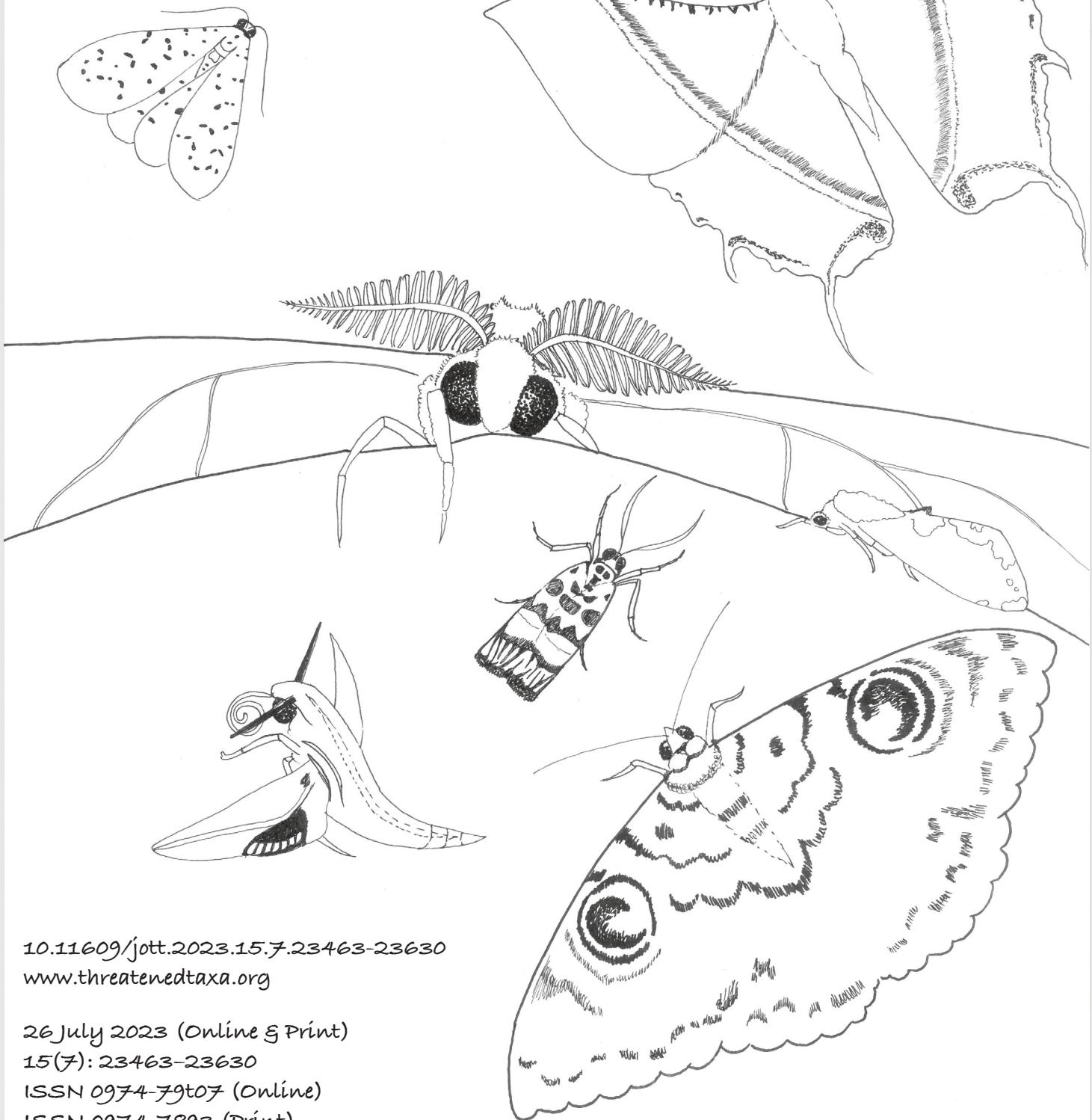


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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Celebrating the unsung heroes—moths, our nocturnal pollinators. © Priyanka Iyer.



