



# *Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Sapindaceae) – A new record for India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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## Abstract

*Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Radlk.) Leenh. is reported as new record to the Flora of India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A brief description with illustration and photographs is provided for easy identification.

**Keywords:** Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, *Lepisanthes ferruginea*, New Report, Sapindaceae

## Introduction

*Lepisanthes* Blume is a widespread genus in the family Sapindaceae comprising about 24 species (Leenhouts, 1969) and distributed from Africa, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, India, China through Malesia to New Guinea and north-western Australia (Leenhouts, 1969; van Welzen, 1999). The genus is represented by five species in India (Pant, 2000), of which four species are reported from Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far (Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Murugan *et al.*, 2016).

During floristic explorations in Nicobar group of islands, a few specimens belonging to the genus *Lepisanthes* were collected from Great Nicobar Island. On critical study, the specimens were identified as *Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Radlk.) Leenh. A thorough scrutiny of literature (Hiern, 1872; Sinha, 1999; Pant, 2000; Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Murugan *et al.*, 2016.) revealed that this species was hitherto unrecorded from Andaman and Nicobar Islands and mainland India. Hence the present report forms an addition to the Flora of India. A brief description along with illustration and photographs (Figs. 1, 2) is provided to facilitate easy recognition of this species in the field.

***Lepisanthes ferruginea*** (Radlk.) Leenh., *Blumea* 17: 69. 1969; Leenh. in Adema *et al.*, *Fl. Males.*, Ser. I, 11(3): 634. 1994; Welzen in T. Santisuk & K. Larsen, *Fl. Thailand* 7(1): 213. 1999. *Hebecoccus ferrugineus* Radlk., *Sitzungsber. Math.-Phys. Cl. Konigl. Bayer. Akad. Wiss. Munchen* 8: 301. 1878; Backer & Bakh.f., *Fl. Java* 2: 134. 1965. **Figs. 1, 2**

Tree, to 15 m high; branchlets terete, greyish to yellowish brown, minutely hairy when young. Leaves paripinnate, alternate, 2 or 3-jugate; leaflets

opposite to subopposite, oblong-ovate to oblong to lanceolate, 10–25 × 4–9 cm, base obtuse to acute, apex acute to acuminate, chartaceous, glabrous on both surfaces; midrib and lateral veins prominent, 8–10 pairs; petioles swollen at base, c. 5 cm long. Inflorescence terminal and upper axillary, c. 35 cm long, ferruginous to fulvous-velvety, glabrescent. Flowers c. 6 × 5 mm. Sepals 5, free, green, fulvous-sericeous outside, glabrous inside, margins glandular-ciliolate; outer sepals 2, oblong-ovate, c. 3 × 1.5 mm; inner sepals 3, broadly obovate, c. 3.5 × 2.5 mm. Petals 5, obovate-cuneate, slightly clawed, c. 3.5 × 2 mm, basal half densely appressed long-hairy, margins except for the upper part ciliate, white; scale erect, slightly more than half as long as the petal, laterally partly adnate to the margins, free part deltoid to bilobed, densely ciliate; disk glabrous. Stamens slightly exserted; filaments c. 2.5 mm long, densely long-hairy; anthers ovate, apiculate. Ovary c. 1.5 mm long; style conical, c. 1 mm long; stigma faintly 3-lobed. Fruits globular, c. 2.5 cm, slightly 3-lobed, mostly only one lobe developed, densely ferruginous-velvety, orange to brown.

*Flowering & fruiting:* November–February.

*Habitat:* Rare in inland evergreen forests growing at an elevation of 10–15 m.

*Distribution:* Peninsular Malaysia, Indonesia (Java and Sumatra), Thailand and now in India.

*Specimen examined:* INDIA, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands:** Great Nicobar Island, NS Road, 3–4 km, 16.12.2011, Joju P. Alappatt 395 (PBL).

*Note:* *Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Radlk.) Leenh. shows some similarity with *L. tetraphylla* (Vahl) Radlk. however, from which it is differentiated by the

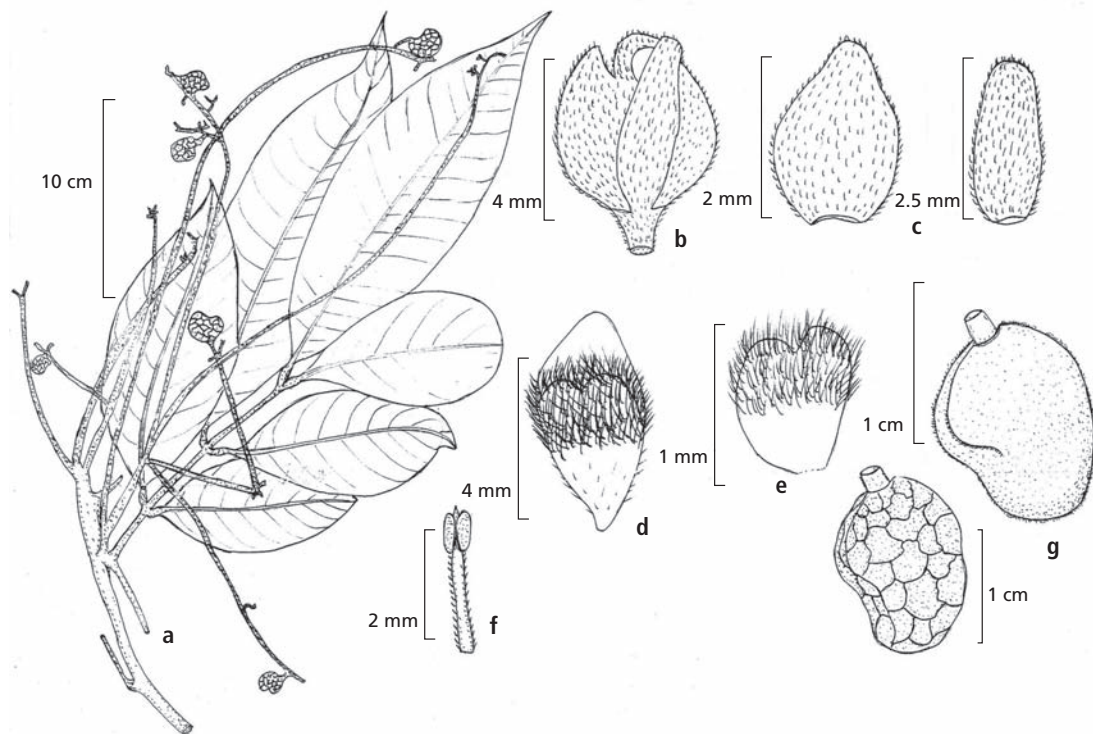


Fig. 1. *Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Radlk.) Leenh.: a. Fruiting-branch; b. Flower (male); c. Sepal (inner and outer); d. Petal; e. Petal scale; f. Stamen; g. Young fruit (fresh and dried) (Joju P. Alappatt 395, PBL).



Fig. 2. *Lepisanthes ferruginea* (Radlk.) Leenh.: a. Fruiting-branch; b. Leaf; c. Flower (spirited); d. Fruits; e. Single fruit (young) enlarged; f. Dried fruit (young).

large terminal and upper axillary inflorescence and fruits with the pericarp more or less strongly wrinkled when dry.

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