NOTE

Knema andamanica (Warb.) W. J. de Wilde subsp. peninsularis W. J. de Wilde (Myristicaceae) and Ficus annulata Blume (Moraceae) – New Additions to the Flora of India

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ABSTRACT: Knema andamanica (Warb.) W. J. de Wilde subsp. peninsularis W. J. de Wilde and Ficus annulata Blume are reported here as new additions to the flora of India from Little Andaman Island. Detailed information on taxonomy, description, ecology, distribution, specimens, and illustrations are provided.

KEY WORDS: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ficus annulata, India, Knema andamanica, new addition.

INTRODUCTION

The volcanic nature, biological isolation, endemism and their evolutionary history and relatively less human population altogether contribute in making the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Indo-Burma and Sunda-shelf, the hottest hotspots of biodiversity (Myers et al., 2000; Rasingam and Parthasarathy, 2012). The Andaman and Nicobar Islands form an arched string of about 349 islands stretching from Myanmar in the north to Sumatra in south and is situated between 6° 45" to 13° 14" N latitudes and 92° 12" and 93° 51" E longitudes. Geographically these islands can be distinguished into two groups, the Andaman group and the Nicobar group separated by the 10 degree channel. The total area of these two groups of islands is 8,249 Sq km stretching over a distance of 700 km from North to South. In the entire archipelago, only 38 islands are inhabited, 11 in the Andaman group and the rest in the Nicobar group.

Little Andaman is the third largest Island of Andaman group covering an area of 733 Sq km, located in between 10° 30' to 10° 54' N latitude and 92° 30' E longitude (Vasudeva Rao, 1986; Mathew, 1998; Lakshminarasimhan and Rao, 1996; Pandey and Diwakar, 2008, Chaudhary et al., 2012). Knema andamanica (Warb.) W. J. de Wilde subsp. peninsularis W. J. de Wilde was earlier considered to be endemic to Thailand (de Wilde, 1979, 2002) and their present collection reveals their extend ed distribution in India. Ficus annulata Blume was earlier recorded from Myanmar, Indo-China, Yunnan, Thailand, Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Banka, Java, Borneo, Sulawesi, SW Philippines (King, 1887; Berg and Corner, 2005). An updated nomenclature, important synonyms, description, ecology, distribution and line drawings are provided for both species.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT


Fig. 1

A medium-sized evergreen tree, up to 8 m high
branchlets reddish-brown, minutely fissured, terete, glabrous. Leaves simple, alternate. Petioles dark brown, channelled above, 7–12 mm long, glabrous, lamina 12–23 × 3.5–7.5 cm, oblong to lanceolate, rounded or shortly attenuate at base, acute to acuminate at apex, entire along margins, coriaceous, pale brownish-green and glabrous above, pale and glaucous below, midrib slightly raised above, prominent below; lateral nerves slender, scalariform, finely visible on both sides. Inflorescences axillary, sessile or peduncled fascicles; peduncle c. 5 mm long, rusty pubescent. Male flowers 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent, c. 5 × 3.5 mm; pedicels slender, 4–7.5 mm long, rusty pubescent; bracteole minute, sub-apical, pubescent, 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent. Male flowers 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent, c. 5 × 3.5 mm; pedicels slender, 4–7.5 mm long, rusty pubescent; bracteole minute, sub-apical, pubescent, 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent. Male flowers 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent, c. 5 × 3.5 mm; pedicels slender, 4–7.5 mm long, rusty pubescent; bracteole minute, sub-apical, pubescent, 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent.

**Ecology:** Rare in inland evergreen and semi-evergreen forests from sea level to 100 m altitude growing along with Pometia pinnata J. R. Forst. & G. Forst., Myristica andamanica Hook. f., Drypetes longifolia (Blume) Pax & K. Hoffm., Dipterocarpus grandiflorus (Blanco) Blanco, D. kerrii King, Terminalia procera Roxb., Dillenica andamanica C. E. Parkinson and Artocarpus gomezianus Wall. ex Trecul.

**Distribution:** India: Little Andaman Island; Thailand.

**Flowering and Fruiting:** November–March.

**Notes:** *Knema andamanica* subsp. *peninsularis* differ from the other two subspecies of *Knema andamanica* by having 9 sub-sessile anthers. In *Knema andamanica* subsp. *andamanica* anthers are 6–7, half sessile. In *Knema andamanica* subsp. *peninsularis* anthers are 9, sub-sessile or very shortly stiped, free, suberect.

**Specimens examined:** INDIA: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Little Andaman Island, Vivekananthapur, 27 November 2006, L. Rasingam 25820 (PBL).


A medium sized evergreen tree up to 15 m high; epiphytic when young and semi-climbing; branchlets thick with many leaf scars. Leaves simple, alternate. Petioles very thick, channelled above, c. 3 cm long, glabrous; lamina 10–16 × 3–5 cm, oblong-elliptic to elliptically lanceolate, acute at base, acuminate at apex, entire along margins, coriaceous, glabrous on both sides with small circular galls; midrib flat above, prominent below; lateral nerves slender, scalariform, finely visible on both sides. Inflorescences axillary, sessile or peduncled fascicles; peduncle c. 5 mm long, rusty pubescent. Male flowers 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent, c. 5 × 3.5 mm; pedicels slender, 4–7.5 mm long, rusty pubescent; bracteole minute, sub-apical, pubescent, 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent. Male flowers 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent, c. 5 × 3.5 mm; pedicels slender, 4–7.5 mm long, rusty pubescent; bracteole minute, sub-apical, pubescent, 3–5 per peduncle, buds obovoid, densely rusty pubescent.
Fig. 2. *Ficus annulata* Blume. A: Fruiting twig.
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LITERATURE CITED