NOTE

***Argyreia lawii* C.B.Clarke (Convolvulaceae) – an extended distribution record in the Western Ghats of Kerala**

A. Raja Rajeswari¹  & M.K. Nisha² 

^{1,2}Department of Botany, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641043, India.

¹forraji98@gmail.com, ²nisha_bot@avinuty.ac.in (corresponding author)

Argyreia Lour. is considered to be one of the largest and complex genus among the family Convolvulaceae. It consists of around 135 taxa (Staples & Traiperm 2017) distributed in southeastern Asia, China, and in the Indian subcontinent. In India, the genus is represented with 40 species and considered to be the second most species abundant genus among Convolvulaceae (Lawand et al. 2019).

During the floristic survey in Attappady area at Palakkad District, Kerala, collected an interesting species of *Argyreia* at a specific location along the way of Thavalam, an area 18 km away from Silent Valley which comes under wet evergreen forest. The specimen was collected with flowers and the identity was confirmed as *A. lawii* by Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Southern Regional Centre (SRC), Coimbatore. The sample specimen was stored in Avinashilingam Institute Herbarium, for further use. While checking for the distribution of the species it is previously known only from Karnataka (Gamble 1922), recently rediscovered from Maharashtra (Lawand et al. 2019) and Shalini et al. (2018) added to the flora of Tamil Nadu. Other than this it is not reported anywhere else in India including Kerala (Kumar et al. 2005; Nayar et al. 2014; Eflorakerela). Hence the present collection from Palakkad District

of Kerala shows the extended distribution of the species and addition to the state flora as well. A short description along with color photographs are provided here to facilitate the future identification and collection (Images 1 & 2).

Argyreia lawii C.B.Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 190. 1883; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 2: 327. 1908; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 908. 1922; B.D.Sharma et al., Fl. Karnataka 179. 1984; M.R.Almeida, Fl. Maharashtra 3: 310. 2001; Venakanna & Das in N.P.Singh et al., Fl. Maharashtra 2: 445. 2001; Shalini et al., Indian J. Forest. 41(3): 265–268. 2018.

Description

A semi-woody climber, the stem is strigose, terete, greenish, and herbaceous. Leaves simple, alternate, and elliptic-ovate, 6–10.2 x 3–5.5 cm, base rounded, acute apex, and entire margin. Strigose on both the surface, midrib conspicuous with lateral veins 7–8 pairs. Petiole is about 1.7–3.8 cm, cylindrical, strigose, stout, and woolly. Inflorescence is an axillary cyme compacted with 5–7 flowers, dichotomously branched with one central flower. Peduncle 3–6 cm long, longer than petiole, terete, and less strigose. Flowers sub-sessile, bracteate, whorls slightly strigose, inner whorl narrows than the

Editor: Anonymity requested.

