

pairs of lateral pinnae, lateral pinnae similar to apical pinnae. Sterile pinnae 15 cm-18 cm long, 3 cm to 3.5 cm broad, sessile, apex of pinnae 10 cm to 15 cm long, 8 mm to 12 cm broad, apex acuminate, texture coriaceous, veins forked at base, parallel, midrib raised

on upper surface and grooved; sori continuous along the edges of fertile pinnae except apices of pinnae; spores brown, tetrahedral.

Specimen examined:

Haflong, 800 m, North Cachar, Assam, 24 Aug. 1908, W. G. Craib 425 (CAL-8067).

CRYPTOGAMIC SECTION,
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
P.O. BOTANIC GARDEN,
HOWRAH - 711 103,
WEST BENGAL,
April 22, 1982.

S. R. GHOSH

38. STUDIES IN LEGUMINOSAE XXX — FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO *DALBERGIA* L. F. AND *DERRIS* LOUR.

(With three text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

Critical examination of the Indian and Burmese specimens of *Dalbergia* L. f. and *Derris* Lour. in the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has enabled me to supplement the taxonomy and distribution of a few species. *Derris elliptica* (Wall.) Benth.

This is the only species of economic importance in the genus and is renowned as the 'Tuba root of Commerce'. Rotenone, extracted from the roots, is extensively used as an insecticide. The species is known wild so far from Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Java, Sumatra, Philippines and New Guinea. In India, it is only cultivated for the 'Tuba root'. Thothathri (1976) reported its wild occurrence in the Great Nicobar Island. *D. elliptica* var. *chittagongensis* Thoth., originally described from Chittagong, Bangladesh, has also been reported in India from Assam (Thothathri 1960). Recently I examined a collection (Fig.

1) from Rattenpur, Cachar District, Assam, which also proved to be *D. elliptica* and the first record of var. *elliptica* wild in India. Future intensive explorations in eastern India may extend its distribution further.

A climber. Branches lenticellate, glabrous. Leaves up to 40 cm long; leaflets 9, 13-16 x 5-6 cm, lower pair always smaller than upper, leaflets oblong to obovate-oblong, entire, narrowed at base, acute to shortly acuminate at apex, coriaceous, puberulous below; lateral veins 10-12 pairs, ascending; petiolules grooved above, 5-8 mm long. *Infructescence* incomplete, rachis 22 cm long, glabrous, main peduncle 6-9 mm long, each bearing 2-3 stalked pods; stalks 8-10 mm long, peduncles and stalks glabrous to puberulous. *Pods* oblong, 6.5-10.0 x 2.5-3.0 cm, distinctly winged along the upper suture with a narrow wing on the lower suture, narrowed at base, obtuse at apex, faintly reticulated, puberulous, 1-2-seeded.

INDIA: Assam, Cachar, Rattenpore, 1873, Maneek for R. Keeman (K).



Fig. 1. *Derris elliptica* (Wall.) Benth. Fruiting branchlet.

