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A new species of *Ecdysanthera* Hook. & Arn. (Apocynaceae) from Assam

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RÉSUMÉ

SRIVASTAVA, S. K. & B. N. MEHROTRA (1986). *Ecdysanthera* Hook. & Arn. (Apocynaceae), espèce nouvelle d'Assam. *Candollea* 41: 381-383. En anglais, résumé français.

Une nouvelle espèce d'Assam (Indes), est décrite et illustrées: *Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis* Srivastava & Mehrotra spec. nov. (Apocynaceae).

ABSTRACT

SRIVASTAVA, S. K. & B. N. MEHROTRA (1986). A new species of *Ecdysanthera* Hook. & Arn. (Apocynaceae) from Assam. *Candollea* 41: 381-383. In English, French abstract.

A new species *Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis* Srivastava & Mehrotra spec. nov. (Apocynaceae) from Assam, India, is described with illustrations.

During the botanical exploration of the forest areas of North Lakhimpur district in Assam, one of the authors (SKS) collected a few specimens later identified as *Ecdysanthera* Hook. & Arn. This genus is represented by 8-10 species distributed in Malayan region and China; only one species viz. *E. micrantha* A. DC. is known so far from Assam, Khasia and Cachar hills in India. Thorough study of the literature and herbaria of Botanical Survey of India, Shillong (Assam), National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (LWG) and also of CDRI, reveals that this taxon represents a hitherto unrecognized species.

Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis Srivastava & Mehrotra spec. nov. (Fig. 1).

Typus: India: Assam, North Lakhimpur, Dulung R. F., \pm 350 m, 24.4.1986, S. K. Srivastava 16105 (holo: CDRI; iso: CDRI).

Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis Srivastava & Mehrotra *E. micranthae* affinis. Sed differt foliis parvioribus, ovatis vel ovato-ellipticis, cum glandibus in axillis nervorum lateralium, floribus corollisque permajoribus, pistillisque bis longioribus.

Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis Srivastava & Mehrotra is allied to *E. micrantha* A. DC. but differs in having smaller leaves, ovate or ovate-elliptic, glands on the axil of the lateral nerves, flowers and corolla much larger, stamens sagittate, flattened, much longer, pistil twice long.

Large shrub, branches terete, young one flattened, channelled, glabrous. Leaves simple, opposite, estipulate, (sheathing cover on each node) 4.5-6.5 \times 1.6-2.3 cm, ovate or ovate-elliptic, acute or acuminate, base cuneate, entire, glabrous, membranous or somewhat chartaceous, midrib distinct on both the surfaces, lateral nerves 3-5 pairs, nearly inconspicuous; petioles 1-1.2 cm long, glabrous.

Cymes axillary or terminal, minutely pubescent, trichotomous, 4-7 \times 3-4 cm, bracts 1 mm long, ovate, acute, glabrous. Flowers 5 \times 2 mm, pedunculate, hermaphrodite, peduncle 1.5-2.8 cm long, pedicels 2 mm long, minutely pubescent, bracteoles triangular, 1-1.5 mm long. Calyx

