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Cover: A Southern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* stands on Tussock Grass on Westpoint Island. Painted in poster colors, this artwork is a reproduction of a photograph by Phillip Colla. Thanks to the photographer for the original image. © Pooja Patil.



Nagaland, located between 26.214° N, 94.487° E (Figure 1). The region receives 2,500 mm of rainfall annually, and its elevation ranges 800–1,800 m. The herbarium specimens were prepared following standard field and herbarium methods (Rao & Jain 1977). The specimens were stored in the Herbarium of Nagaland University, Lumami, Zunheboto, Nagaland. A comprehensive botanical description notes on ecology, distribution, and morphological characteristics by which the species can be distinguished from its closely-related species like *M. revoluta* and *M. hainanensis* have been provided (Image 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taxonomic treatment

Mucuna interrupta Gagnep. in Notul. Syst. (Paris) 3: 26. 1914. *Mucuna nigricans* (Lour.) Steud. in Nomencl. Bot., ed. 2, 2: 163. 1841; Sanjappa, Legumes of India 217. 1992. *Citta nigricans* Lour. in Fl. Cochinch.: 456. 1790, nom. utique rej. *Stizolobium nigricans* (Lour.) Pers. Syn. Pl. 2: 299. 1807.

Type: Thailand, Mao Mak Kok, Muah Lek. Sasabusi,

NI Nai (K000894901 image!).

Climbers or twining vine stems glabrous or with fine hairs, light brown to reddish. Leaves alternate, petiole 6–9 cm, hairy on petiolules and petioles, lateral veins 5–7 pairs, terminal leaflets larger, up to 12 x 6.5 cm and thinly papery; lateral base slightly less asymmetrical, rounded, semi-cordate or ± cordate. Inflorescence axillary, 4–8 cm, unbranched and bearing 1–6 knob-like flowers on side branches towards apex, bracts large, and persistent; axis with thick adpressed pale pubescence, finer than stem, pedicels 8–10 mm long, bracteoles long, linear-oblongate, and pointed, 22–30 x 5 cm, calyx with stinging bristles, hairy like the axis, cup-shaped, tube 10 x 10 mm long, and broad. Corolla white or violet, medium to large, 3–3.5 x 1.8–2 cm, wings 5.5–6 cm; keel equaling wings. Fruit elongate, twisted, apex and bottom considerably large, 13–14 x 6–7 cm, 1.5–2 cm thick, markedly laterally flattened ± 2.5 cm in thickness and 7 cm wide, reddish hairs and irritant bristles, 10–20 obliquely transverse, upright, crowded, interrupted parallel lamellae cover the fruit on both sides, two wings along its edge but not midline,