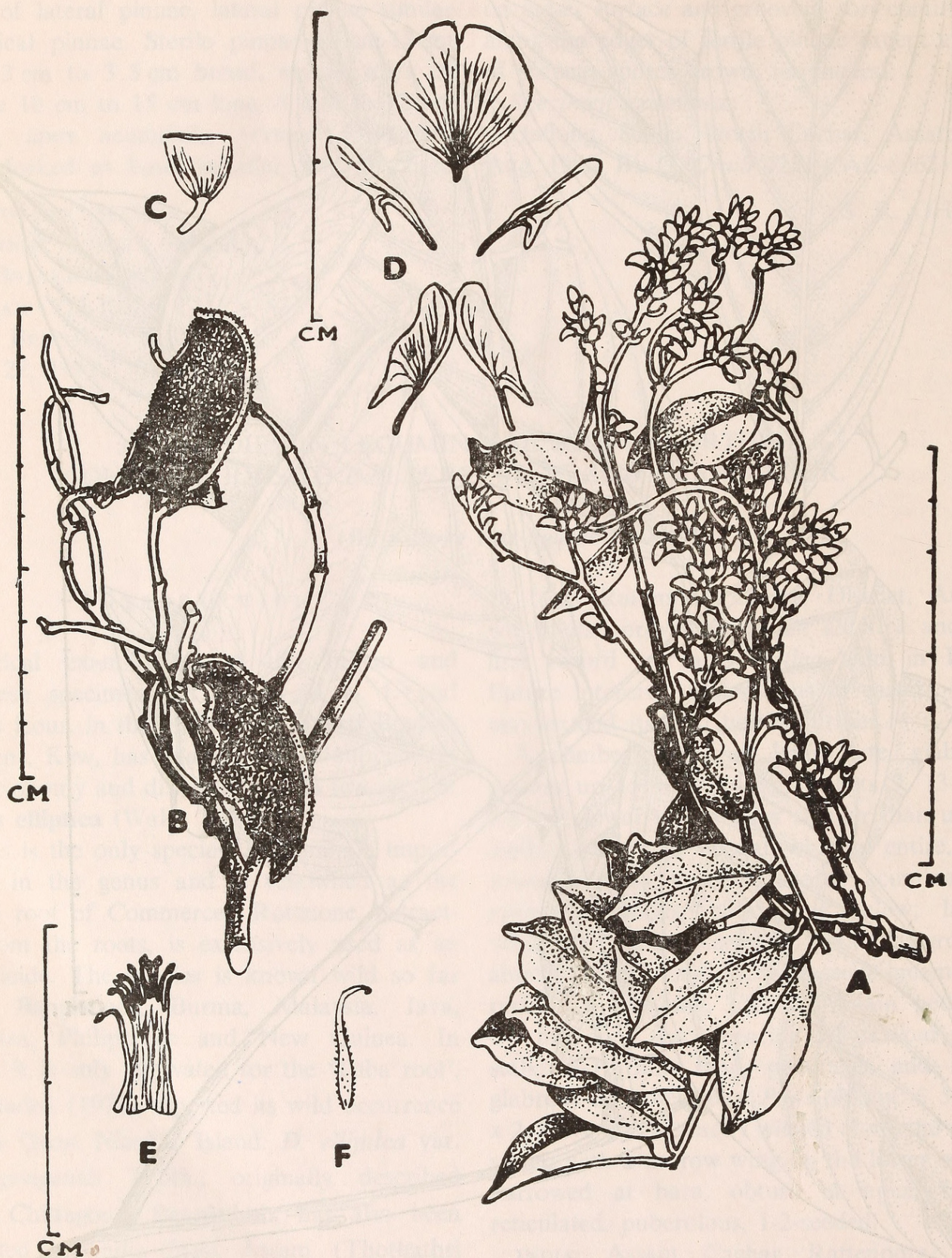


Fig. 2. *Derris benthamii* Thw. var. *wightii* (Baker) Thoth.
A. Habit with flowers. B. A twig with pods. C. Calyx-tube. D. Vexillum, wings and keels. E. Staminal column. F. Pistil.

Derris benthamii Thw. var. **wightii** (Baker) Thoth.

This variety has been known only from the fruits, with its floral characters undescribed. Recently a collection from Kalakkadu Forest, Tamil Nadu, by Oates has enabled me to furnish details of floral parts and an illustration (Fig. 2).

Inflorescence terminal and axillary panicles, up to 19 cm long, rachis and branches ferruginous. *Flowers* 7-8 mm long; bracts linear; bracteoles oblong, at the base of the calyx-cup; pedicels 2.0-2.5 mm long. *Calyx* campanulate, 2.5-2.8 mm, densely ferruginous without; mouth entire to faintly toothed. *Vexillum* obovate, 9-10 mm long, emarginate, shortly clawed, wholly glabrous within, silky pubescent without above; wings boat-shaped, 9-10 mm long, auricled below, clawed; keels narrowly oblong, 9-10 mm long, long-clawed, auricled below. *Stamens* 10, monadelphous, sheath 10-11 mm, vexillary filament free below and above, longer filaments alternating with shorter filaments. *Ovary* linear, 9-10 mm long, pubescent, 3-4-ovuled; style slender; stigma capitate; ovules 0.3 mm across.

INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Thirunelveli District, Kalakkadu Reserve Forest (Near Settlement of Kakachi), 1300 m, 1976, J. F. Oates 136 (K).

Dalbergia mimosoides Franch.

Originally described from China, *D. mimosoides* is known to occur in India also (Assam, Sikkim). A collection of this species from Burma by Kingdon-Ward constitutes a new record. The field notes read as follows: "A shrub, 25 feet in forests and on open sunny slopes. A scrambler with long and thick stems growing in thickets among which it finds support. The branches are also sensitive to contact and appear to grow in a curve forming a hook even without the stimulus of contact.

