

**COMBRETUM TETRAGONOCARPUM KURZ VAR. TETRALOPHUM (C.B.CLARKE)
M.GANGOP. & CHAKRAB. (COMBRETACEAE) – A NEW RECORD
FOR INDIA FROM NICOBAR ISLANDS**

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The genus *Combretum* Loebl., comprises c. 250 species distributed throughout the tropics (excluding Australia) (Mabberley, 1997). In India, the genus is represented by 15 species (Gangopadhyay & Chakrabarty, 1997) of which, four taxa are reported from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Ghosh, 1997; Gangopadhyay & Chakrabarty, *l.c.*; Ray, 1999). Subsequently, *Combretum sanjappae* has been described from North Andaman Islands (Chakrabarty & Lakra, 2002). While working on the 'Flora of Little Andaman Island', the authors came across few unidentified *Combretum* specimens deposited in the Botanical Survey of India regional herbarium, Port Blair (PBL). After critical study of the specimens with relevant literature, it was identified as *Combretum tetragonocarpum* Kurz var. *tetralophum* (C.B.Clarke) M.Gangop. & Chakrab., a taxon distributed in Thailand, Indo-China, Malay Peninsula, Java, Sumatra, Borneo and New Guinea and hitherto unknown to Indian flora. Hence, the same is reported here as a new addition to the Indian flora with full citation, description, phenology, distribution, ecology and specimens examined along with line drawing to facilitate further collection and identification.

***Combretum tetragonocarpum* Kurz var. *tetralophum* (C.B.Clarke) M.Gangop. & Chakrab.** in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 17: 697. 1993. *Combretum tetralophum* C.B.Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 454. 1878; King in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt.2, Nat. Hist. 66(2): 336. 1897; Slooten, Bijdr. Combret. Flacourt. Ned.-Ind. 34. 1919 & in Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg III, 6: 54. 1924; Ridl., Fl. Mal. Pen. 1: 708. 1922; Exell in Steenis, Fl. Males. 1, 4: 541, fig.2. 1954; Nanakorn in Thai. Forest Bull., Bot. 16: 185, t. 79. 1986. Type: Malacca, *Griffith KD 2195* (CAL), (K-n.v.). *Combretum* sp. *sensu* Thoth. & al. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 15: 251. 1973 (1976). (**Fig. 1**).

Climbing shrubs. Branchlets reddish-brown, terete, densely rusty tomentose when young, later glabrescent. Leaves opposite, simple, elliptic to ovate-elliptic, 6-11 × 3.5-5 cm, base cuneate or rounded, entire along margins, acute to shortly acuminate at apex, with a short mucro tip, membranous, dark brown, glabrous, occasionally scaly above, greenish-brown, glabrous, sparsely scaly beneath; midrib flat to prominulose above, prominently raised beneath, densely rusty tomentose on both sides; lateral nerves 7-9-pairs, faint above, prominent beneath; tertiary nerves scalariform; petioles up to 1 cm long, rusty tomentose. Inflorescences in axillary spikes and terminal panicles; spikes up to 3.5 cm long, subcapituliform; peduncles up to 2 cm long, rusty pubescent. Flowers greenish-white, sessile, 4-merous, c. 6 mm long. Receptacles cupuliform at apex, c. 2 × 3 mm, densely ferruginous peltate scaly. Calyx lobes triangular, c. 1.5 mm long, acute, densely ferruginous scaly. Petals 4, oblanceolate, up to 4 mm long, glabrous. Stamens 8; filaments up to 4 mm long. Disc densely barbate. Style c. 5.5 mm long.

Fl.: January - May.

Distribution : India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands; Thailand (Siam), Indo-China, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Celebes, New Guinea and Caroline Islands.

Ecology : Rare along the stream banks and road sides.

Specimens examined : North Nicobars, Katchal Island, Kapanga, 27-2-1977, *P.Chakrabarty* 5306 (PBL). South Nicobars, Great Nicobar Island, Dogmar river, 11-4-1966, *Thothathri & Banerjee* 11621 (PBL).

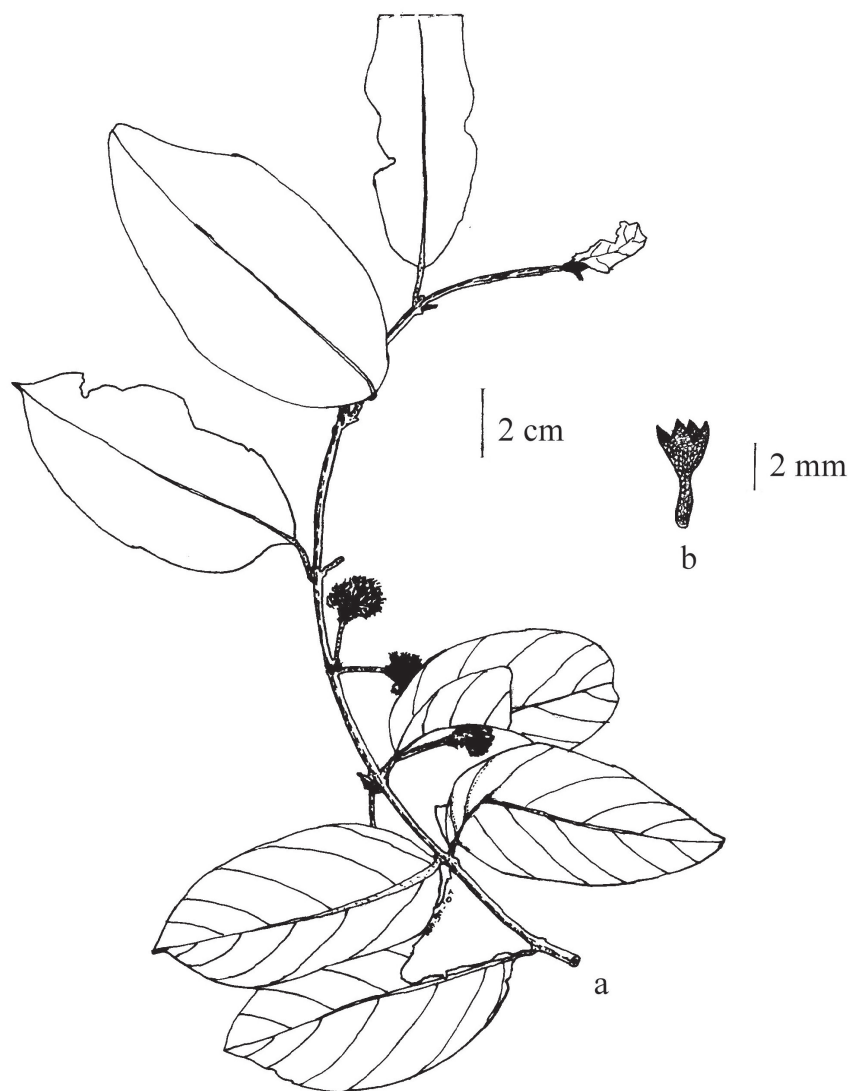


Fig. 1(a & b). *Combretum tetragonocarpum* Kurz var. *tetralophyllum* (C.B.Clarke) MO. Gangop. & Chakrab.
a. Flowering twig; b. Calyx.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to Dr. M.Sanjappa, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata for facilities and encouragement. We also extend our thanks to Dr. P.G.Diwakar, Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune and Dr. D.Kannan, Thiagarajar College, Madurai for encouragement.

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