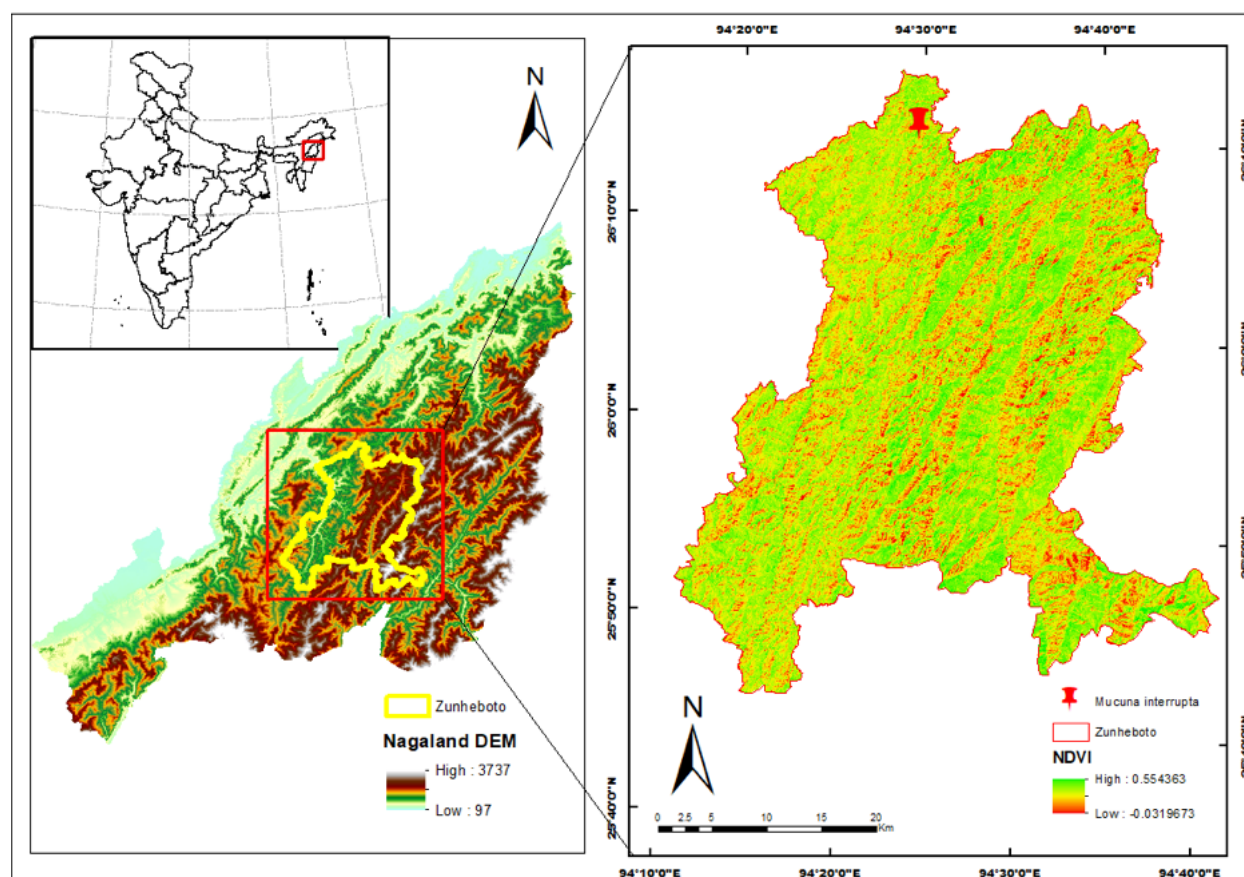


Figure 1. Map of study area.



Image 1. *Mucuna interrupta*: A–B—habitat | C–D—stem bearing fruit | E–G—cross-section of the fruits with embedded seeds | H–I—pericarp | J–K—sizes of seeds and cross-section of seeds | L—matured seed. © Vieneite-o Koza & Joynath Pegu.

legume extended to marginal wings or fruits, seeds 2 or 3, orange- brown to hilum black, reniform or fairly globular, length 2–2.5 cm, ± 1 cm in thickness.

Flowering & fruiting: August–October.

Habitat: Growing in wetland and riverine settings with high humus content, where it can adhere to trees

and other vegetation for support.

Distribution: India (Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Nagaland), Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