If they come in contact with a support they form real woody tendrils".

Scrambling shrubs, 8 m. Branches glabrous. *Infructescence* axillary and terminal, racemose. *Pods* oblong, 3.5-5.0 x 1.0-1.2 cm, yellowish, distinctly stalked, obtuse and mucronate at apex, glabrous, smooth (without reticulations), 1-2-seeded (Fig. 3).

BURMA: Tsangpo Gorge (Gerupa Le), 1500-1800 m, Dec. 1924, F. Kingdon-Ward 6375 (K).

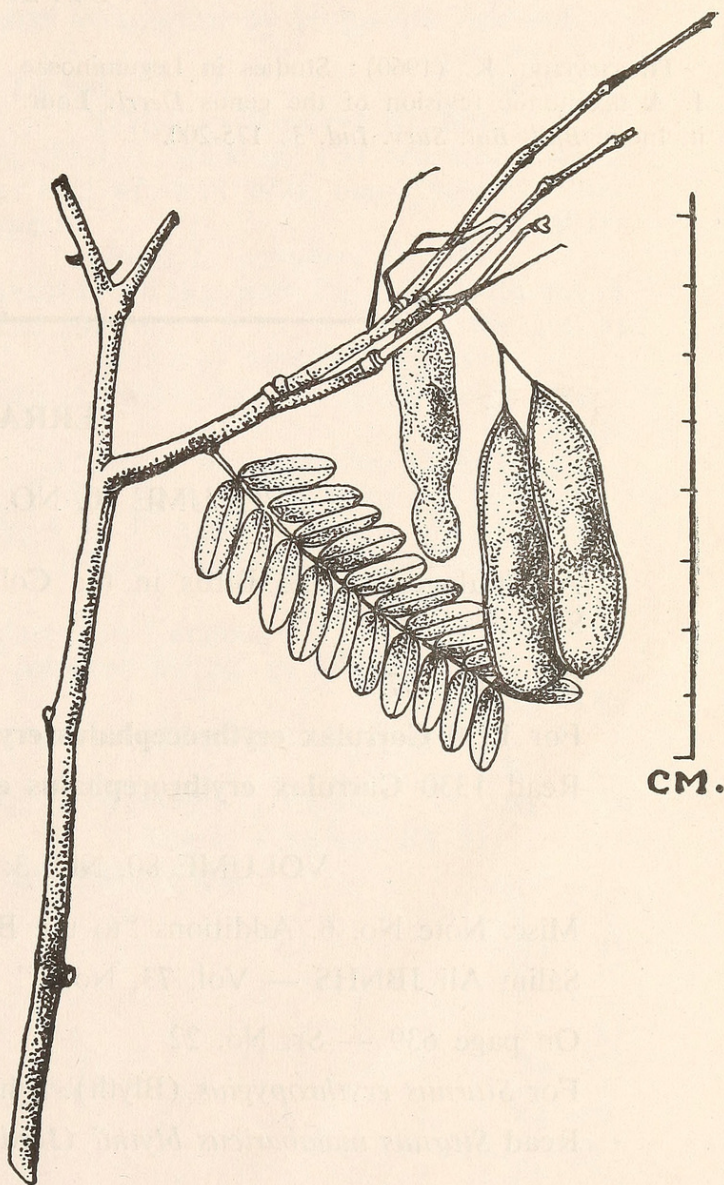


Fig. 3. *Dalbergia mimosoides* Franch. Fruiting branchlet.

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BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
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HOWRAH - 711 103 (W.B.),
August 11, 1982.

K. THOTHATHRI

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ERRATA

VOLUME 80, NO. 1: APRIL 1983

A Catalogue of the Birds in the Collection of Bombay Natural History Society — 27

On page 157,

For 1330 *Garrulax erythrocephalus erythrocephalus* (Hume)

Read 1330 *Garrulax erythrocephalus erythrolaema* (Hume)

VOLUME 80, NO. 3: DECEMBER 1983

Misc. Note No. 6. Additions "to the Birds of Goa by Robert B. Grubb & Sálim Ali JBNHS — Vol. 73, No. 1"

On page 639 — Sr. No. 22

For *Sturnus erythropygius* (Blyth). Whiteheaded Myna

Read *Sturnus malabaricus blythii* (Jerdon). Whiteheaded Myna



Thothathri, K. 1984. "STUDIES IN LEGUMINOSAE 30. FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO DALBERGIA AND DERRIS." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 81, 238–242.

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