NOTE

A REPORT ON ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

Johny Kumar Tagore, Ponnaiah Jansirani & Sebastian Soosairaj

26 June 2019 | Vol. 11 | No. 8 | Pages: 14080–14082
DOI: 10.11609/jott.4751.11.8.14080-14082
The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, with a total geographical area of 8,250 km², is the largest archipelago representing an arcade of islands situated about 1,200 km off the southeastern coast of India in the Bay of Bengal, stretching from Myanmar in the north to Sumatra (Indonesia) in the south (6.750–13.683 N & 92.200–93.950 E). These Islands harbour luxuriant lowland rainforests besides wetlands, mangroves, and coral reefs. There are 106 protected areas in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, including nine national parks, 96 wildlife sanctuaries, and one biosphere reserve (Rao 1986). The floral elements of these Islands often show a close affinity with that of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. The phytodiversity of these Islands is unique and one of the richest in India in terms of diversity with a remarkable degree of genetic variations.

While working on the ‘Quantitative assessment and mapping of plant resources of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands’, some specimens were collected from Dhanikari Botanical Gardens, South Andaman and Palmtikiri, Little Andaman Islands. A critical study revealed that they were hitherto unreported from this archipelago. After a detailed consultation of literature (Srivastava 1998; Sinha 1999; Sabu 2006; Pandey & Diwakar 2008) and a critical examination of the specimens, they were identified as Monochoria hastata and Alpinia malaccensis. Thus, the present findings constitute new distribution records for Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Detailed descriptions along with field images are provided for these two species to facilitate easy identification for future studies.

A report on additions to the flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India

Johny Kumar Tagore1, Ponnaiah Jansirani2 & Sebastian Soosairaj3

1,2 PG and Research Department of Botany, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu 620002, India.
3 PG and Research Department of Botany, JJ College of Arts & Science, Sivapuram Post, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu 622422, India.

1 jktagore_bo1@mail.sjctni.edu (corresponding author), 2 jansishankar@gmail.com, 3 pspsoosai@yahoo.co.in

Alpinia malaccensis


Rhizomatous herbs. Leafy stems robust, to 3 m high. Leaves narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, up to 60 cm × 7 cm, usually pubescent; ligule c. 1 cm long, hairy, coriaceous, entire; sheaths shortly pubescent; petiole 3–5 cm, rounded, pubescent. Inflorescence erect or slightly curved, main axis pubescent; bracts absent. Cincinni of two very shortly pedicellate flowers or reduced to a single flower, stalk 0.5–1.5 cm, pubescent; bracteoles white, open to base, 1.5–2.0 cm, folded around the bud becoming quickly deciduous as the flower opens, lightly pubescent at apex. Calyx white, 2 cm, pubescent at least at the apex, shortly 3-lobed and deeply split unilaterally. Corolla white, tube up to 1 cm, glabrous; lateral lobes 3 cm × 1 cm, ciliate-margined, dorsal lobe broader, also ciliate. Labellum yellow-orange, heavily lined with scarlet strips, 3–5 cm, 3 cm across at widest part, sides incurved, narrowing to an emarginate
apex, with two papillose swellings at the base. Lateral staminodes subulate, less than 5mm; filaments c. 1cm; anther of equal length or longer, thecae parallel, connective not prolonged into a crest. Epigynous glands 5mm, free from each other. Ovary 5mm, pubescent, trilocular. Capsules turning red at length, globose, up to 3cm in diameter, shortly pubescent.

Flowering and fruiting: May–November.

Distribution and habitat: Extends from northeastern India (and now from Andaman & Nicobar Islands) to Indochina, southwards to Peninsular Malaysia and Java. Found along banks of streams in evergreen forests.


Note: The species was collected from the Nicobar Islands and introduced in Dhanikari Botanical Gardens, South Andaman.

Monochoria hastata


Perennial aquatic herbs. Vegetative stems often long and robust; 60–120 cm. Radical leaves with sheath broadened at base; leaf blade triangular or triangular-ovate, 5–15(–25) cm × 3–15 cm, base sagittate to hastate, apex acute to acuminate; petiole 25–75 cm. Flowering stems erect or obliquely so, 45–80 cm. Inflorescences erect or suberect, remaining so after anthesis, subumbellate to shortly racemose, 15–50-flowered; peduncle distinctly shorter than associated leaf petiole. Pedicels 1–3 cm. Perianth segments bluish with green median vein and reddish blotch, ovate, 9–15 mm. Larger stamen: anther 5–6 mm, bluish. Smaller stamens: filiform; anthers 3.0–3.5 mm, pale yellow. Style densely and shortly spreading, hairy at apex. Capsule oblong, 6–7 mm. Seeds brown, oblong; wings c. 10mm.

