

AGAPETES NERIIFOLIA (KING & PRAIN) AIRY SHAW
VAR. MINOR (KING & PRAIN) AIRY SHAW—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

D.BANIK, A. SHARMA¹ AND MUTHU. J.¹

Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India,
P.O: Botanic Garden , Howrah 711 103.

¹State Forest Research Institute, Van Vihar,
P.B. No.- 159, Itanagar 791111. Arunachal Pradesh.

Agapetes neriifolia (King & Prain) Airy Shaw with two varieties viz. var. *maxima* Airy Shaw and var. *minor* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw were reported from Myanmar, Kachin Hill (Airy Shaw 1958). During a recent expedition to Namdapha, a national park in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, the authors collected some specimens which on a critical study found to be *A. neriifolia* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw var. *minor* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw. A review of literature and study of herbarium specimens deposited in different herbaria (CAL, ASSAM, ARUN and APFH) revealed that *A. neriifolia* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw var. *minor* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw, is a new record for India.

A detailed description and an illustration is given below for it's easy identification.

***Agapetes neriifolia* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw var. *minor* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw** in Kew Bull 1958 : 491 1958 , "(King & Gamble)"; 14 : 113 1960; 21 : 475.1967. *Desmogyne minor* King & Prain in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 9 : 47.1901; Airy Shaw in Bull. Misc. Inf., Kew 1935 : 40. 1935; 1958 : 491. 1958. Type : Upper Burma, Hukung Valley Survey Expedition at Nongong Ford, between Patkoi and Digum Hill, 1895 - 6, J. Wallace s.n. (CAL !). **Fig.1**

Epiphytic shrubs. Stems terete, c. 3 mm in diam., glabrous. Leaves alternate, simple; petiole 3 - 4 mm long, rugose, glabrous, farinose; lamina lanceolate-caudate, 8.5-12 × 1.5 - 2.2 cm, acute to attenuate, entire, incurved, caudate (1.2 - 3 cm), coriaceous, glabrous, rugose above when dry, midrib depressed above, raised below. Inflorescences axillary, 14 - 15 flowered, corymbose; bracts - 3, closely alternate at base of peduncle,

triangular, 0.5×1 mm, scaly, glabrous, farinose; bracteoles 2 - 3, loosely alternate. Peduncles stout, 1 - 2 cm long, glabrous, maroon, farinose. Pedicels alternate, 2-3 stichous on peduncle, stout, 2.5 - 4.5 cm long, 3 mm broad at apex, articulate at the base of calyx, glabrous, maroon, farinose; bract - 1, triangular boat - shaped, 1×1 mm, acuminate at apex, glabrous, farinose; bracteoles - 2, opposite, similar to bract. Calyx tube wide-campanulate, 7 - 8 mm long, 1.2 - 1.5 cm broad at base, membranous, bluntly 5 lobed; lobes broadly obtuse, 7 - 8 mm long, 12 - 15 mm broad, minutely acuminate at apex, prominently reticulate with mid and lateral nerves. Corolla tubular-urceolate, 2.3-2.5 cm long, 1.2- 1.4 cm broad when dry, 4 - 5 mm wide at base, light pink, prominently reticulate with mid and lateral nerves, 5 - lobed; lobes ovate-acuminate, $2 - 2.5 \times 4$ mm, recurved at anthesis. Stamens 10, in 2 whorls of 5 each, c. 26 mm long. Filaments spathulate, 3-4.5 mm long, mid veined, faintly puberulous inside towards anther lobes, densely so outside; anther lobes 22 - 23 mm long; anther sacs 4 - 5 mm long, faintly tailed, verrucate, brown; horns linear, 15-17 mm, glabrous, yellow. Ovary inferior, 5 chambered, ovules many in each chamber. Style linear, c. 26 mm long, glabrous; stigma truncate.

Fl.: Jan.-Mar.; Aug.-Sept.

Specimens examined : ARUNACHAL PRADESH, Namdapha National Park, Deban to 22nd mile, 14.03.03, Muthu & Anupam 2367 (APFH), flowers pinkish, epiphytic, leaves alternate, paler beneath, midrib depressed above, prominent below, inflorescences axillary; peduncles longer than the flowers.

Distrib. : Myanmar (Kachin Hill, Hukung Valley); India (Arunachal Pradesh, Changlang district, Namdapha National Park, Deban to 22nd Mile).

Note : The specimen examined has inflorescences 14 - 15 flowered, peduncles 1 - 2 cm and pedicels 2.5 - 4.5 cm long, while the type specimen has inflorescences 6 - 7 flowered, peduncles c. 3 cm and pedicels 2.6 - 3.5 cm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to Dr. M Sanjappa, Director, B. S. I. and Dr. K.

