

A NEW VARIETY OF *JASMINUM MULTIFLORUM* (Burm. f.) ANDR. FROM THE NICOBAR ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

Jasminum multiflorum (Burm. f.) Andr. var. *nicobaricum* Thoth. var. nov., collected from the Car Nicobar Island is described.

Jasminum multiflorum (Burm. f.) Andr. var. *nicobaricum* Thoth. var. nov.

Accedit ad *J. multiflorum* Andr. f. *acuminatissimum* (Bl.) Bakh. f. (= *acuminatissimum* Bl.) multis in notis, ab eodem tamen differt foliis largioribus (6.5–15.8 × 3.2–8.0 cm.), petiolis longioribus (0.7–2.0 cm.), calycis tubo fere glabro et longiore corolla (2.2–3.8 cm.).

Frutex volubilis; culmi teretes, glabri, virgultis inconspicue striatis; nodi aequae ac foliorum, axillae puberuli. *Folia* simplicia, alterna, petiolata, exstipulata, ex ovatis ovato-oblonga, 6.5–15.8 cm. longa, 3.2–8.0 cm. lata, integra, ad apicem cuspidata, retusa ad basin, glabra, subcoriacea; nervis lateralibus 7–9-jugibus ad margines arcuatis, eminentioribus in pagina inferiore; petioli articulati dimidio infra medium, 0.7–2.0 cm. longi, canaliculati et puberuli supra. *Inflorescentia* axillaris et terminalis, trichotome cymosa, 4.7–9.0 cm. longa. *Flora* fragrant, 3.0–3.8 cm. longi, bracteati, pediculis 3.0–6.0 mm. longis, bracteis eminentibus, linearibus, 0.4–1.5 cm. longis, margine interiore paulum puberulo. *Calycis* *tubus* 6.0–9.0 mm. longus dentibus inclusis, glaber infra, sparse puberulus supra, dentibus 6, eminentibus, puberulis, tubo paulo longioribus. *Corolla* alba, tubo erecto, lobis 7–8 patentibus, imbricatis, 2.2–3.8 cm. longis. *Stamina* 2, epipetala, filamentis brevibus insidentia ad medium corollae tubum infixis; antherae oblongae, basifixae, connectivo in appendicem mucronatum desinente. *Ovarium* globosum, biloculare, ovulis binis in singulis loculis; stylus longus, tenuis; stigma bifidum, triangulare. *Fructus* ignotus.

Typus *Thothathri* 9345A, isotypi *Thothathri* 9345 B-F, lecti ad Malacca in Insula Car Nicobar die 30 mensis martii anni 1959 et positi in herbario calcuttensi.

Jasminum multiflorum (Burm. f.) Andr. var. *nicobaricum* Thoth. var. nov. is close to *J. multi-*

florum (Burm. f.) Andr. form. *acuminatissimum* (Bl.) Bakh. f. (*J. acuminatissimum* Bl.) but differing from the latter in having larger leaves (6.5–15.8 cm. long, 3.2–8.0 cm. wide), longer petiole (0.7–2.0 cm. long), nearly glabrous calyx tube and longer corolla (2.2–3.8 cm. long).

A climbing *shrub*. *Stem* terete, glabrous; young shoots faintly striated; nodes and axils of leaves puberulous. *Leaves* simple, alternate, petiolate, exstipulate, ovate to ovate-oblong, 6.5–15.8 cm. long, 3.2–8.0 cm. wide, entire, cuspidate at apex, retuse at base, glabrous, subcoriaceous; lateral nerves 7–9 pairs, looping at margin, more prominent on the abaxial side; petiole being articulated half below the middle, 0.7–2.0 cm. long, grooved and puberulous above. *Inflorescence* axillary and terminal trichotomous cymes, 4.7–9.0 cm. long. *Flowers* fragrant, 3.0–3.8 cm. long, bracteate; pedicels 3.0–6.0 mm. long; bracts prominent, linear, 0.4–1.5 cm. long, inner margin slightly puberulous. *Calyx* *tube* 6.0–9.0 mm. long including the teeth, glabrous below, sparsely puberulous above; teeth 6, prominent, puberulous, slightly longer than the tube. *Corolla* white, tube erect, lobes 7–8, spreading, imbricate, 2.2–3.8 cm. long. *Stamens* 2, epipetalous, filaments short, situated just in the middle of the corolla tube; anthers oblong, basifix, connective appendaged above into a mucro. *Ovary* globose, 2 celled with 2 ovules in each cell; style long, slender; stigma bifid, triangular. *Fruit* not known.