Distribution and habitat: It is found in marshy regions near waterfalls. It also occurs in wet swamps, freshwater pools, drainage channels, mudflats in rivers, and along canal banks. It is a purely submerged aquatic herb. It is recorded as a component of floating mat vegetation. This species occurs in Bhutan, India (throughout Assam and other northeastern states; also as weeds in northern and central states of India and now from Andaman & Nicobar Islands), Nepal, Sri Lanka, and southeastern Asia, extending to New Guinea and Australia.


References


Communications

The status of wild canids (Canidae, Carnivora) in Vietnam

Diel activity pattern of meso-carnivores in the suburban tropical dry evergreen forest of the Coromandel Coast, India
– Kangaraj Muthamizh Selvan, Bawa Mothilal Krishnakumar, Pasiyappazham Ramasamy & Thangadurai Thinesh, Pp. 13960–13966

On the importance of alpha behavior integrity in male Capybara Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris (Mammalia: Rodentia: Caviidae) following immuno-contraceptive treatment
– Derek Andrew Rosenfield & Cristiane Schilbach Pizzutto, Pp. 13967–13976

Dietary analysis of the Indian Flying Fox Pteropus giganteus (Brunnich, 1782) (Chiroptera: Pteropodidae) in Myanmar through the analysis of faecal and chewed remnants
– Moe Moe Aung & Than Than Htay, Pp. 13977–13983

Report on three ectoparasites of the Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat Cynopterus sphinx Vahl, 1797 (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Pteropodidae) in Cachar District of Assam, India
– Anisur Rahman & Parthabhask Choudhury, Pp. 13984–13991

A checklist of mammals of Tamil Nadu, India
– Manokaran Kamakalakannan & Paingamadathil Ommer Nameer, Pp. 13992–14009

A comparative study on dragonfly diversity on a plateau and an agro-ecosystem in Goa, India
– Andrea R.M. D’Souza & Irvathur Krishnananda Pai, Pp. 14010–14021

Review

Contributions to the knowledge of moths of Bombycoidea Latreille, 1802 (Lepidoptera: Heterocera) of Bhutan with new records
– Jatiswhor Singh Iruingbam & Meenakshi Jatiswhor Iruingbam, Pp. 14022–14050

Short Communications

First camera trap documentation of the Crab-eating Mongoose Herpestes urva (Hodgson, 1836) (Carnivora: Feliformia: Herpestidae) in Barandabhar Corridor Forest in Chitwan, Nepal

First camera trap record of Red Panda Ailurus fulgens (Cuvier, 1825) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Ailuridae) from Kanchendzonga, Sikkim, India
– Tawqir Bashir, Tapajit Bhattacharya, Kamal Poudyal & Sambandam Sathyakumar, Pp. 14056–14061

First record of black scavenger fly of the genus Metropilus Rondani, 1874 (Diptera: Sepsidae) from Pakistan
– Noor Fatima, Ansa Tamkeen & Muhammad Asghar Hassan, Pp. 14062–14064

Scully’s Balsam Impatiens scullyi Hook.f. (Balsaminaceae): a new record for India from Himachal Pradesh
– Ashutosh Sharma, Nidhan Singh & Wojciech Adamowski, Pp. 14065–14070

Notes

Odisha’s first record of a free-tailed bat (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Molossidae): what could it be?
– Subrat Debata & Sharat Kumar Palita, Pp. 14071–14074

Additions to the flora of Arunachal Pradesh State, India
– Umeshkumar Lalchand Tiwari, Pp. 14075–14079

A report on additions to the flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India
– Johny Kumar Tagore, Ponnaiah Jansirani & Sebastian Soosairaj, Pp. 14080–14082

Range extension of Trigonella uncata Boiss. & Noë (Leguminosae) in peninsular India and a new record for Maharashtra State, India
– Shrikant Ingalhalikar & Adittyaa Vishwanath Dharap, Pp. 14083–14086

Partner

Member