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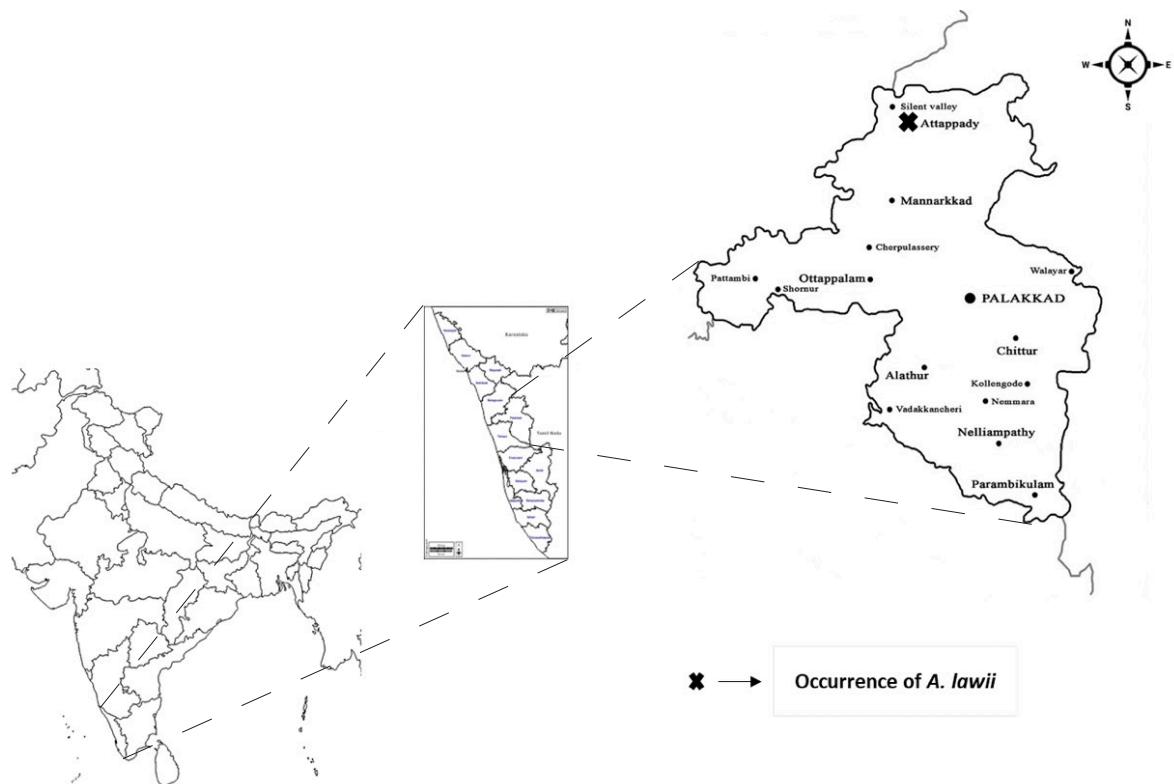


Figure 1. Distribution of *Argyreia lawii* C.B.Clarke in Attappady, Palakkad District, Kerala, India.



Image 1. *Argyreia lawii*: A—Habitat | B—Habit closeup | C—Inflorescence | D—Twig | E—Corolla front view. © A.Raja Rajeswari.