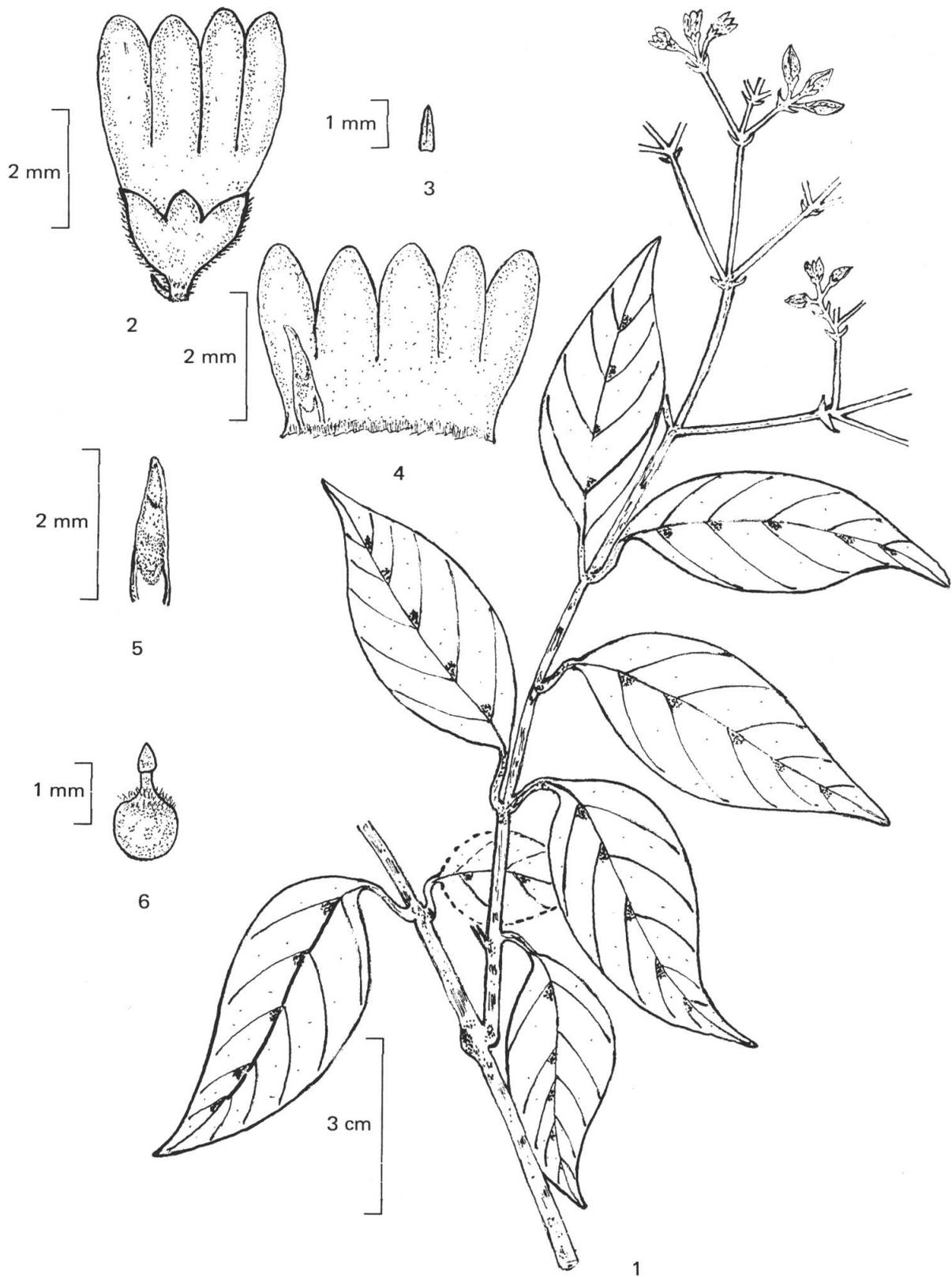


Fig. 1. — *Ecdysanthera lakhimpurensis* Srivastava & Mehrotra.
1, habit; 2, flower; 3, bract; 4, corolla (cut open); 5, stamen; 6, pistil.

5-lobed, sepals 1.5 mm long, ovate, acute, glabrous, jointed each other at half of the length. Corolla membranous 5-lobed, jointed each other at $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length from the apex somewhat rounded. Stamens 5, epipetalous, nearly 2 mm long, attached nearly at the base of the petal lobe, filament short, anther sagittate, spur long. Pistil 2-2.5 mm long, ovary superior, rounded, nearly 1.5 mm in diam., minutely pubescent at the top, style nearly 1 mm long, stigma simple conical. Fruit not seen.

Flowering. — March-April.

Ecology. — Plant is found growing on the slopes along the dry rocky rivers in moist climatic condition.

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