

A NEW SPECIES OF *WRIGHTIA* R.Br. (APOCYNACEAE) FROM INDIA

BY

K. N. BAHADUR AND S.S.R. BENNET

*Systematic Botany Branch,
Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun*

***Wrightia dolichocarpa* Bahadur et Bennet sp. nova**

Frutices magni vel arbores parvae (ad 5m altae). Cortex alba opaca. Folia petioliis 3-5 mm longis glabris, lamina 8-19×3-7 cm magna, elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, basi acuta, apice acuminata vel acuminato-caudata, flavovirente, glabra, costa subtus prominente, nervis secundariis 8-12 paribus. Folliculi 60-95 cm longi, virides, teretes, lenticellis adspersae. Semina 3-3.4 cm longa, linearia, coma alba ca 5 cm longa.

Wrightiae tinctoriae [R. Br. affinis, sed differt folliculis seminibusque multo longioribus (in *W. tinctoria* folliculi 20-45 cm longi semina ca 1.5 cm, coma semine 2.5-plo longior).

Holotypus: Bonta Forest, Nagarhaveli, Western India, 20.10.1969. leg. Bahadur 1218A, in Herb. DD.

Isotypi: Bahadur 1218B, 1218C.

Paratypus: Saili, Nagarhaveli, 10.2.1976. leg. Bennet 2771, DD.

***Wrightia dolichocarpa* Bahadur & Bennet sp. nov.**

Allied to *Wrightia tinctoria* R. Br., but differs in having 60-95 cm long follicles, 3-3.4 cm long seeds and coma about 1½ times as long as the seed. In *W. tinctoria* the follicles are 20-45 cm long, seeds about 1.5 cm long with coma about 2½ times as long as the seed.

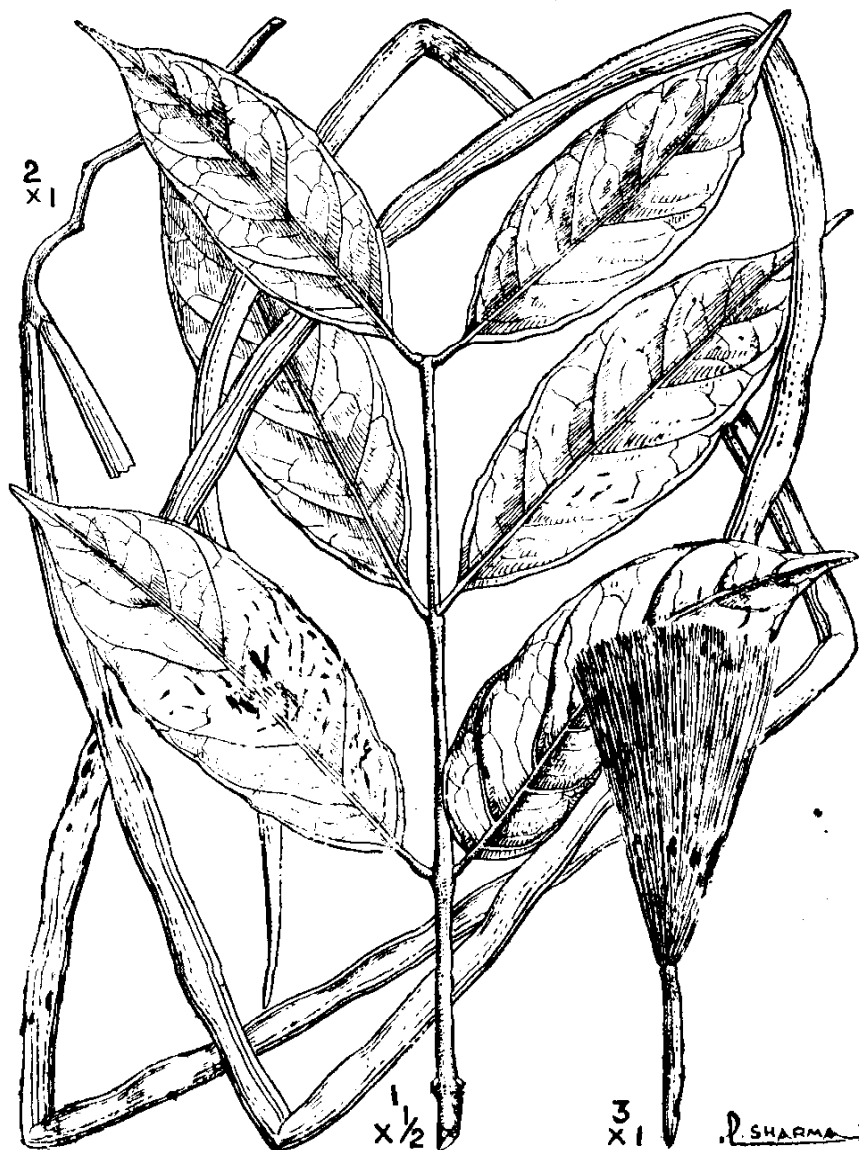
Holotype-Bahadur 1218A, deposited in DD.

