

A NEW SPECIES OF IXORA (RUBIACEAE) FROM THE
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

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SUMMARY

A new species of *Ixora*, *I. katchalensis*, from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is described and illustrated. It belongs to section *Otobactrum* Brem. (group c).

INTRODUCTION

While examining unidentified *Ixora* species procured on loan from the herbaria of the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Circle, Port Blair (PBL), we detected a number of sheets which, though apparently resembling *I. barbata* Roxb. ex Sm., differ from that species in having a distinctly longer petiole, more lateral nerves, different inflorescence pattern, number of flowers per head and structure of the stigma.

It is evident from our study that the material belongs to section *Otobactrum* Brem. (group c), which is characterized by a generally long-pedunculatè inflorescence and the presence of a short internode, either with reduced and differently shaped leaves or with rudimentary leaves at the base of the peduncle and by the corolla outside glabrous, but the lobes bearded at the base.

Ixora katchalensis Husain & Paul, *spec. nov.* – Fig. 1.

Ixora barbata Roxb. ex Sm. proxime affinis sed manifeste differt petiolorum longitudinibus, nervorum lateralium numeris, ordinatione inflorescentiae, florum numeris per capitulum, structuraque stigmatis. *Frutex* vel arbor parva, 2–5 m alta, caulis solidus, teres, glaber; internodia 0.6–9.5 cm longa; stipula 6–7 × 4–5 longa, intus pilosa, extus glabra; pili 1.5–2 mm longi, cellulis 10–11, uniseriatis; cuspis 1–2 mm longa, petiolus 1.5–3 cm longus, glaber. *Folia* 15–25.5 × 6.2–11 cm, opposita, petiolata, coreacea, elliptica, elliptico-ovata vel oblonga, basi acuta, apice obtusa vel acuminata, glabra, reticulatim venosa, cum nervis 12–14 lateralibus anastomosantibus junctis ad costam; foliorum par superius ad basin pedunculi parvius, 2.5–9.8 × 1.6–6.4 cm, folia sessilia, ovata, apice acuminata vel acuta, basi cordata, costa prominenti, nervisque lateralibus inconspicuis. *Inflorescentia* brachiata, trichotoma, composita, cymosa, dichasialis, terminalis,

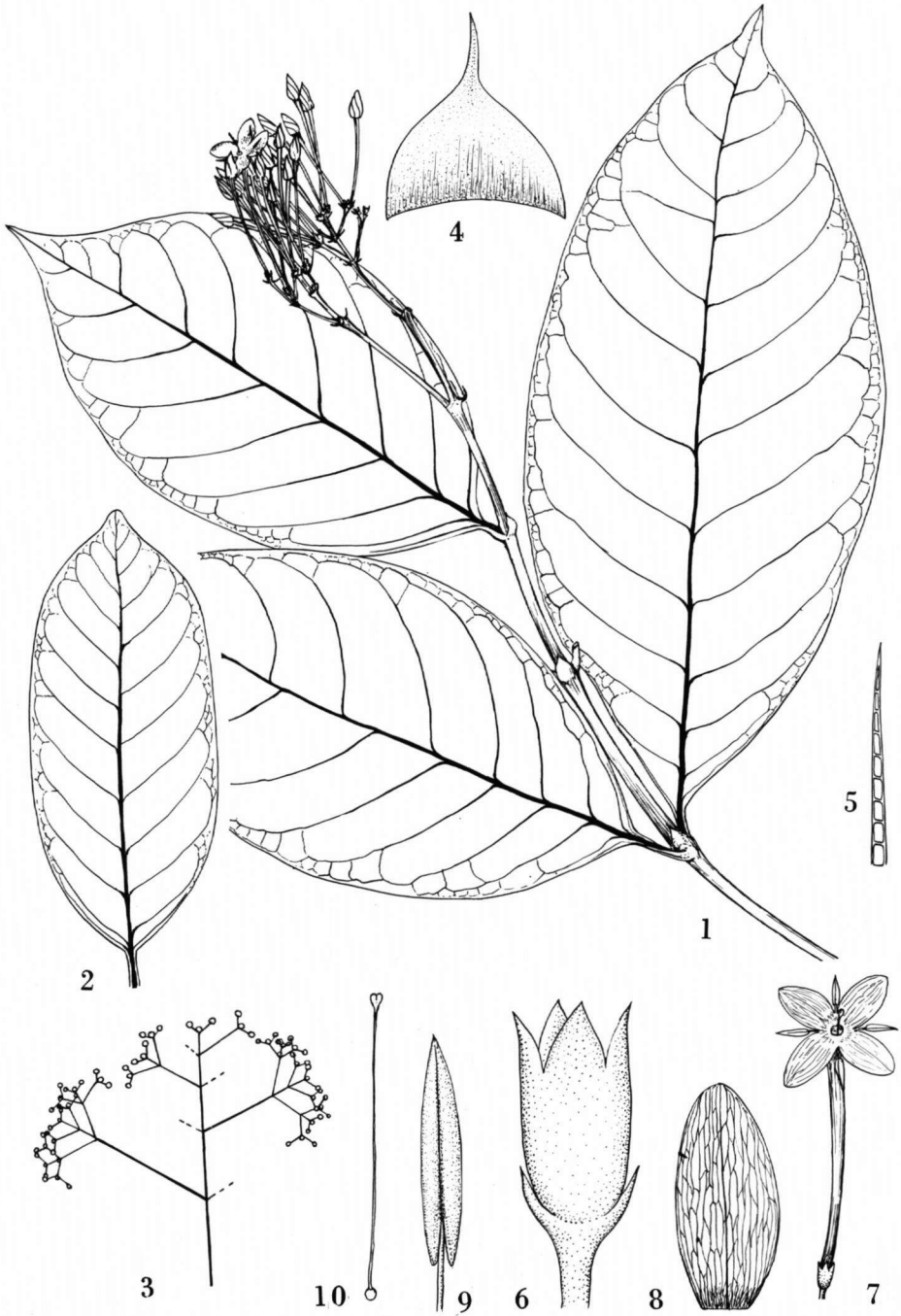
corymbosa, paniculata, interdum cymae in paribus; flores 120–135 per capitulum; pedunculus 3–6 cm longus, glaber; bracteae 1.5–6 mm longae, lineares, acutae, glabrae, surum in magnitudinibus decrescentes. Flores 4-meri, albi, pedicellati vel sessiles, in furcis sessiles et ebracteolati, pedicelli 4–10 mm longi, glabri; bracteola 1–1.1 mm longa, linearis, acuta, glabra. Calycis tubus 2–2.5 mm longus, glaber; lobi 0.5–1 mm longi, triangulares, acuti, glabri. Corollae tubus 3.1–4.1 cm longus, glaber; lobi 8–9.3 × 3.5–4 mm, oblongi, apice rotundati, corolla ad faucem barbata, pilis albis. Stamina 4, fauce affixa, filamenta 1.5–2 mm longa; antherae 4.5–5.4 mm longae, dorsifixae. Ovarium 1–1.5 mm longum, glabrum; stigma 2–3 mm longum, ad apicem totundatum, breviter fissum ad medium, usque ad 1/3 e apice; stylus 3.2–4.2 cm longus, glaber. Fructus 8–12 × 12 mm, ellipsoideus, ovoideus vel globosus, viridis. — Holotypus: *P. Chakraborty 1134* (PBL).

