

## 34. TWO LITTLE KNOWN FLOWERING PLANTS FROM MAHARASHTRA

(With a text-figure)

1. *Cassia dimidiata* (Buch.-Ham. ex Roxb.) Collett (Fig. 1)

Roxburgh originally described *Senna dimidiata* Buch.-Ham. ex Roxb. based on plants raised in Botanical garden at Calcutta, from the seeds sent to him by Buchanan-Hamilton from Nepal.

existing literature, we confirmed its identity as *Cassia dimidiata* (Roxb.) Collett.

It resembles *Cassia mimosoides* L. very closely in having small, circular, sessile gland between or just below the lowest pair of leaflets, but differs from *Cassia mimosoides* Linn. in the following characters —

<i>Cassia dimidiata</i>	<i>Cassia mimosoides</i>
1. Annual, erect, stems scarcely branched.	Perennial, stems several, spreading, procumbent or ascending.
2. Peduncle 1-1.2 mm long, densely hairy with standing spreading long hairs.	Peduncle 2-2.2 mm long, with few very short appressed hairs.
3. Pedicel not easily distinguishable from the peduncle, uniformly thickened throughout.	Pedicel distinguishable from the peduncle, pedicel stouter and more hairy than the peduncle.
4. Stamens 4, all of the same size, all fertile; filament slender.	Stamens 10, alternating, long and short; filament stout.
5. Stigma very prominent, large, circular, raised, pilose at the margin.	Stigma not very prominent, not pilose at the margin, not raised.

This species is allied to *Cassia mimosoides* Linn. and it was confused with that taxon in Herbarium materials deposited in Blatter Herbarium, as well as in some of the old literature. It was merged with *Cassia mimosoides* L. as variety *dimidiata* by J. G. Baker (in FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, Vol. 2, p. 266, 1878) and restored to specific rank in its appropriate genus *Cassia* by Henry Collett (in FLORA SIMLENSIS, p. 149, 1902). Collett's new combination has come from indirect reference to Roxburgh's *Senna dimidiata* because he cites only Baker in FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA. However, Baker's variety is based on Roxburgh's species and therefore we attribute the basionym to Roxburgh.

While going through *Cassia mimosoides* complex in Blatter Herbarium, we could isolate this taxon as a distinct material from the rest. On dissection of floral parts and studying the

We give below complete description of the species based on material available in Blatter Herbarium.

An erect, scarcely branched herb, 40-80 cm tall. Stem rounded, faintly striate, hairy. Leaves pinnate, 8-15 cm long, stipulate and glandular. Stipules 2, linear-lanceolate, 1-1.5 mm long, acuminate, terminating in an erect black spicule, 6-8 nerved from base, auricled and clinging to the stem at base, hairy. Rachis slender, 6-9 mm long, hairy all over. Common petiole short, 1-1.2 mm long, hairy; gland sessile, circular, one per leaf, just below the lowest pair of leaflets. Pinnules 20-40 pairs, opposite, sessile, oblong, 1-1.2 mm long, 0.2 mm broad, inequilateral, faintly serrate at margin, shortly mucronate at apex, 4-5 veined from base, with prominent mid vein. Flowers supra-axillary, often solitary, bracteate and pedicellate. Bracts 2-3, linear-lanceolate, 0.5-



