

A NEW SPECIES OF *ILLIGERA* BLUME (HERNANDIACEAE) FROM INDIA

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A new species of *Illigera* Blume is described here with illustration. A diagnostic key to the species of *Illigera* Bl. in India is appended here for easy identification.

Illigera gammiei Nayar et Giri, sp. nov.

Affinis *I. khasiana*, sed fructis prominente tetra-alatis, foliis coriaceis, foliorum laminis base profunde cordatis, imbricatisque differt.

Large woody climber, stem hollow, longitudinally striate, bark greyish, glabrous or minutely brownish pubescent in the younger parts. Leaves palmately trifoliate, ovate, (8.0-) 10.0-14.0 (-15.5) × (4.0-) 5.0-6.5 (-7.2) cm, apex acute to acuminate, sometimes apiculate; base usually deeply cordate and sides of the lamina overlapping at the base, rarely subcordate; margin entire, distinctly revolute; 6-8 pairs of nerves arising from the midrib, nerves raised on the lower surface, reticulation prominent; upper surface glabrous, smooth and shiny, lower surface glabrous except for tuft of long, crisped, yellow hairs in the nerve axils, thick coriaceous, upper surface turns dull green to greenish-grey and lower surface becomes grey to greyish-brown on drying; petioles strong, usually remain straight, or upper part sometimes bending, 6-10 cm long, glabrous, longitudinally striate; petiolules (10-) 13-18(-28) mm long, strong, straight or curved, glabrous. Infructescens, axillary or terminal, lax cymose panicle, rachis and peduncle re-

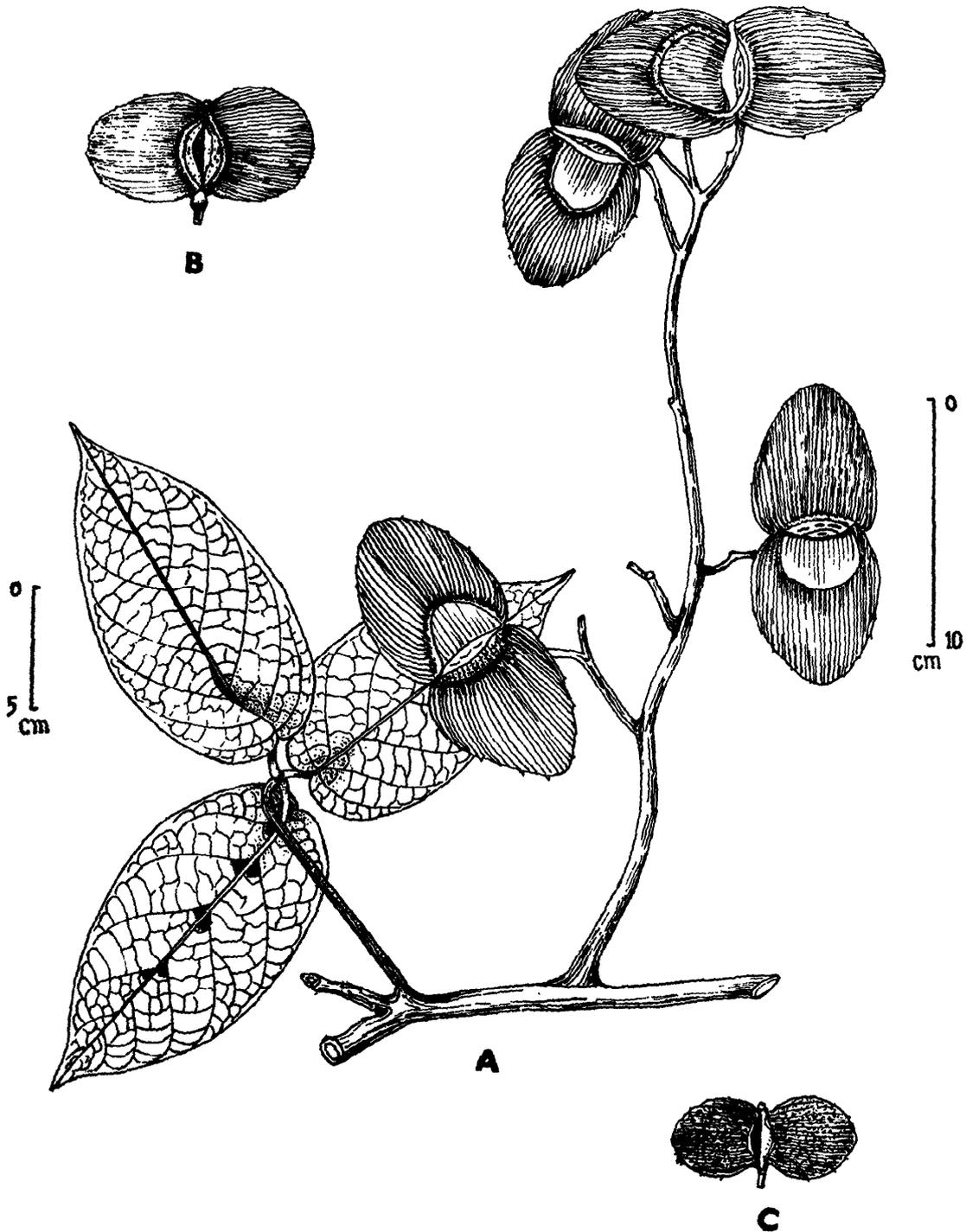
main glabrous or minutely brownish pubescent in the upper part. Flowers not seen. Fruiting petioles up to 10 mm long. Fruits prominently 4 winged; lateral wings 5.0-6.0 × 4.5-5.2 cm, thick with prominent lines make distinct ridges and furrows, ovate or broadly triangular in outline, distal end obtuse to subrounded, margin with distinct crenatures, glabrous and shiny on both sides, dark brown in colour; dorsal wing broadly ovate to hemispherical, rarely triangular (18-) 22-28 (-30) × (9-) 13-18 (-22) mm, apex usually rounded; ventral wing comparatively smaller, sometimes remains as a ridge, (12-) 15-20(-23) × (5-) 6-10 (-13) mm; both dorsal and ventral wings with ridges and furrows like the lateral wings or sometimes become smooth, crest slightly elevated.