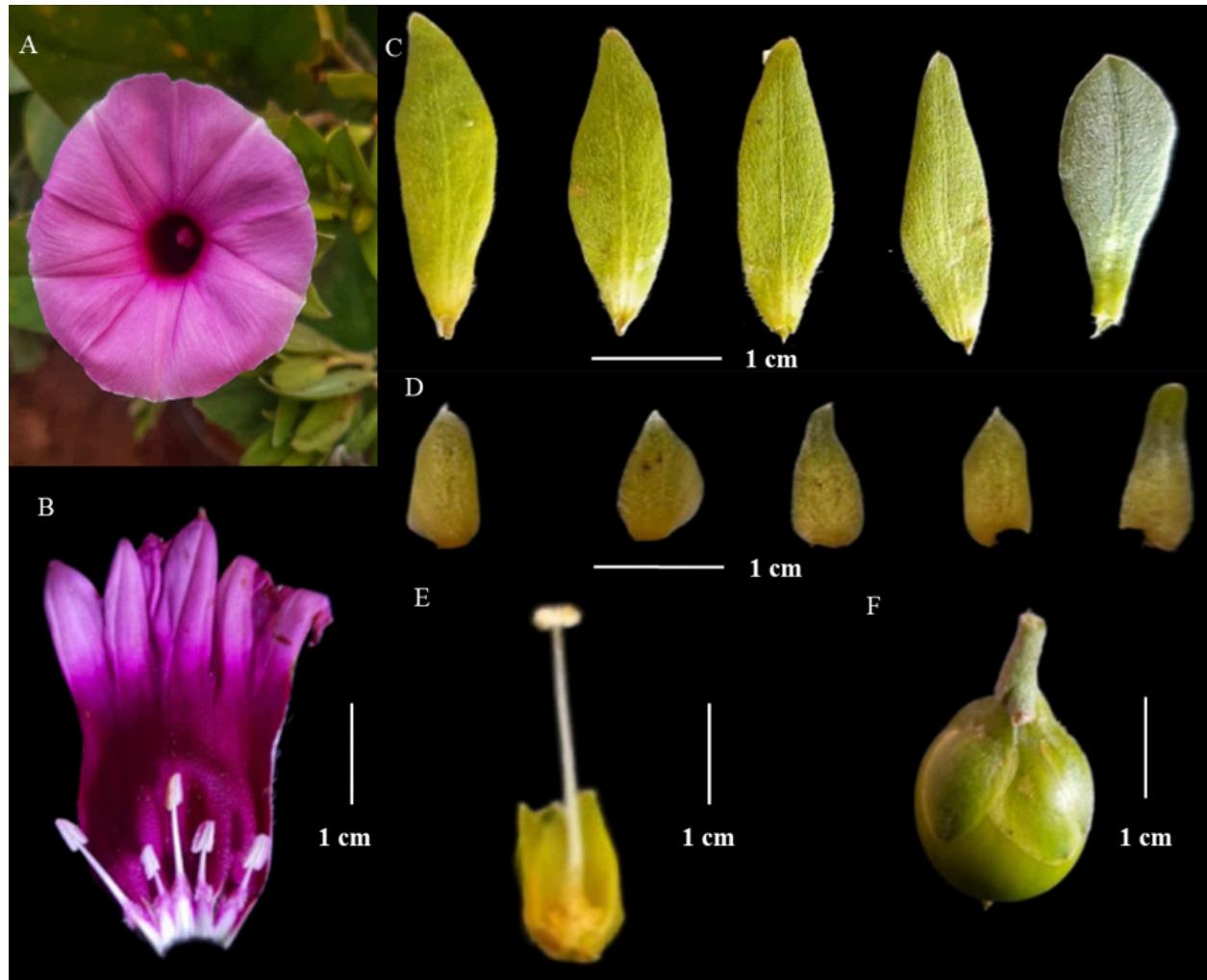


Image 2. *Argyreia lawii*: A—Corolla closeup | B—opened flower | C—Bracts | D—Sepals | E—Gynoecium | F—Fruit. © A.Raja Rajeswari.

outer and oblong. Bracts oblong or elliptical 1–2.7 cm x 0.4–0.8 cm, strigose, outer bracts are wider than the inner ones. Sepals 5, subequal shorter than bracts 8–10 x 5–6 mm, ovate, and acute apex, glabrous to pubescent, gamosepalous. Corolla infundibulum 3.5–4.7 cm x 1.8–2.8, hairy, disc slightly 5-lobed. Stamens 5; filaments 5, unequal, 2 long 1.6–1.8 cm, 3 short 1–1.2 cm, adnate, above the base of the corolla. Ovary conical, glabrous, style, separately dilated, jointed at base longer than filament 1.4–1.9 cm or sometimes unequal. Stigma papillated and bilobed. Fruit is a berry with 5 persistent calyx lobes, young green, when matured yellow.

Flowering and Fruiting: May to August.

Habitat and ecology: Twining shrub along roadside margins of wet evergreen forest at an elevation of 662 m growing in association with species like *Asystasia gangetica* (L.) T.Anderson, *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L., *Causonis trifolia* (L.) Mabb. & J.Wen, *Chromolaena*

odorata (L.) R.M.King & H.Rob., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Lantana camara* L., *Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (L.) Kuntze, *Mimosa pudica* L., *Oplismenus compositus* (L.) P.Beauv., *Parthenium hysterophorus* L., and *Rothecea serrata* (L.) Steane & Mabb. We could observe 12–15 mature individuals covering the total area that may not exceed 5 km².

