

NOTES ON TROPICAL ASIAN ASCLEPIADACEAE

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SUMMARY

Three new combinations in the genus *Bidaria* are made and a new variety, *Gymnema acuminatum* (Roxb.) Wall. var. *glabrum* Rahman & Wilcock is described from Bangladesh and Burma.

***Bidaria montana* (Roxb.) Rahman & Wilcock, comb. nov.**

Asclepias montana Roxb., Fl. Ind. ed. 2, 2 (1832) 45. — *Gymnema montanum* (Roxb.) Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4 (1883) 31; T. Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2 (1904) 161; Santapau & Irani, Bot. Mem. Univ. Bombay 4 (1962) 48. — T y p e: India, mountainous tracts, *Roxburgh s.n.* (n.v.).

Distribution. India (W. Peninsula).

Note. The genus *Bidaria* (Endl.) Decne. [DC., Prod. 8 (1844) 623] is closely related to *Gymnema* and Hooker f. in his Fl. Brit. India 4 (1883) 31 included *Bidaria* in it. H. Huber in Abeywick., Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 1 (1973) 47, reinstated this genus and clearly pointed out the generic distinctions. *Bidaria* can easily be distinguished from *Gymnema* by its solitary umbel-like cymes at the nodes, bifarious pubescence of the internodes, salver-shaped corolla and reduced coronal scales on the corolla-tube. An examination of *Gymnema montanum* (Roxb.) Hook. f. shows that it should be referred to *Bidaria*. The genus *Bidaria* (Endl.) Decne. is formed by about 10 species represented in Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand and Malesia.

REPRESENTATIVE MATERIAL. India: Central Province, *Haines 3386* (K); Bombay, *Herb. Dalzell s.n.* (K); Mussoee, *Janieson 453* (K); Concane, *Law s.n.* (K).

***Bidaria indica* Rahman & Wilcock, nom. et stat. nov.**

Gymnema montanum (Roxb.) Hook. f. var. *beddomei* Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4 (1883) 32. — T y p e: India, Anamallay (Anaimalai) hills, alt. 5000 ft., *Beddome 278* (K).

Petiole 1–1.5 cm long, puberulous. *Leaf-blade* 5–7 cm long, 1–2 cm wide, oblong-lanceolate, almost rounded at the base, slightly acuminate at the apex, tip

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obtuse, glabrous on both surfaces. *Cymes* pubescent, few-flowered, much shorter than leaves. Both peduncle and pedicels less than 1 cm. Bracts 4×2 mm, oblong, glabrous, margin ciliate. *Calyx-lobes* 5×2 mm, lanceolate, tip rounded, margin ciliate, densely pubescent externally. *Corolla* yellow, campanulate, outer surface covered with adpressed hairs, 5–7 mm long, the lobes about as long as the tube, ovate-oblong, tip rounded. *Corona* reduced, single, double ridges adnate to the corolla-tube, alternating with its lobes, the ridges not protruding beyond the mouth of the corolla-tube. Gynostegium about 2 mm long. *Pollinia* erect, oblong, c. 1015 μm long and 350 μm wide. *Corpusculum* about 632 μm long and 300 μm wide.

Distribution. Endemic in India.

Note. Hooker f. in Fl. Brit. India 4 (1883) 32 cites Beddome's specimen from Anaimalai hills as a variety of *Gymnema montanum* with a glabrous corolla. However, a critical examination of the type shows that the corolla is pubescent externally. Furthermore, in its generic characters it should be referred to *Bidaria* rather than to *Gymnema*. The entirely different leaves, small cymes, larger flowers and pubescent calyx and corolla are sufficiently distinctive characters to separate this taxon from *Bidaria montana* (= *G. montanum*) and it should be given specific status.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED. India: Anamallay (Anaimalai) hills, *Wynand 45* (BM).

Bidaria lacei (Craib) Rahman & Wilcock, *comb. nov.*

Gymnema lacei Craib, Kew Bull. (1911) 191. — **T y p e:** Upper Burma, Katha, Kudu, June 1908, *Lace 4297* (E).

Note. An examination of Craib's type shows that his species should be referred to *Bidaria* rather than *Gymnema*.

Gymnema acuminatum (Roxb.) Wall., Tent. Fl. Nepal 2 (1826) 50.

var. glabrum Rahman & Wilcock, *var. nov.*

Lamina 10×5 cm, glabra superne et infra, pubescens solum in costis, nervis et marginibus. Petiolus usque ad 1,5 cm. Cymae paucis floribus, pedunculus usque ad 1,5 cm. — **T y p u s:** Bangladesh, Cox's Bazar Dist., Malumghat near Fashiakhali Forest Office, 20.8.1987, *M. A. Rahman & M. Hossain 45* (L, holo; ABD, BM, DACB, K, iso).

Lamina 10×5 cm, glabrous on both surfaces, pubescent only on midribs, nerves and margins. Petiole up to 1.5 cm. Cymes few-flowered, peduncle up to 1.5 cm.

Distribution. Bangladesh and Burma.

Note. This new variety can easily be separated from the type variety by its glabrous leaf surfaces.

REPRESENTATIVE MATERIAL. Bangladesh: Sylhet Dist., Jaflong-Tamabil hills, 17.9.1987, *M. A. Rahman & M. Hossain 55* (ABD, BM, DACB, E); Sylhet Dist., station not attached, *Wall. Asclep. no. 65*, not 65e (E). — Burma: Tavoy, *Wall. Asclep. no. 69* (Cat. no. 8187D) (E, K–W); Moulmyne, *Wall. Cat. no. 8187 E* (K–W).

KEY TO THE VARIETIES OF GYMNEMA ACUMINATUM

Leaves densely tomentose beneath; lamina up to 15 cm long and 7.5 cm wide.

Cymes many-flowered, compact var. **acuminatum**

Leaves glabrous on both surfaces, pubescent only on midribs, nerves and margins;

lamina up to 10 cm long and 5 cm wide. Cymes few-flowered, lax

var. **glabrum**

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