Distribution: Car Nicobar Island, Nicobars.

Type: Malacca, Car Nicobar Island, 30-3-1959—*Thothathri* 9345-A, Holotype; 9345 B-F, Isotypes (Herb. CAL).

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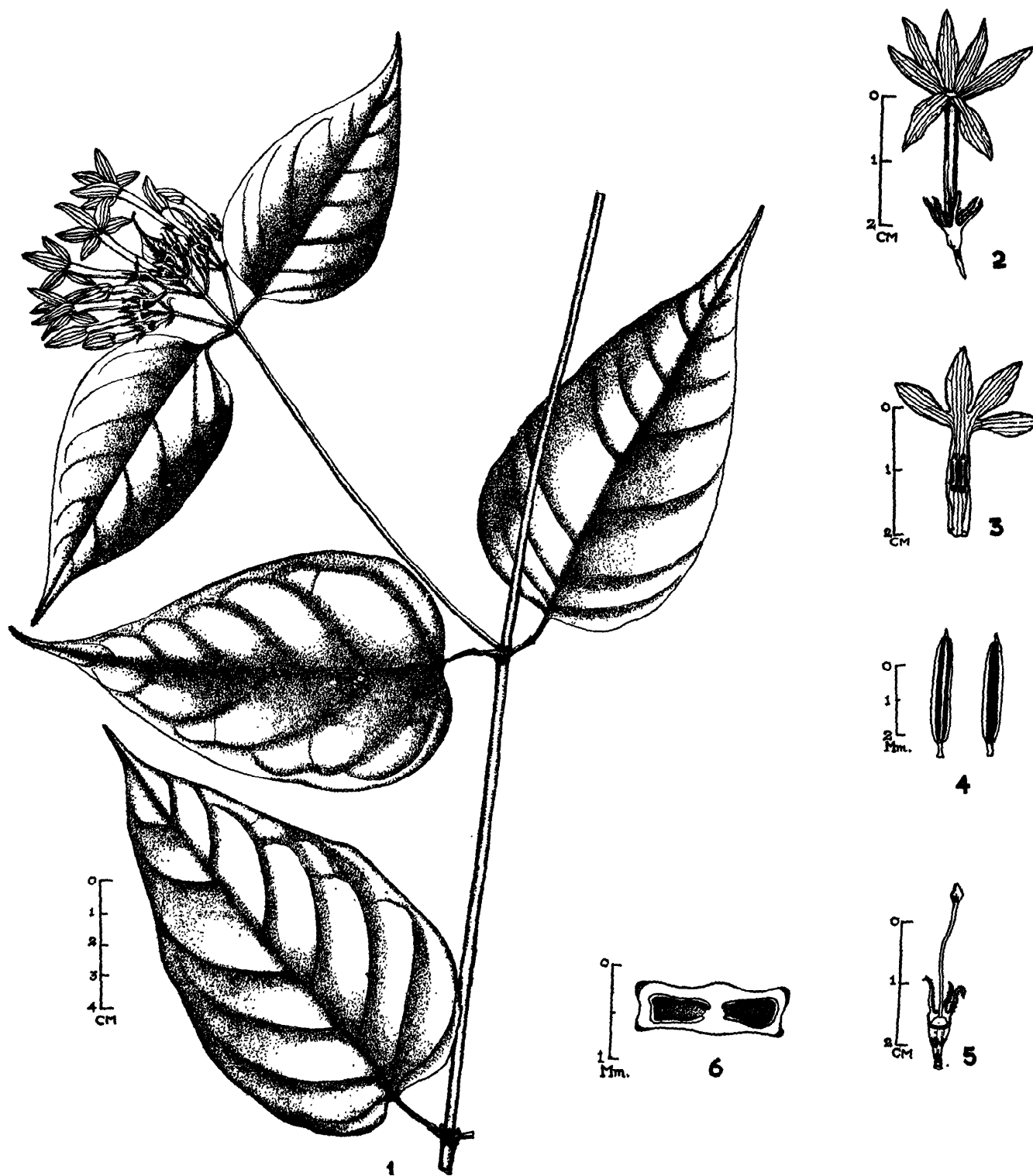


PLATE I. *Jasminum multiflorum* (Burm. f.) Andr. var. *nicobaricum* Thoth. var. nov. 1. A branch with flowers ; 2. A flower ; 3. Corolla spread open with epipetalous stamens ; 4. Stamen in two views ; 5. Gynaecium ; 6. T. S. ovary.