

A New Species of *Premna* L. (Verbenaceae) from West Bengal, India

T. K. Paul

Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah - 711103, West Bengal, Indi
E-mail: paul_tk@rediffmail.com

Abstract

Premna jalpaiguriana T.K. Paul, a new species is described from Judang, Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal, India.

Key words: *Premna jalpaiguriana*, new species, West Bengal, India.

During a taxonomic studies on the family Verbenaceae of West Bengal state, the author came across some specimens of the genus *Premna* L. collected from Judang area of Jalpaiguri district, deposited at Central National Herbarium (CAL) are found to be different from any other known taxa of the genus and hence described and illustrated as a new species.

Premna jalpaiguriana T.K. Paul, *sp. nov.* [Plate 1]

Premna lucidulae Miquel affinis sed foliis glabris (non ad nervos subtus villosis), bracteolis minoribus (2-3 mm non *c.* 6 mm), calyce cupulato ad apicem subintegro (non perspicue quinquentato) differt.

Typus: India: West Bengal, Jalpaiguri district, Judang, 23 May 1975, *J.K. Sikdar* 346A (**Holotypus:** CAL; **Isotypus:** *J.K. Sikdar* 346B (CAL)).

Trees; branches subterete, slender, glabrous. Lamina ovate to oblong, 8 – 13 x 3.5 – 8.5 cm, entire to undulate, acute or acuminate, subcordate, lateral nerves 5 – 7 pairs, distinct beneath, subcoriaceous, both surfaces glabrous, brownish on drying; petioles 2 – 3 cm long, stout, canaliculate, glabrous. Corymbs terminal with 3-4, decussate-opposite dichotomously branched cymes, 6 – 17 x 6 – 8 cm; peduncles 2.5 – 5 cm long, obtusely 4-angular, densely pubescent; bractlets 2 – 3 mm long, linear, deciduous, pubescent. Flowers numerous; pedicels *c.* 1 mm long, pubescent. Calyx cupular, 1.5 x 1 mm, slightly depressed in middle, subentire, sparsely pubescent outside. Corolla infundibular, 2-lipped, 4-lobed, *c.* 4 x 2.5 mm; lobes subequal, oblong, 1 – 1.5 x 1 mm, obtuse; tube narrow, 2 x 1.5 mm, glabrous outside, densely white floccose at throat. Stamens didynamous; filaments slender, *c.* 2 mm long, anthers globose. Ovary subglobose, *c.* 1.5 mm long; style slender, *c.* 3.5 mm long, glabrous; stigma 2-lobed, lobes divergent, equal. Drupes globose, *c.* 4 mm (immature).

Premna jalpaiguriana is allied to *Premna lucidula* Miquel but differs from it in having glabrous leaves, bractlets smaller (2-3 mm), calyx cupular with subentire apex whereas in *Premna lucidula* leaves are villous on nerves beneath, bractlets longer (*c.* 6 mm) and calyx distinctly 5-toothed.

Holotype: India: West Bengal, Jalpaiguri district, Judang, 23 May 1975, *J.K. Sikdar* 346A (CAL).
Isotype: *J.K. Sikdar* 346B (CAL).

The specific epithet is coined after the type locality of the species.

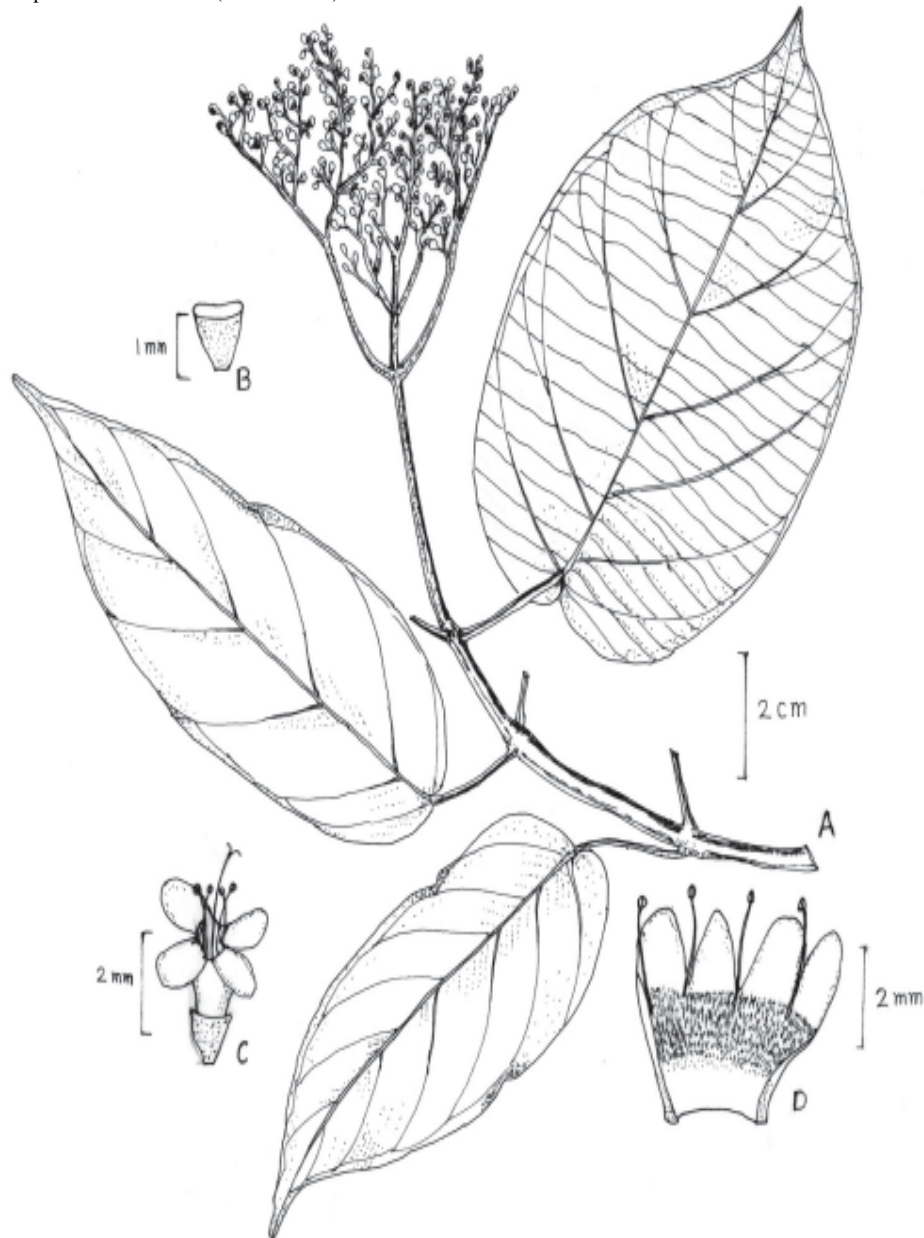


Plate – I. *Premna jalpaiguriana*. A. Twig; B. Calyx; C. Flower; D. Corolla split open.

Acknowledgement

Author is thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for all facilities and encouragement. Thanks are also due to Dr. Katherine Challis of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. for latin diagnosis of the new taxa.