

Grewia indandamanica Ellis & Ray : a new species from Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, India

Autor(en): **Ellis, J.L. / Ray, L.N.**

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Grewia indandamanica Ellis & Ray — a new species from Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, India

J. L. ELLIS
&
L. N. RAY

ABSTRACT

ELLIS, J. L. & L. N. RAY (1991). *Grewia indandamanica* Ellis & Ray — a new species from Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, India. *Candollea* 46: 341-343. In English, English and French abstracts.

A new species, *Grewia indandamanica*, has been described from Saddle Peak in North Andaman Islands, Andaman Islands.

RÉSUMÉ

ELLIS, J. L. & L. N. RAY (1991). *Grewia indandamanica* Ellis & Ray — espèce nouvelle des Iles Andaman, Golfe du Bengale, Indes. *Candollea* 46: 341-343. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Une espèce nouvelle, *Grewia indandamanica*, est décrite de Saddle Peak, Ile Andaman Nord, Iles Andaman.

Airy Shaw (Willis, Dict. Fl. Plants, 1973) has given 150 species of *Grewia* L. as occurring in Africa, Asia and Australia, especially in the tropical belt. Masters (in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 383-393, 1872) has accounted for 36 species and varieties from India and surrounding areas. Parkinson (For. Fl. Andaman Is., pp. 104-105, 1923) records three species from the Andaman Islands. He gives doubtfully another plant saying that it is a plant from a mountainous region in Middle Andaman, "...with leaves 1-1.5 in. long, elliptic, crenate-serrate and flowers in the leaf axils".

The presently described species has been collected from Saddle Peak — the highest peak in these Bay of Bengal islands (726 m msl.). This region supports a stunted, evergreen-type of forest which may be called Hill-top Forest. The close proximity of the Andaman and Nicobar groups of islands with Equator and the direct influence of both south-west monsoon and north-east monsoon and high humidity have contributed very significantly to the development of humid tropics in these islands. The resultant diversity in the types of vegetation is mainly owing to the influence of all these factors in addition to edaphic factors and availability of ground water. The Saddle Peak again is affected by the altitudinal gradation, in addition to the solar insolation and wind velocity. As the peak is commonly covered by thick clouds, the variation in temperature from the surrounding areas is very marked, thus encouraging plant diversity. This is very much evident by the climbing bamboo, *Dionochloa andamanica* Kurz, making an impenetrable thicket on the Saddle Peak, amidst which some plants typical of arid zone occur like *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb., *Rostellularia procumbens* (L.) Nees, etc.

***Grewia indandamanica* Ellis & Ray, spec. nov. (Fig. 1).**

Holotypus *Ellis ANC 12775-A* (Saddle Peak, Andaman borealis, die 18.10.1987), positus in CAL, **Isotypi** *Ellis ANC 12775 B-D* positi in PBL.