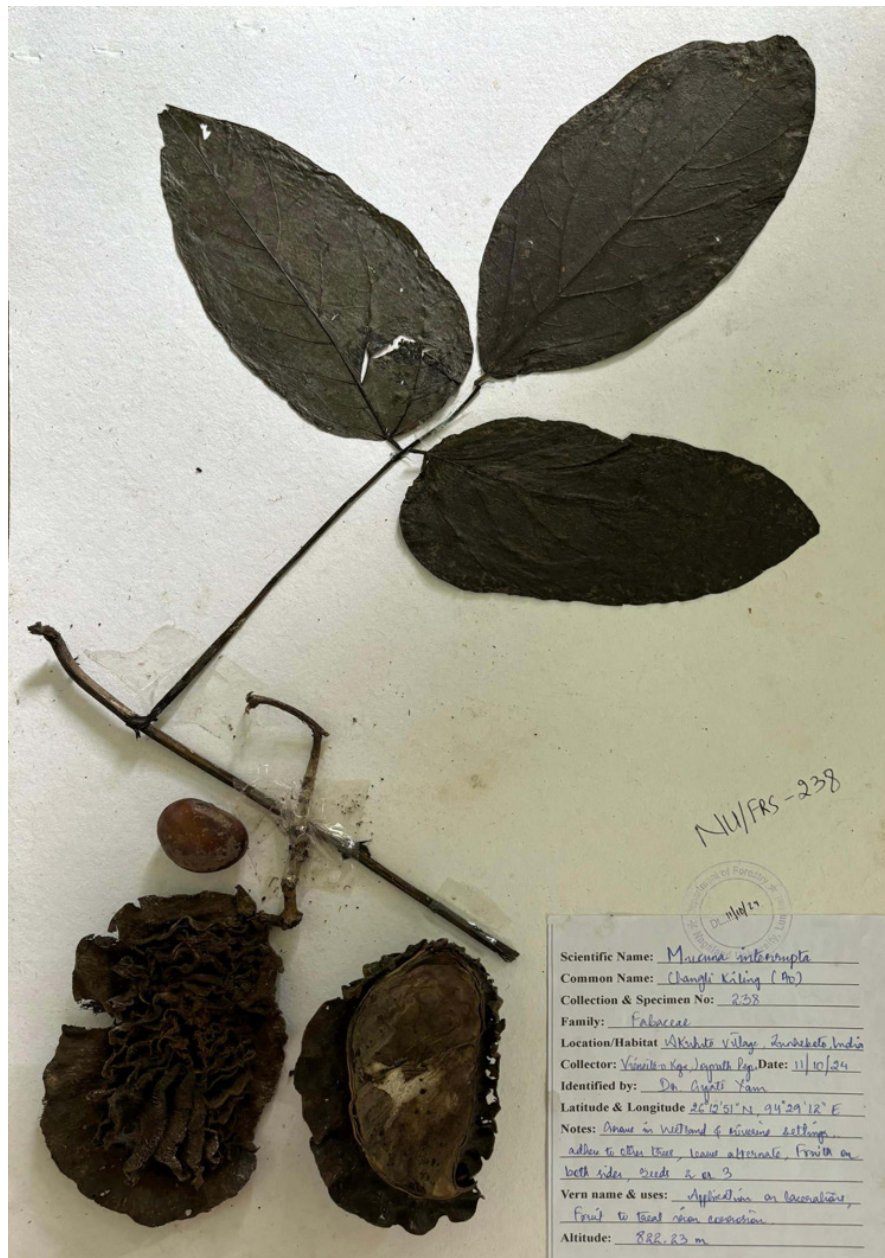


Image 2. Herbarium specimen of *Mucuna interrupta* prepared and deposited at Nagaland University, Lumami (NU/FRS-238). © Vineite-o Koza & Joyanth Pegu.

Specimens studied: Akuluto Village, Zuneheboto District, Nagaland (26.214° N, 94.487° E), 11.x.2024, NU/FRS-238 (Image 2).

CONCLUSION

The present study documented *M. interrupta* as a new record for the flora of Nagaland, India. The fruit extract of the species is traditionally utilized for application on lacerations to promote rapid healing. The oil derived from the leaves and fruit is used to treat iron

corrosion. The seeds are utilized as adornments by the tribes of Tripura. *Mucuna interrupta* is rare in its natural habitat, and it is currently protected in the Lumami Village, Zuneheboto District, Nagaland, India.

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Table 1. Distinguishing characteristics of *Mucuna interrupta* and its closely related species.

Characters	<i>M. interrupta</i> Gagnep.	<i>M. revoluta</i> Wilmot-Dear	<i>M. hainanensis</i> Hayata
Natural habitat	Isolated wetland area	Moist, lowland area	Humid forest, forest edge, and disturbed areas
Leaf-shape and size	Ovate, entire, acute	Elliptic or ovate	Elliptic ovate or elliptic obovate
Stem	Glabrous or fine hairs, light brown, reddish	Glabrous, sparsely haired	Young stems either glabrous or sparsely adpressed hairy.
Inflorescence	Inflorescence axillary, 8–24 cm long, bracts persistent, pedicels 8–10 mm, spreading fine pale hairs.	Short, velvety pubescent pedicels, 8–16 cm long, unbranched or branching at the base bearing 5–13 reduced, Knob-like flower.	Inflorescence axillary, 5–18 nodes, 6–40 cm. base nodes devoid of flowers; few long acuminate bracts 2–3 cm; large flowering nodes
Flower colour and size	Purple; keel-white, 4.50 ± 0.04	Pink or brownish-purple; 4.8 ± 1	Purple to dark purple; 4.2 ± 0.6
Fruit shape, size, and color	Fruit elongate, twisted apex and bottom, $13\text{--}14 \times 6\text{--}7$ cm, $1.5\text{--}2$ cm thick, reddish hairs and irritant bristles	Small to medium-sized, leathery, flattened, $6\text{--}9$ cm long, with obliquely transverse lamellae that bifurcate at the tip.	Asymmetrical or oblong-ovate, $9\text{--}18 \times 4.5\text{--}5.5$ cm
No. of seed	2–3 seeds	1–2 seeds	2–4 seeds
Size of seed	4.2 ± 0.13 cm	4.5 ± 2.5 cm	4.2 ± 2 cm
Shape of seed	Elliptic, discoid	Ellipsoid, convex face	Oblong or reniform
Color of seed	Creamy, reddish-brown	Red to brown with black mottling	Reddish-brown or black
Wings	Narrow marginal wings	Marginal wings	Marginal wings
Distribution	Yunnan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Tripura	Yunnan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam	Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan, Vietnam

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