Large shrubs or small trees up to 5m high. Bark dull white. Leaves 8-19×3-7 cm, yellowish-green, glabrous, elliptic or elliptic-oblong, apex acuminate to caudate-acuminate, base acute; midrib prominent beneath; secondary veins 8-12 pairs; petiole 3-5 mm long, glabrous. Follicles 2, 60-95 cm long, dark green, coherent at the tip, slender, terete, lenticellate. Seeds 3-3.4 cm long, linear; coma white, about 5 cm long.

Holotype-Bahadur 1218A, collected on 20.10.1969 from Bonta Forest, Nagarhaveli, Western India, is deposited in DD Herbarium.

Isotypes-Bahadur 1218B and 1218C.

Paratype-Bennet 2771, collected on 10.2.1976 from Saili, Nagarhaveli, is also deposited in DD.



Wrightia dolichocarpa Bahadur & Bennet sp. nov. 1—branchlet with leaves, 2—twin follicles and 3—seed with coma.

This plant, commonly known by the local name *dudh kudi*, is generally a large shrub 2.5-4 m high, but occasionally it is a small tree up to a height of 5 m. The cow-boys use its latex for making instant curd in the field. They add about 5-7 drops of latex to a cup of milk which turns into curd within 15-30 minutes. As the latex is plentiful in the follicles, they generally make use of the fruits for this purpose. It is a well-known plant in the region (Nagarhaveli) and is easily recognised by the local people even in the vegetative condition. Surprisingly they find no difficulty in distinguishing this species from the allied one, *Wrightia tinctoria* (vern. *kala kudi*), which occurs intermixed in the forest, although even a trained botanist would find it hard to distinguish the two taxa without taking recourse to the fertile material.

While revising the genus *Wrightia* on a world-wide basis, Phung Trung Ngan (Ann. Miss. Bot. Gard. 52:114-175. 1965) described a few new species from the Indian sub-continent. All his types were carefully checked by one of the authors (K.N.B.) at Kew and British Museum in London when he was on a visit to the European herbaria recently. None of them, however, matched with the present material. Ngan's monograph as well as the relevant specimens in Indian and European herbaria have been thoroughly scrutinised before arriving at the conclusion that the species in question is new to science. It is rather unfortunate that in spite of our best efforts the flowers could not be made available. It is hoped to describe them at a later date.

Acknowledgement is made to Dr. A.K. Skvortsov of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Moscow, for favour of rendering Latin translation and for suggesting an appropriate specific epithet (*dolichocarpa*, in Greek, means long fruits); to curators of the various herbaria for providing facilities to work; to Sri K.C. Sahni, Forest Botanist, for kindly going through the manuscript and to Sri P.N. Sharma, Chief Artist, for the illustration.

SUMMARY

A new species of *Wrightia* (Apocynaceae), viz. *W. dolichocarpa* Bahadur & Bennet *sp. nov.* is described from Nagarhaveli in Western India. It is allied to *W. tinctoria* R. Br. The latex from fruits is used by the cow-boys for making instant curd in the field. It is a well-known plant in the area and is locally called *dudh kudi*.

राइटिया रा० ब्रा० प्रजाति (करवीर कुल) की भारत से एक नई जाति
लेखक कु० एन० बहादुर व एस० एस० आर० बेनेट

सारांश

राइटिया प्रजा० (करवीर कुल = एपोसाइनेसी) की एक नई जाति नामतः रा० डोलीकोकार्पा बहादुर व बेनेट नई जाति को पश्चिम भारत में नगरहवेली से वर्णित किया गया है। यह रा० टिकटोरिया रा० ब्रा० से मिलती-जुलती है। इसके फलों का आक्षीर (दूध) ग्वाले क्षेत्र में ही तत्काल दही बनाने के लिए उपयोग में लाते हैं। उस क्षेत्र में यह पादप सुजात है और स्थानीय लोग इसे दूध कुड़ी कहते हैं।

Eine neue Art der *Wrightia* R. Br. (Apocynaceae) vom Indien

K.N. BAHADUR UND S.S.R. BENNET

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Eine neue Art der Gattung *Wrightia* (Apocynaceae) nämlich *W. dolichocarpa* Bahadur und Bennet *sp. novo* ist vom Nagarhaveli im westliche Indien beschrieben. Die ist zur *W. tinctoria* R. Br. verwandt. Der Latex aus ihren Früchten ist bei den Kuhjungen den sofortige Quark im Feld zu machen benutzt. Das ist eine wohlgewußte Pflanz in der Fläche und ist *Dudh Kudi* örtlich genannt.

Une nouvelle espèce de *Wrightia* R. Br. (famille des Apocynées),
découverte en India

par K.N. BAHADUR ET S.S.R. BENNET

Résumé

Wrightia dolichocarpa Bahadur et Bennet, une nouvelle espèce de *Wrightia* (famille des Apocynacées), découverte en région de Nagarhaveli, à l'ouest de l'Inde, est décrite. Elle se rapproche de *W. tinctoria* R.Br. Le latex sécrété par des fruits est utilisé en campagne, par des vachers, pour confectionner, instantanément, du lait caillé. C'est une plante bien connue de la région ou l'on l'appelle "dudh kudi".

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