



Taxonomy, lectotypification and distribution of *Andrographis stenophylla* (Acanthaceae), a little known endemic species from southern India

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Abstract

Andrographis stenophylla (Acanthaceae) is lectotypified and its taxonomy and distribution are discussed. The species is reported here as an addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Illustrations, photographs, a digital image of the selected lectotype and a distribution map are provided.

Key words: Andhra Pradesh, *Andrographis paniculata*, Coimbatore, Kerala, Lectotype, Wight

Introduction

Andrographis Wall. ex Nees von Esenbeck (1832: 116), a tropical Asian genus of Acanthaceae, is represented by c. 20 species (Mabberley 2008) distributed mainly in southern India and Sri Lanka. Clarke (1884) recognized 19 species from the then British India, of which 5 were described by him as novelties, including *A. stenophylla* Clarke (1884: 504). He treated the genus under the subtribe *Andrographideae* Endlicher (1839: 709) of the tribe *Justicieae* Dumortier (1829: 23). Karthikeyan *et al.* (2009) in their recent analysis of the angiosperm diversity of India listed 24 species and 4 varieties under *Andrographis*. Kumari (1987) reported 24 taxa from Tamil Nadu, of which 5 are endemic to the state. *A. stenophylla* is a rare and little known endemic species from India (Fig. 1 & 2), often found to be mistakenly identified in herbaria. In the present paper *A. stenophylla* is lectotypified, and new data on its taxonomy and distribution are provided.

Taxonomy

Andrographis stenophylla Clarke (1884: 504). Lectotype (designated here):—INDIA. Tamil Nadu: Marrootheemalay (Maruthamalai) near Coimbatore, June 1847, *Wight KD 2245* (K000545965, image !). Fig. 3.

Straggling herbs, up to 1 m high; rootstock very thick. Stems 4-angled, reddish at base, swollen at nodes, glabrous. Leaves narrowly oblanceolate at base of plant, linear towards apex, attenuate at base, revolute at margins, acute or obtuse at apex, 1.5–5 × 0.2–0.5 cm; midrib conspicuous below, lateral veins 3 or 4 pairs, inconspicuous, glabrous; petioles 1–2 mm long, glabrous, at times puberulous. Inflorescences axillary, racemose, 4–14 cm long, simple or at times branched; axis 4-angled, glabrous; flowers distantly arranged (internodes 0.5–1.5 cm long), twisted in right angle to each other, one-sided; pedicels slender, 2–4 mm long, puberulous to glabrous. Bracts 2, lanceolate, margins hairy at base, acute to acuminate at apex, 1.5–2 mm long, glabrous. Bracteoles 2, linear-lanceolate, margins hairy at base, acuminate at apex, 1.3–1.8 mm long, glabrous. Calyx 5-lobed, lobes subequal, lanceolate, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, 3–4.5 × 0.5–0.8 mm, strigose inside, glandular-hairy outside when young, sparsely so or glabrous at maturity, lineolate. Corolla 2-lipped, 1.2–1.5 cm across, white with faint red streaks; upper lip spatulate-oblong, entire at margins, minutely 2-fid at apex, 4.5–5 × 2.2–2.4 mm, glabrous inside, glandular-hirsute outside, 4-nerved; lower lip 3-lobed, entire at margins, acute at apex, 6.5–7 × 5–5.5 mm, glabrous

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