Shrub or small tree, ± 2–5 m high, stem solid, terete, glabrous; internodes 0.6–9.5 cm long; stipule 6–7 × 4–5 mm long, inner surface hairy, outer glabrous; hairs 1.5–2 mm long with 10 or 11 cells, uniseriate; cusp 1–2 mm long; petiole 1.5–3 cm long, glabrous. Leaves 15–25.5 × 6.2–11 cm, opposite, petioled, leathery, elliptic-ovate or oblong, base acute, apex obtuse or acuminate, glabrous; reticulately veined with 12–14 lateral anastomosing nerves joining the midrib; upper pair of leaves at the base of peduncle smaller, 2.5–9.8 × 1.6–6.4 cm, sessile, ovate, apex acuminate or acute, base cordate, with a prominent midrib and faint lateral nerves. Inflorescence a brachiate, trichotomous, compound dichasial cyme, terminal corymbose panicle, sometimes cymes in pairs; flowers 120–135 per head, peduncled; peduncle 3–6 cm long, glabrous; bracts 1.5–6 mm long, linear, acute, glabrous, decreasing in size upwards. Flowers 4-merous, white, pedicellate or sessile, those in the forks sessile, ebracteolate; pedicel 4–10 mm long, glabrous; bracteole 1–1.1 mm long, linear, acute, glabrous. Calyx tube 2–2.5 mm long, glabrous; lobes 0.5–1 mm long, triangular, acute, glabrous. Corolla tube 3.1–4.1 cm long, glabrous; lobes 8–9.3 × 3.5–4 mm, oblong, rounded at the apex, bearded at the throat with white hairs. Stamens 4, attached to the throat; filaments 1.5–2 mm long, glabrous; anthers 4.5–5.4 mm long, dorsifixed; ovary 1–1.5 mm long, glabrous; stigma 2–3 mm long, rounded at the top, shortly cleft in the middle by 1/3 from above; style 3.2–4.2 cm long, glabrous. Fruit 8–12 × 12 mm, ellipsoid, ovoid or globose, green.

Distribution. Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

INDIA. Andaman & Nicobar Islands: North Nicobars, Katchal I., sea level, 22-4-1974, P. Chakraborty 1134 (holotype, PBL); Kamorta I., c. 15 m, 22-5-1977, N. Bhargava 5031 (PBL); Lamia Bay to Ramnagar, sea level, 29-3-1977, N.P. Balakrisnan 5325 (PBL); Kapanga, Katchal I., 27-2-1977, P. Chakraborty 5305 (isotype, PBL).

Fig. 1. *Ixora katchalensis* Husain & Paul. 1. Habit, with only part of the flowers drawn; leaves partly immature and showing fewer nerves; × ½; 2. leaf, × ¼; 3. inflorescence diagrammatic (— — — indicates exactly the same as on the opposite side); 4. inner surface of the stipule, × 4; 5. single hair from the inner surface of the stipule, × 15; 6. calyx with bracteole and pedicel, × 10; 7. flower, × 1; 8. corolla lobe, × 4; 9. anthers and filament, × 7; 10. stigma, type and ovary, × 1 (1 & 4–10 *P. Chakraborty 1134*; 2 & 3 *N. Bhargava 5031*).



AFFINITIES

The main features distinguishing *Ixora katchalensis* from *I. barbata* Roxb. ex Sm., which it closely resembles, are tabulated below:

Characters	<i>Ixora katchalensis</i>	<i>Ixora barbata</i>
1. Petiole	1.5–3 cm long	0.8–1.5 cm long
2. Number of lateral nerves	12–14	10–12
3. Number of flowers per head	120–135	60–90
4. Bracteole	1–1.1 mm long, glabrous	1.25–3.1 mm long, glabrous or pubescent
5. Stigma	2–3 mm long, rounded at the top, shortly cleft in the middle by 1/3 from above	2–3 mm long, club-shaped or bifurcated into two short stigmatic arms

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