Type: Makum, Dihing River, Assam, 19.3.1894, G. A. Gammie 142A (Holotype, CAL); *Ibid.* Gammie 142B, 142C, 142D & 142E (Isotypes, CAL).

Distribution: INDIA : Assam.

The species is closely related to *I. khasiana* C. B. Clarke, but can be easily distinguished by prominently 4 winged fruits, thick coriaceous leaves with deeply cordate and overlapping leaf bases.

A dichotomous key to the species of *Illigera* Blume in India is given below for easy identification.



Illigera gammiei Nayar et Giri, sp. nov.
 A. Habit with infructescence. B. Fruit of *I. khasiana*. C. Fruit of *I. trifoliata*.

- A. Leaves glabrous, tuft of yellowish hairs occur in the vein axils beneath
- B. Fruits strictly 2-winged, lateral wings broader than long, nearly orbicular in outline, 3.0-4.0 × 3.5-5.0 cm, rounded at the distal end; leaves chartaceous to thinly coriaceous, broadly ovate to ovate-oblong, apex usually apiculate, base subrounded to shortly cuneate ... *I. khasiana*
- BB. Fruits distinctly 4-winged, lateral wings longer than broad, ovate to broadly triangular in outline, 5.0-6.0 × 4.5-5.2 cm, obtuse to subrounded at distal end; leaves thick coriaceous, ovate-acuminate, base deeply cordate and sides of the lamina overlapping at the base ... *I. gammiei*
- AA. Leaves uniformly hairy, particularly on the nerves, rarely glabrate, but never with tuft of long yellowish hairs in the leaf-axils beneath
- C. Stem, inflorescence and infructescence with stiff setose hairs, leaves unequal sided, inflorescence few flowered in short axillary corymb, flowers large, sepals glabrous or very sparsely hairy without ... *I. villosa*
- CC. Stem, inflorescence and infructescence without stiff setose hairs, only minutely pubescent, leaves equal sides, inflorescence many flowered in lax cymes, often pendulous, flowers small, sepals softly and densely puberulous without ... *I. trifoliata*

The species is named after its collector G. A. Gammie who made an extensive collection in Assam and Meghalaya.