Distribution: Karnataka (Western Ghats region, Konkan Province & Bababudhan Hills of Karnataka State), Kerala (Present report – Thavalam, Palakkad District), Maharashtra (Bhudargad Fort & Patgaon, Kolhapur District), and Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris District, Coonoor Ghat).

Specimen examined: India, Kerala, Palakkad District; Thavalam, 13.120°N, 76.591°E, 22.08.2022, A. Raja Rajeswari ARR0001, Avinashilingam Institute Herbarium (Image 3).

Notes: *Argyreia lawii* C.B.Clarke may be facing

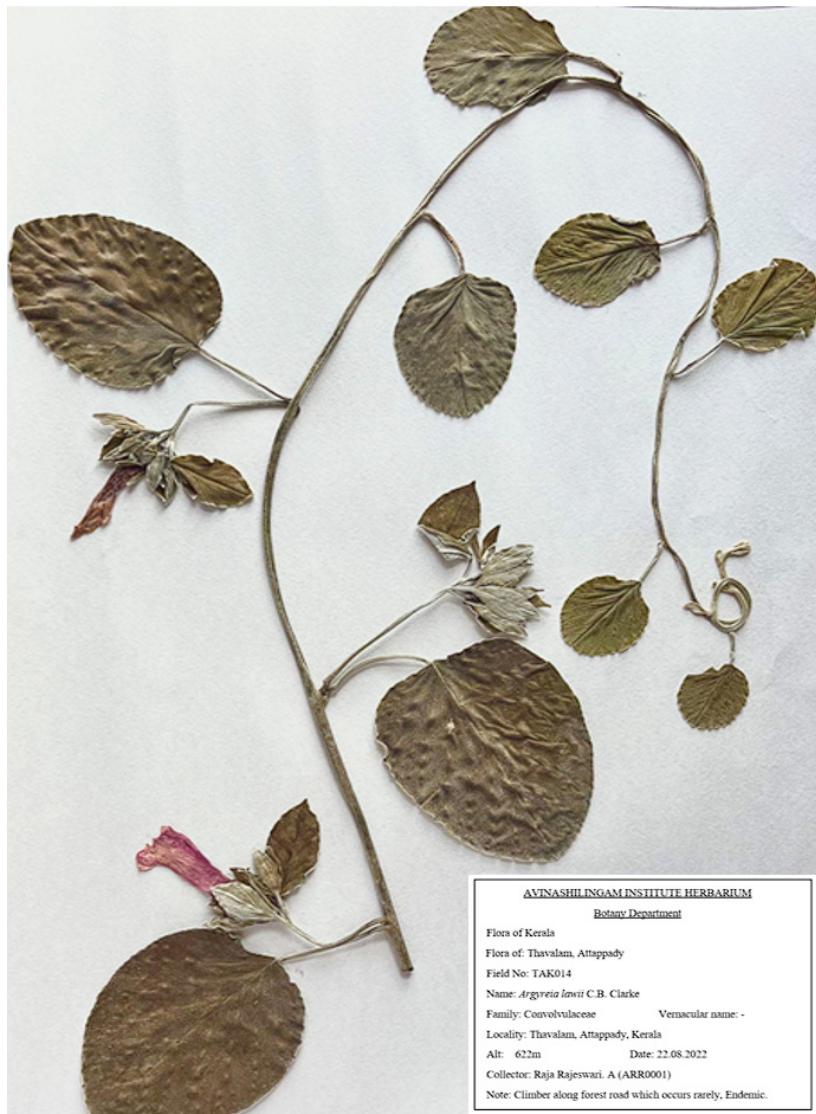


Image 3. Herbarium of *Argyreia lawii* [#A Raja Rajeswari ARR0001(TAK014)].

threats due to the widening of road, domination of exotic plants, removal of plants along the road side and cultivated fields by the local community in Thavalam area.

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