

RESEARCH ARTICLE

RECOLLECTION OF *STROBILANTHES PAPILLOSUS* T. ANDERSON (ACANTHACEAE) FROM TYPE LOCALITY

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ABSTRACT

Strobilanthes papillosus T. Anderson (Acanthaceae) is, an endemic and highly threatened species, recollected from the type locality after a lapse of 83 years. A short description with an illustration, relevant note is provided here for further collection and identity in field.

Keywords: *Strobilanthes papillosus*, Endemic.

1. INTRODUCTION

Strobilanthes Blume (Acanthaceae) with ca 300 species is restricted to hills of tropical Asia. Among these, ca 150 species are found in Indian subcontinent. While study the flora of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, we came across an interesting species of *Strobilanthes* Blume (Acanthaceae). On the critical studies and perusal of literature, we identified and confirmed as *Strobilanthes papillosus* T. Anderson. It is an endemic (1) and a highly threatened taxon (7). For the easy identification and further exploration, a short description along with an illustration, flowering and fruiting period, specimens examined, etc is provided here.

2. ANCIENT COLLECTIONS

Based on the collection of Hohenacker no.: 1431 from the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu and Law from the Bababuddan Hills, Karnataka, T. Anderson (2) described as *Strobilanthes papillosus* T. Anderson. Later, it was recollected by R.H. Beddome in 1867 & 1869; J.S. Gamble in 1883; P.F. Fyson in 1919 from Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu. Kumari (5) treated it under *Nilgirianthus papillosus* (T. Anderson) Bremek. in the Flora of Tamil Nadu. While revising the genus *Strobilanthes* in Peninsular India, Venu (7) merged the following genera *Didyplosandra* Wight ex Bremek., *Goldfussia* Nees, *Leptacanthus* Nees, *Nilgirianthus* Bremek., *Phlebophyllum* Nees and *Xenacanthus* Bremek. Under *Strobilanthes* Blume based on the priority. Hence, the present collection is a noteworthy after a lapse of 83 years from the type locality viz: the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu.

Strobilanthes papillosus T. Anderson in J. Linn. Soc.(Bot.) 9: 468. 1867; Bedd., Icon. Pl.Ind.Orient.: 47, t. 207. 1868-1874; C.B. Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 445. (3); Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 1039. 1924; Venu, *Strobilanthus* Penin.India: 159, t. 39. 2006. *Nilgirianthus papillosus* (T. Anderson)

Bremek. in Verh. Kon. Ned. Akad. Wetensch., Afd. Natuurk., Tweede Sect. 41: 173. 1944; B.D. Sharma et al., in Biol. Mem.2: 108. (6); Kumari in A.N. Henry & al., Fl. Tamil Nadu 2: 155. 1987.

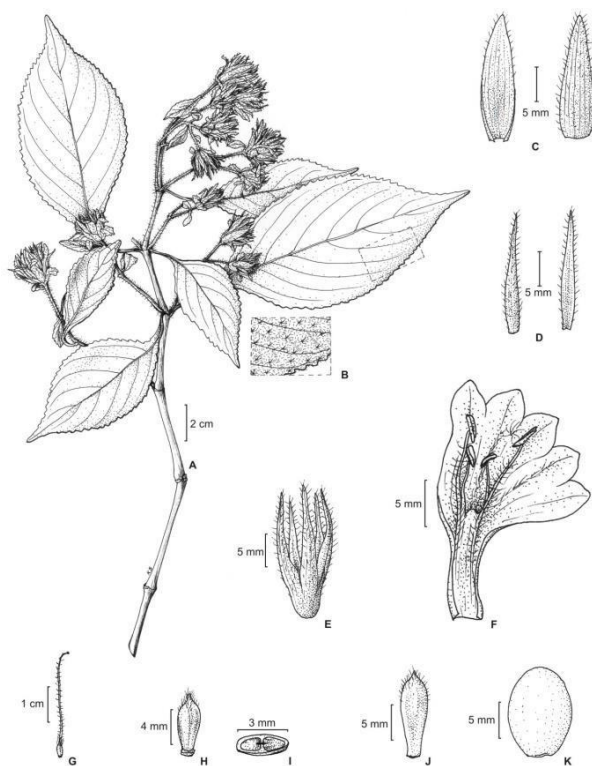


Fig. 1. (A - K). *Strobilanthes papillosus* T. Anderson
A. Twig; B. Leaf-portion enlarged; C. Bract (adaxial & abaxial); D. Bracteoles (abaxial & adaxial); E. Calyx; F. Corolla - split open; G. Pistil; H-I. Ovary - entire & C.S.; J. Capsule; K. Seed.

Large shrub, to 3 m high; branches tuberculate, glabrate; branchlets pubescent. Leaves ovate, cuneate at base, callous-serrate at margins, acute or abruptly acuminate at apex, 6 - 22 x 2.5 - 9.5 cm, coriaceous, rugose, sparsely bulbous based hairy above, pubescent below; nerves ca 8 pairs, prominent below. Inflorescence terminal or subterminal corymb, to 20 cm long, glandular pubescent. Flowers ca 1 cm across, violet-purple, ca 6, in head; bracts: outer 2 pairs, foliaceous,

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overlapping, papillose, reflexed, to 5 cm long; inner lanceolate very rigid, scabrous, papillose, to 1.8 cm long bracteoles 2, as long as calyx lobes. Calyx lobes 5, linear - lanceolate, 1.5 - 1.7 cm long, subequal. Corolla ventricose, violet; lower tube narrow, *ca* 1.5 - 1.7 cm long; upper tube broad, 1.5 - 2 cm long; lobes 5, ovate, *ca* 6 mm diameter, obtuse with apiculed at apex. Stamens 4, didynamous; filaments monadelphous, unequal, hairy on larger one; glabrous on shorter one; anthers 2-celled, oblong, latrose. Ovary globose, 2 - 3 mm long, pubescent, 2-celled; ovule 2 in each; style filiform, *ca* 2.2 - 2.5 cm long, pubescent; stigma simple. Capsule obovate, *ca* 1 cm long; fertile seeds 2, orbicular, *ca* 5 x 4 mm, glabrous, without areoles; abortive 2, minute (Fig.1).

Fl. & Fr.: March.

Distribution: Endemic to Nilgiri Hills (Burliyar, Dodabetta & Sispara) - Tamil Nadu and Bababuddan Hills- Karnataka, India.

Note: Only few collections from the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu but there was no any further collection and report from Bababuddan Hills, Karnataka at MH.

Specimens examined: India, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri District, Nilgiris,? Month, 1867, *R.H. Beddomes.n.* (M.H. Acc. No. 37948) & ?Month 1869, *R.H. Beddomes.n.* (M.H. Acc. No.37950); Dodabetta, 8000 ft, Oct. 1883, *J.S. Gamble* 12995 (MH Acc. No. 37768), Sispara, Nov. 1883, *J.S. Gamble s.n.* (MH Acc. No. 37767); Burliyar, 18 Mar. 2006, *ca* 700 m, *C. Murugan* 119171(MH).

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