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**Taxonomic treatment**


Perennial twining herb, up to 10m high. Stems 0.7–1.2 cm in diam., hollow, terete, striate when dry, densely velutinous. Leaves simple, alternate, broadly ovate, 5.5–14 x 4–11 cm, deeply cordate with rounded auricles at base, margin entire, acuminate with mucronulate tip at apex, adaxially tomentellous when young, become glabrescent when mature, abaxially sericeous/grey-tomentose; lateral nerves 7–9 pairs; petiole slender, striate, 3–4 cm long, densely velutinous. Inflorescence...
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Flowering and Fruiting: December-March.

Distribution: Bangladesh, India (Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal), Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, tropical America, and tropical Africa including Madagascar.

Habitat: Occasional in fresh water swamps near the coast; associated with *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott, *Glochidion zeylanicum* (Gaertn.) A.Juss., and *Pandanus odorifer* (Forssk.) Kuntze

Specimens examined: 2978 (BSID), 05.i.2017, India, Andhra Pradesh, Srikakulam, Kaviti, 19.01416667°N 84.70472222°E, 74m, coll. Pragada Venkata Ramana & J. Swamy (Image 2).

Additional specimen images seen: North Bengal, Caragola Ghat, 1 Oct.1868, S. Kurz s.n. (CAL0000027239); sin data, CAL0000027239, CAL0000027236.

**Notes:** The pilose sepals and grey-tomentose leaves of *Ipomoea rubens* can lead to confusion with *I. longibarbis* J.R.I. Wood & R.W. Scotland but the corolla is shorter and the bracts much smaller in the latter species. Moreover, *I. rubens* grows beside streams and lakes whereas *I. longibarbis*, grows in very dry scrub (Wood et al. 2015).

**Image 1.** *Ipomoea rubens* Choisy.
A - habit; B & C - leaf upper & lower surface; D - inflorescence; E - fruits; F - seeds. © P.V. Ramana & J. Swamy

**Image 2.** Herbarium image of *Ipomoea rubens* [2978 (BSID)]

axillary formed of 1-13-flowered cymes; cymes sub-umbellate; peduncles 2.5–13 cm long, secondary peduncles up to 9mm long, densely velutinous; pedicels 5–12 mm long. Flowers pink with dark at centre, ca. 4cm long. Bracteoles linear, ca. 3 x 0.6 mm, deciduous before anthesis, pilose without, glabrous within. Sepals slightly unequal, connate at base; outer sepals elliptic-oblong, ca. 9 x 3 mm, acute at apex; inner sepals ovate-elliptic, broader than outer ones, 7-8 x 3-4 mm, acute or obtuse at apex; both sepals pilose above, sparsely pubescent on veins beneath. Corolla funnel-shaped, pink with dark centre, 4–5 cm long; tube 2cm long; limb 5–6 in diam., sparsely sericeous apically. Stamens 5, unequal, 9.5–18 mm long, included; filaments 7–14 mm long, dilating and hairy at base, glabrous above; anthers 4 x 1 mm long, subacute at apex, cordate at base; tail ca. 9mm long. Ovary 1.2 x 1 mm long, 2-celled, glabrous; style slender, ca. 1.5cm long, glabrous; stigma bilobed; lobes globose unequal. Capsule globose with persistent style, 1.5-1.8 mm in diam., enclosed by sepals, glabrous, 4-seeded. Seeds dull black, ca. 6 x 4.5 mm long, pilose (Image 1).
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