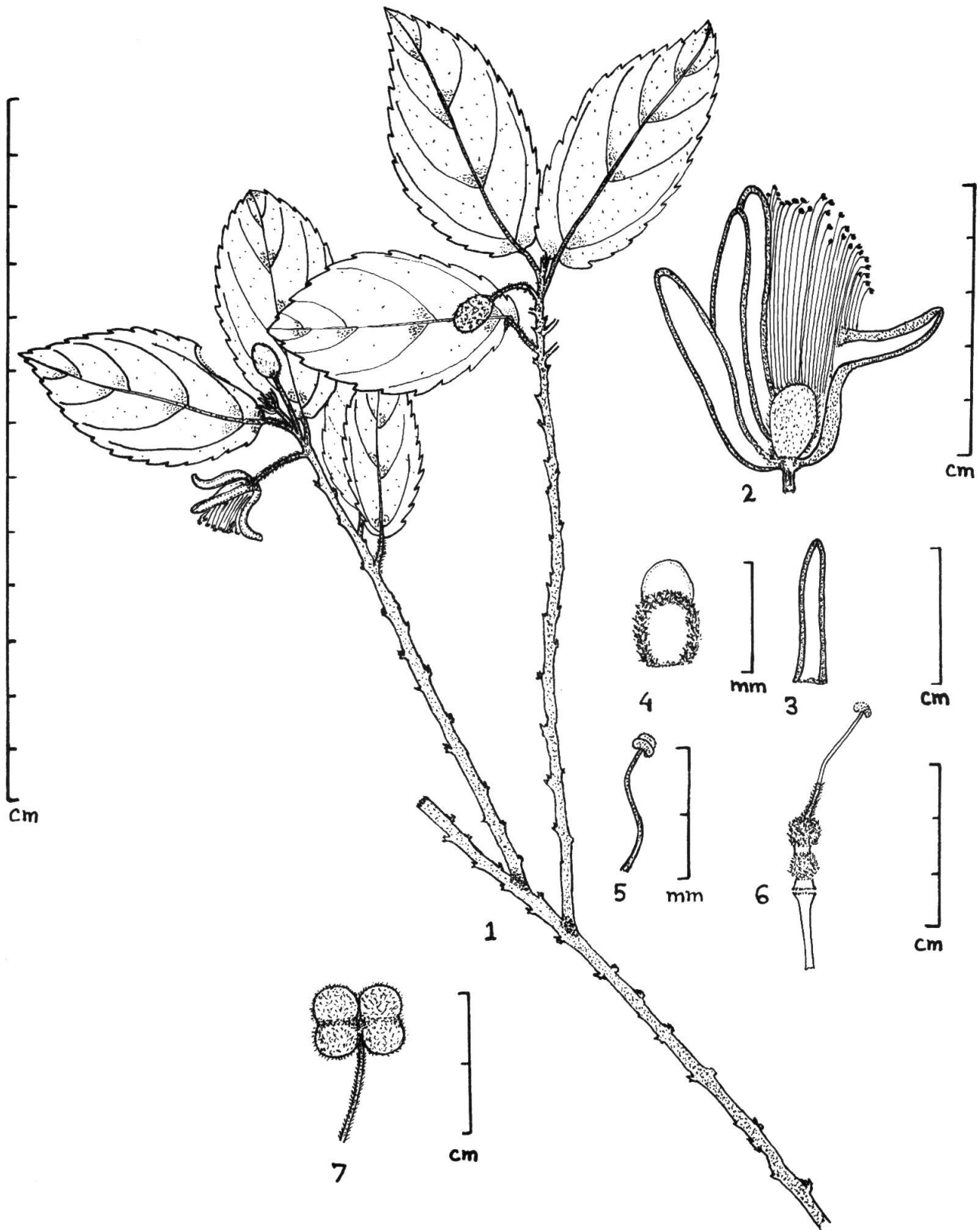


Fig. 1. — *Grewia indandamanica* Ellis & Ray
1, habit sketch; 2, flower with a sepal removed; 3, sepal; 4, petal showing the gland; 5, stamen; 6, ovary; 7, capsule.

G. laevigatae Vahl affinis, sed differt, (i) floribus solitariis, (ii) pedicellis pedunculisque brevioribus, (iii) foliis elliptic-ovatis, parum acuminatis, basi rotundatis ad parum cordatis, non attenuatis, perparvioribus, ad marginem crenato-serratis; stipulis perparvioribus, et (iv) fructibus sparsim puberulis, laviter angulatis, sulcatis.

Allied to *Grewia laevigata* Vahl, but differs from it in having — (i) flowers single, (ii) pedicels and peduncles much shorter; (iii) leaves elliptic-ovate, slightly acuminate, and at base rounded to slightly cordate and not attenuate, much smaller, margin crenate-serrate; stipules much smaller, and (iv) fruits sparsely puberulous, faintly angled, grooved.

Frutex fruticulosusve ramosus, usque ad 1 m altus, rami ravid, junioros sparsim stellate-pilosi, cortex rogosa. Folia usque ad 7.0×2.8 cm, ovato-elliptica, breviter acuminata, ad basin rotundata et cordata, crenato-serrata, chartacea ad parum coriacea; nervi laterales 5, arcuati, reticulationes saepe parallelae, nervi nervulisque prominenti in superficiebambabus; petiolus fuscatus, 0.5 cm longus, junior pubescens; stipuli 0.1 cm longi. Flores lutei, 1 cm longi, solitarii axillares, alabastra 0.5 cm longa laeviter stellate tomentosa; pedicelli usque ad 0.9 cm longi, sparsim puberuli; pedunculi usque ad 1 cm longi, ad medium articulati et parum incrassati; bracteae 0.2 cm longae, bracteolae 0.1 cm longae; sepala 1.0×0.15 cm, lineari-ovata, spathulate, cucullata, ad basin obtusa ad truncata, extus puberula, intus brunnea glabraque, ad marginem incurva, stellate-tomentosa; petala 0.25×0.1 cm, ovato-oblonga, integra, extus glabra, intus dense pubescentia secus marginem, usque ad $3/4$ longitudinis et glandem cingens, gland plus quam $1/3$ petali, glabra; stamina numerosa, filamenta 0.6 cm longa, filiformia, glabra, anthera innata, reniformis; torus 0.2 cm longus, dimidium inferius glabrus et dimidium superius dense stellate-pubescent; ovarium globosum, dense pubescens, 4-loculare, ovule in quoque loculo solitario, stylus 0.6 cm longus, gracilis, puberulescens basi usque ad $2/3$ longitudinis, sursum glaber, stigma parum expansum, 4-angulatum. Drupa nigra, 1 cm diam., bilobata, plerumque inaequaliter bilobata, globosa vel parum complanata vel angulata, rugosa, sparsim pilosa, lignosa; semen unicum in quoque loculo, glabrum.

A much-branched shrub or an undershrub, up to 1 m high; branches greyish, sparsely stellate-hairy when young, bark wrinkled. Leaves up to 7.0×2.8 cm, ovate-elliptic, shortly acuminate, rounded and cordate at base, crenate-serrate, chartaceous to slightly coriaceous; lateral nerves 5, arcuate, reticulations often parallel, nerves and nervules prominent on both the surfaces; petiole darkish in colour, 0.5 cm long, pubescent when young; stipules 0.1 cm long; flowers yellow, 1 cm long, solitary, axillary, flowering buds 0.5 cm long, faintly stellate-tomentose; pedicels up to 0.9 cm long, sparsely puberulous; peduncles up to 1 cm long, jointed in the middle and slightly thickened; bracts 0.2 cm long; bracteoles 0.1 cm long; sepals 1.0×0.15 cm, linear-ovate, spathulate, cucullate, obtuse to truncate at base, puberulous without, brown and glabrous within, margins incurved, stellate-tomentose; petals 0.25×0.1 cm, ovate-oblong, entire, glabrous without, densely pubescent along margin up to $3/4$ th the length and in a circle round the gland within, gland more than $1/3$ rd the petal, glabrous; stamens numerous, filaments 0.6 cm long, filiform, glabrous, anthers innate, reniform; torus 0.2 cm long, lower half glabrous and upper half densely stellate pubescent; ovary globose, densely pubescent, 4-celled with 1 ovule in each, style 0.6 cm long, slender, puberulous from base up to $2/3$ rd the length, glabrous above, stigma slightly expanded and 4-angled. Drupe black, 1 cm across, bilobed, generally unequally so, globose or slightly flattened or angled, wrinkled, sparsely hairy, woody; seed one in each locule, glabrous.

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