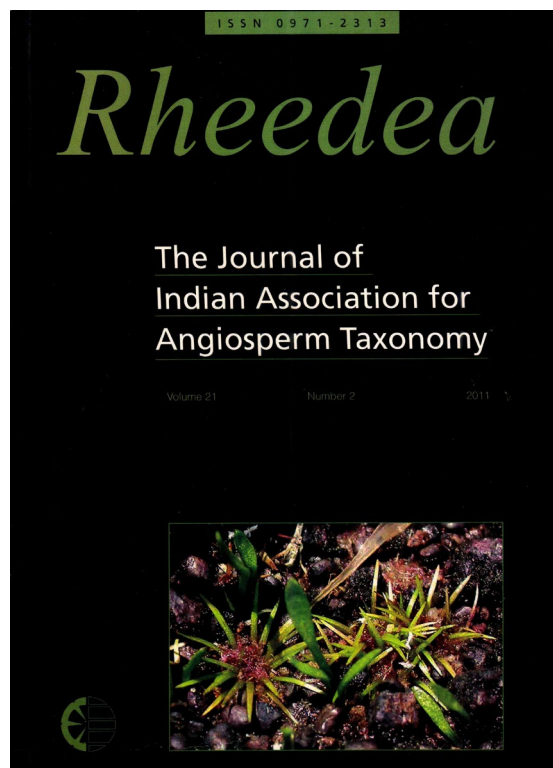




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A review of the genus *Thottea* (Aristolochiaceae) from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including a new record for India

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Abstract

A taxonomic account of the genus *Thottea* Rottb. from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands along with a new record for India is presented. Of the three species recorded from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, *T. tomentosa* (Blume) Ding Hou is widely distributed, *T. paucifida* Ding Hou is confined to Rutland of South Andaman and *T. celebica* Ding Hou is reported here as a new record for India.

Keywords: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Aristolochiaceae, India, *Thottea*

Introduction

The genus *Thottea* Rottb. consists of c. 35 species, distributed in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Hainan, China and Malesia (Ding Hou, 1984; Mabberley, 2008). Twelve species are reported from India (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2009) of which two are reported to occur from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

During the botanical explorations in the Little Nicobar Tribal Reserve, the author has collected a specimen of *Thottea* and after critical studies and perusal of literature (Ding Hou, 1981, 1984; Rao, 1986; Mathew, 1998; Sinha, 1999; Sumathi *et al.*, 2004; Pandey & Diwakar, 2008), it has been identified and confirmed as *T. celebica* Ding Hou. So far, it is not reported from India and hence the present report from the Bay Islands forms a new distributional record for the country. Description, illustration, photographs and relevant notes are provided here.

Key to the species

1. Leaves elliptic-ovate or suborbicular; stamens 1-whorled **T. tomentosa**
1. Leaves elliptic-oblong; stamens 2-whorled..... 2
2. Leaves obtusely acute at apex, sparsely villous on both sides; stamens 3 in upper whorl, 9 in lower; style 2- or 3-lobed **T. paucifida**

2. Leaves acuminate at apex, sparsely pubescent beneath; stamens 12 – 15 in upper whorl, 10 – 12 in lower; style 12-lobed **T. celebica**

Thottea celebica Ding Hou, Blumea 27: 318, ff. 21, 22, 70A. 1981 & in Steenis & de Wilde, Fl. Malesiana Ser. I, 10: 78, ff. 7a – e. 1989. **Fig. 1, 2**

Undershrubs, erect, to 75 cm high; branchlets obscurely striated, pubescent. Leaves alternate, elliptic-oblong or obovate, 15 – 25 × 7 – 10 cm, rounded at base, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, chartaceous-coriaceous, glabrous above, sparsely pubescent below; basal nerves 2 pairs; inner prominent; outer one much weaker; lateral veins 8 – 10 pairs, prominent below; veins parallel-reticulate; petioles c. 5 mm long, thick, puberulous. Inflorescence lateral or at stem base, simple, spiciform, to 6 cm long, puberulous; peduncles c. 5 mm long. Flowers bisexual, actinomorphic, c. 3 cm across, dark purple; bracts elliptic-lanceolate, c. 10 × 0.3 mm, rounded at base, acute at apex, puberulous, sometimes 2-lobed. Perianth c. 3 cm across, densely hirsute, glabrescent at maturity, distinctly nerved above, obscurely so below, dark purple; tube cupular, c. 8 mm across; lower half contracted towards base; lobes semi-orbicular, c. 1 cm across, sub-rotund or slightly apiculate at apex. Stamens 2-whorled; filaments 1 – 2 mm long, glabrous; anthers

