Ovary, T.S.

for exploration of Mehao Lake 2002 and to Dr. H. J. Chowdhery, Joint Director (CAL) for their help.

REFERENCES

- AIRY SHAW, H.K. Studies in the Ericales : 1. New and less known species of Agapetes. *Kew Bull.* (1) : 24-53. 1935.
- AIRY SHAW, H.K. Studies in the Ericales : 5. *Kew Bull.* (3) : 77-104. 1948.
- AIRY SHAW, H.K. Studies in the Ericales : 11. *Kew Bull.* (13) : 468-514. 1958.
- AIRY SHAW, H.K. Studies in the Ericales : 15. *Kew Bull.* (21) : 471-476. 1967.
- CLARKE, C. B. *In* : Hooker, J. D. The Flora of British India. 3 : 443-450. Kent. 1881.