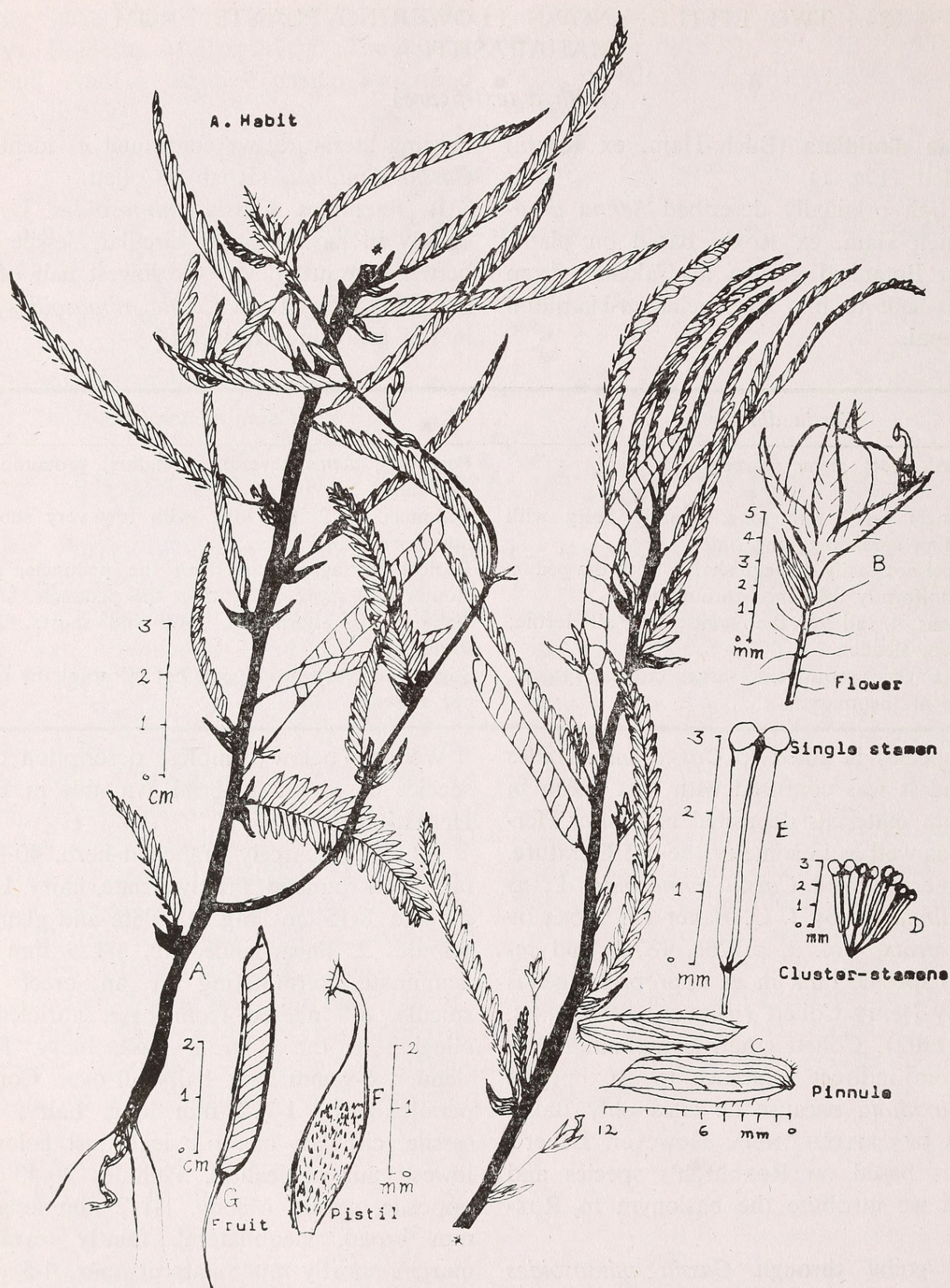


Fig. 1. *Cassia dimidiata* (Buch.-Ham. ex Roxb.) Collett  
A. Habit; B. Single flower; C. Pinnule; D. Cluster of Stamens; E. Single stamen;  
F. Pistil; G. Fruit.



0.8 mm long, 0.1 mm broad at base, narrowing to the apex, acuminate, ending in long spicule, 4-5 veined from base, hairy. Peduncle 1-1.2 mm long, slender, hairy all over with erect spreading hairs, arises from between the centre of the 2 linear-lanceolate bracts. Pedicel 0.1 mm long, hairy, with 2 bracteoles one on each side, lanceolate, 4-5 veined, acuminate, hairy. Sepals 4, linear-lanceolate, 2 mm long, acuminate, hairy outside. Petals 4, yellow, broadly ovate, rounded at apex, 6-8 nerved, narrowing to a short claw at the base, glabrous. Stamens 4, equal, all fertile; anthers oblong, stout, about 3 mm long, opening at the apex through 2 large, circular pores; filament short, slender, glabrous. Ovary flat, linear, 4-5 mm long, 1 mm broad, velvety hairy when young, thickened and hairy at both the sutures; style stout, slightly curved, 1.5-2 mm long, glabrous; stigma large, prominent, circular, raised, pilose at the margin. Fruit brown when mature, flat, compressed, not constricted, with faint compartments, thickened and hairy at both the sutures and base, 15-16 seeded, dehiscing by the sutures.

*Specimens examined:*

- H. Santapau — 4870, 4871, 4872, 4873, 4875  
(Khandala) (10-9-1944)  
(BLAT).
- „ — 7229 (Purandhar) (4-9-1948)  
(BLAT).
- „ — 11400, 11533 (Purandhar)  
(9-10-1950) (BLAT).

