

30. AN AMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION OF A HITHERTO
UNCOMMON SPECIES *Craibiodendron mannii* W. W. SMITH
(ERICACEAE)

(With nine text-figures)

Many areas in India still hold several taxa to be discovered and described. Of even more importance is the scanty descriptions of old taxa collected in India by early workers which have not been fully described. The striking example to illustrate this is the uncommon species *Craibiodendron mannii* W. W. Sm. of the Ericaceae which a complete needs redescription. The genus *Craibiodendron* was first founded and described by W. W. Smith (1911), as an honour to Mr. W. G. Craib, on the basis of Burma and Siam specimens of *C. shanicum* deposited, in Kew and Edinburgh herbaria. Subsequently, Smith (1912) described insufficiently *C. mannii* taking the specific epithet from the MS name *Leucothoe mannii* King et Prain (MS deposited in CAL). The specimen was collected by Gustav Mann from Juudmaka Pahar of Jowai, near Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya of India. Some plants were also collected by King et Prain from the same locality whereas N. L. Bor collected this plant from Naga Hills of Nagaland. Kanjilal (1939) recorded a scanty and quite erroneous description of this plant and also did not illustrate; further he kept it under *Pieris formosa* D. Don. A check of the herbarium sheets of the Eastern Circle of BSI (ASSAM), Shillong, and Forest Research Institute Herbarium (DD), Dehra Dun, has revealed that there is no recent collections of this plant. Further this species differs from the species of the related genera in the presence of terminal spheroidal cells which is evidently a generic feature of the mesophyll of all the other species of *Craibio-*

dendron (details of which will be published elsewhere).

Craibiodendron

W. W. Sm., Rec. Bot. Surv. India 4: 276. 1911 et Notes R. bot. Gdn. Edinb. 24: 157. 1912; Stevens, Notes R. bot. Gdn. 30(2): 342. 1970 (including *Nuihonia* Dop in Lecomte, Fl. Gen. Indo-China 3: 719. 1930).

Type sp. *C. shanicum* W. W. Sm.

The seven species of this genus is confined to South East Asia. Among them *C. mannii* is endemic in India and restricted to Meghalaya and Nagaland. *C. shanicum* is recorded in Manipur (INDIA) and other regions of South East Asia. The other 5 species have scattered distribution in China, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

Craibiodendron mannii W.W. Sm. Notes R. bot. Gdn. 24: 159. 1912; Kanjilal et al. Fl. Assam 3: 151. 1939.

Robust shrubs or small trees. Branches and branchlets glabrous. Leaves 8-8.5 x \pm 3 cm, alternate, ovate-lanceolate, apex acute or subobtuse, base cuneate, margins entire, coriaceous, glabrous on both surfaces, nerves c. 20-paired, conspicuous on both surfaces, secondary veins brochidodromous, abaxially conspicuous; petioles \pm 1 cm, glabrous. Inflorescences raceme, clustered panicle to thyrses, \pm 8 cm long, compressed; pedicels \pm 0.2 cm; bracteoles 2, deciduous. Flowers c. 0.3 x 0.25 cm, pendulous, alternate or opposite but always terminally paired. Sepals 5, \pm 0.15 cm long, base slightly imbricate apex free, persistent,



Figs. 1-9. *Craibiodendron mannii* W.W. Smith

1. Flowering and fruiting twigs; 2. Flower; 3. Androecium; 4. & 5. Stamens; 6. Ovary; 7. Transection of ovary — axile placentation; 8. Capsule; 9. Triangular seeds unilaterally winged.

tomentose in buds. Corolla tubes 0.25 cm, narrowly campanulate, lobes 5, 0.15 cm long, erect, slightly imbricate, completely joint in buds. Stamens \pm 0.2 cm long, filaments adnate at the base of the corolla-tube, lower half pouched, slightly puberulous, base serrulate, falsely adhered on the thalamous, encircling the style base, upper half curled, geniculate, free; anthers 2-lobed, muticous, pseudo-syngenesious; back of the anthers in bud are covered with narrow patches of white deposits of dissolution tissue, composed of unicellular hairs. Ovary \pm 0.2 cm x 0.1 cm, apparently oblageniform, superior, covered with triangular warts, 5-chambered; ovules solitary, triangular placentation axile, styles \pm 0.1 cm long, warted; stigmas 5-angular, sparsely strigose, projecting. Capsules 1 cm across, puberulous, locules 5, splitting up to the centre at maturity; seeds pendulous, \pm 0.5 cm, triangular, unilaterally winged. (Figs. 1-9).

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
HOWRAH-711 103,
July 22, 1980.

Type: Meghalaya, Juudmaka Pahar (6000 ft), August 1891. G. Mann s.n. (CAL).

Specimens examined:

India-Nagaland, Naga Hills, *N. L. Bor* 2828 (ASSAM); Jowai, Dr. King's collector s. n.; Jaintia hills, Dr. King's collector s. n.; Juudmaka Pahar, *G. Mann* s. n. (CAL); Naga hills, *N. L. Bor* 6271, 2828 (DD). *C. shanicum* W. W. Sm., India-Manipur, Shugnu, *D. B. Deb* 2633 (CAL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank Dr. J. Joseph, Deputy Director, Eastern Circle, B.S.I., Shillong, and Sri K. M. Vaid, Systematic Botany Branch, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for sending the herbarium specimens for our study.

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31. *LYCIUM CHINENSE* MILL. (SOLANACEAE) FROM INDIA

(With a text-figure)

Lycium chinense Mill. — a native of China and Japan, also growing in Tibet and cultivated in Eastern Asia for showy rambling habit, evergreen leaves and colourful berries — is now recorded here for the first time in India from West Bengal.

The occurrence of this taxon in West Bengal suggests its introduction by human agency at an earlier date and subsequent migration either directly through North Bengal or through Assam via Tibet into Eastern India

or as garden escape.

A concise description alongwith an illustration of this taxon is provided here.

Lycium chinense Mill. Gard. Dict. ed. VIII n. 5. 1768; Bailey Stand. Cyclop. Hort. 4 (L-O): 1930. 1916 and Manual Cult. Pl. 872. 1924; Baker and Bakhuizen f. Fl. Java 2: 467. 1965.

Erect to rambling shrub, much branched, older twigs often with few spines. Leaves alternate and fascicled, very variable in size and



Rao, T A and Chakraborti, Swapna. 1982. "AN AMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION OF A HITHERTO UNCOMMON SPECIES CRAIBIODENDRON-MANNII ERICACEAE." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 79, 223–225.

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