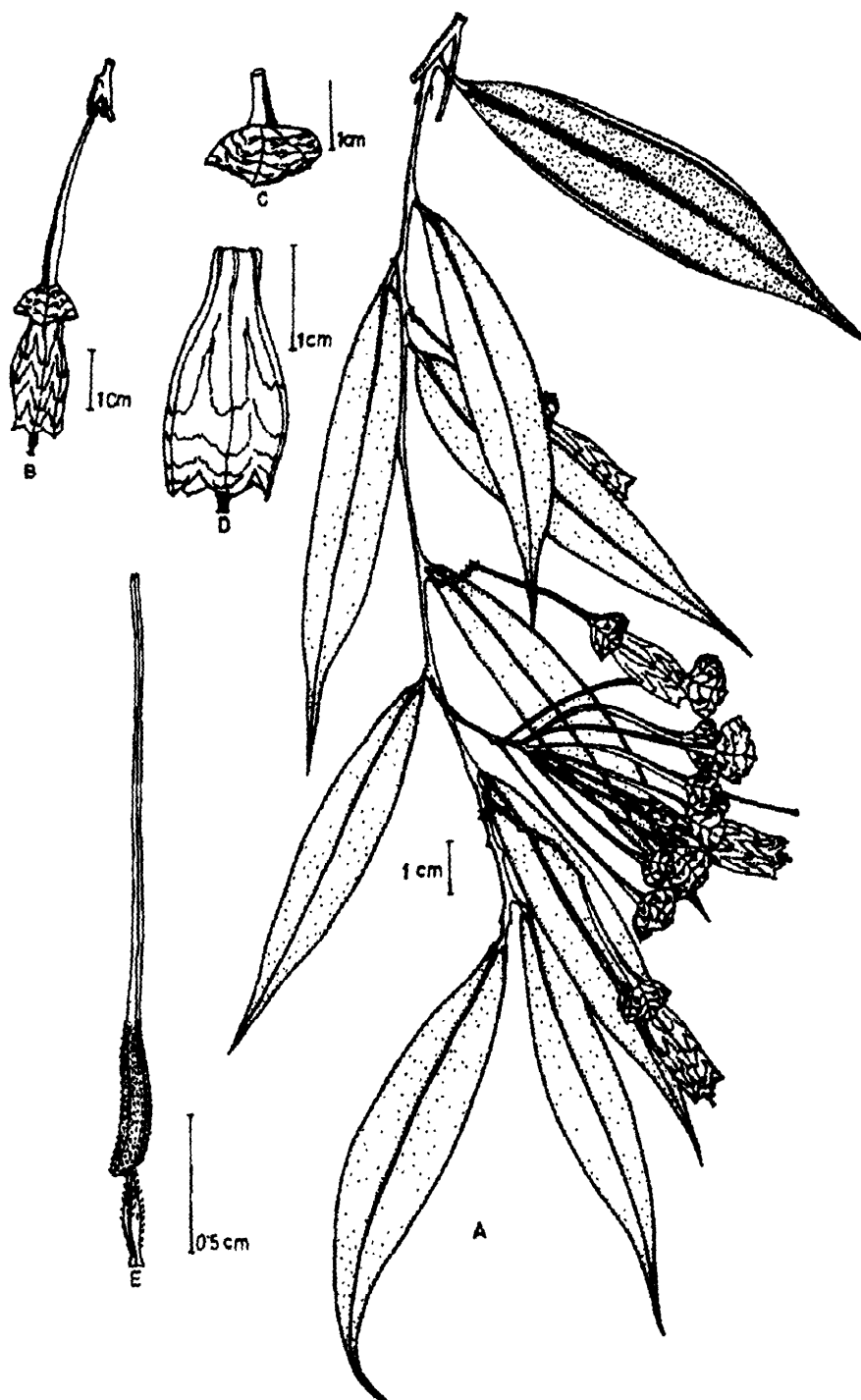


Fig.1. (A-E) : *A. neriifolia* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw var. *minor* (King & Prain) Airy Shaw.
 A. A portion of the Flowering twig; B. A single flower; C. Calyx tube;
 D. Corolla tube with style & stamens; E. A single stamen.

Haridasaan, Systematic Botanist, State Forest Research Institute, Arunachal Pradesh for their guidance and continuous encouragement and to Dr. Hegde, Director, State Forest Research Institute, Arunachal Pradesh, Dr. H. J. Chowdhery Joint Director (CAL), Dr. A. K. Baishya, Deputy Director (ARUN) for their help.

REFERENCES

- AIRY SHAW, H. K. Studies on the Ericales : 11 : Further new Species & Notes on the *Agapetes* of Continental Asia, in *Kew Bull.* (3) : 468 - 514 1958.
- AIRY SHAW, H. K. Studies in the Ericales : 12 : A Few New and Noteworthy *Agapetes* from the Calcutta Herbarium, *Kew Bull.* 14 (1) : 110 - 114. 1960.