Incidentally, this species has not so far been reported from Maharashtra and constitutes a new record for the state.

2. ***Clitoria annua* Graham**

This species was originally described by John Graham in "Catalogue of the Plants growing in Bombay and its Vicinity" (P. 47, 1839). In the original description Graham only mentioned that it is a herbaceous annual species — common on Malabar Hill during the rains. Subsequent floristic works like Bombay Flora by N. A. Dalzell and J. Gibson (1861), J. D. Hooker's FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA Vol. 2 by J. G. Baker (1876) and FLORA OF PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY by T. Cooke (1902) do not mention the occurrence of this Plant. It is obvious that there was no specimen of this species at Kew for examination and therefore all these authors who have worked at the Kew herbarium have not included it in their respective works. However, they have included Dalzell's later described species *Clitoria biflora* Dalz. (Kew Jour. Bot. 2: 35, 1850), which has been described as "Stems suberect, angular, petioles very short, leaflets 5, flowers blue, 2-flowered, bracteoles large — In the Concan — Dalzell, Stocks.

There is only one erect herbaceous species of this genus found within the present boundaries of India and we are absolutely sure that the taxon described by John Graham (1839) and N. A. Dalzell (1861) is one and the same.

We have searched in the Malabar Hill area and located the typical specimen of herbaceous erect *Clitoria*. S. M. Almeida 5890 — (Malabar Hill), (25th July 1986), (BLAT). There are a number of herbarium specimens of this species collected earlier from the National Park, Borivli and deposited in BLAT which have been named as *Clitoria biflora* Dalz. (Herbert 2224-5, Tavakari — 1571-2).

We feel that John Graham's binomial and diagnostic description of the taxon are sufficient for the identification of the species.



According to Article No. 32.2 of ICBN, Dalzell's *Clitoria biflora* should be a synonym.

For complete description of the species see T. Cooke FLORA OF PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY (Vol. 1: 406, 1958).

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### 35. A NEW VARIETY OF *RUNGIA LATIOR* NEES (ACANTHACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA

(With two text-figures)

Critical studies on *Rungia latior* Nees — complex conducted both in the field and herbaria revealed that two varieties could be recognised in South India. Though there exists variation in flower size and width of the hyaline margin round the bracts in this species, the specimens collected from Anamalai hill ranges of Western Ghats do not fit within the circumscription of the typical *Rungia latior* Nees. Hence they are accommodated in a new variety. A key to the varieties, and illustrations for the new variety and some distinguishing characters of typical variety have been provided for easy comparison and identification.

***Rungia latior* Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 472. 1847.**

#### KEY TO THE VARIETIES OCCURRING IN SOUTH INDIA

Floral bracts 4.5-6 × 3-4 mm, orbicular-obovate, rounded at apex, ciliate only along the margins; bracteoles ± 5 × 3.5 mm, oblong-obovate, emarginate, obcordate or truncate at apex. (Fig. 2a-b) ..... var. *latior*

Floral bracts 8-9 × 2-3 mm, oblanceolate, acute at apex, ciliate without and along the margins; bracteoles ± 7 × 3 mm, elliptic-oblong, acute at apex ..... var. *anamalayana*

***Rungia latior* Nees var. *anamalayana* Chandrabose & Chandrasekaran, var. nov.**

(Fig. 1A-J)

*Rungiae latiori* Nees var. *latiori* affinis sed bracteis floralibus oblanceolatis, apicibus et bracteolis ellipticis — oblongis apicibus acutis differt.

Holotypus Chandrabose 65859 (CAL) et isotypi (5 exsic. MH) in silva conservata Akkamalai in collis anamalayanis ditone Coimbatore in statu Tamilnaduensi die 19 Feb. 1980 lecti sunt.

Allied to *R. latior* Nees var. *latior* but differs in having floral bracts oblanceolate, acute at apex; and bracteoles elliptic-oblong, acute at apex.

Erect or ascending herbs 0.2-1 m tall, rooting at lower nodes; branchlets pubescent. Leaves 1.5-11 × 0.7-4 cm, ovate, ovate-lanceo-





Almeida, M. R. and Almeida, S. M. 1987. "TWO LITTLE KNOWN FLOWERING PLANTS FROM MAHARASHTRA INDIA." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 84, 719–722.

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