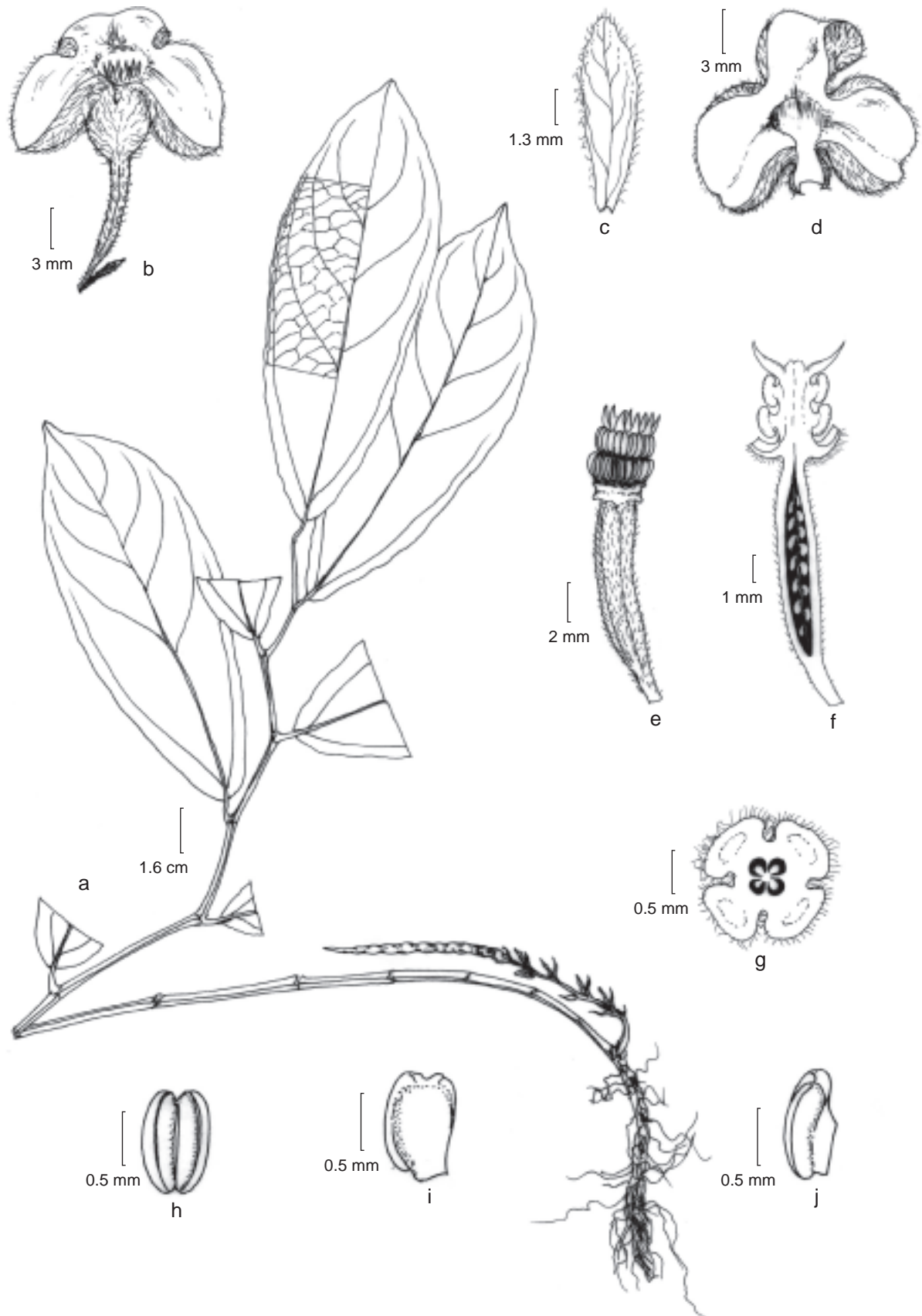


Fig. 1. *Thottea celebica* Ding Hou. a. Habit; b. Flower; c. Bract; d. Perianth (split open); e & f. Pistil with androecium (entire & L.S.); g. Ovary (C.S.); h – j. Stamen (Dorsal, Ventral and Side views).



Fig. 2. *Thottea celebica* Ding Hou: a. Habit; b. Flowers (close up)

1 – 1.5 mm long. Ovary inferior, 4-angular, c. 1.5 cm long, pubescent, 4-loculed; ovules many in each locule, pendulous; style column c. 1 mm long; lobes c. 12, erect, c. 2 mm long. Capsules 4-angular, twisted, c. 4 cm long, sparsely puberulous.

Flowering & Fruiting: April – October.

Habitat: Along streams, under shade. Occasional.

Distribution: India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and Malesia.

Specimens examined: INDIA, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, Little Nicobar Island, Pulopanja, 30 m, 31.10.2009, C. Murugan 27807; Pulopanja, 10 m, 12.4.2010, C. Murugan 28119; Enfork, 50 m, 13.4.2010, C. Murugan 28151; Rengkuhn, 21 m, 9.4.2011, C. Murugan 28346; Rehua, 8 m, 10.4.2011, C. Murugan 28358 (PBL).

Thottea paucifida Ding Hou, *Blumea* 27: 324, ff. 23, 24, 71. 1981 & in Steenis & W.J. de Wilde, *Fl. Malesiana Ser. I*, 10: 73, f. 5. 1984; Sumathi *et al.*, *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.* 101: 196, f. 1. 2004.

Flowering & Fruiting: April – October.

Habitat: Near moist habitats in inland forests.

Distribution: India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and Malesia.

Specimen examined: INDIA, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, South Andaman, Rutland Island, 19.7.1986, J.L. Ellis 12305 (PBL).

Thottea tomentosa (Blume) Ding Hou, *Blumea* 27: 328, ff. 48 – 49. 1981 & in Steenis & de Wilde, *Fl. Malesiana Ser. I*, 10: 79. 1984; Sinha in Hajra & Rao, *Fl. Great Nicobar Isl.*: 357. 1999. *Ceramium tomentosum* Blume, *Bijdr.*: 1135. 1826 – 1827.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Habitat: Under shady places in Inland forests. Common.

Distribution: India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam and Manipur), Bangladesh, Malesia, Myanmar, Peninsular Thailand and South Vietnam.

Specimens examined: INDIA, **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, North Andaman, Saddle Peak, 24.7.2011, R. Sumathi 17395; South Andaman, Jirkatang III, 17.6.1978, N.P. Balakrishnan & N.G. Nair 6967; South Nicobar, Little Nicobar, Anula, 5 m, 14.4.2010, C. Murugan 28169; Pulomilo, 100 m, 23.3.2009, C. Murugan 26821; Pulopatia, 10 m, 27.3.2009, C. Murugan 26899; Pulo-patia to Pulo Panja, 154 m, 24.10.2009, C. Murugan 27709 (PBL).

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