

***Alphonsea ventricosa* (Roxburgh) Hook. f. & Thomson (Annonaceae): New Record for the Flora of Nepal**

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Abstract

Record of the occurrence of *Alphonsea ventricosa* (Roxburgh) Hook.f & Thomson from Nepal is an addition of the genus *Alphonsea* Hook.f. & Thomson for the flora of this country.

Key words: *Alphonsea ventricosa*, New record, Nepal

Hara & Williams (1979) reported altogether 5 genera and 8 species for Annonaceae from Nepal, while Press *et al* (2000) added one more species. The present paper communicates one more new genus, *Alphonsea* Hook.f. & Thomson, for the flora of Nepal, recorded from the eastern Charkoshe jhadi forest. The specimens were collected in deciduous forest of Sunsari district and were identified with the help of literature (Anonymous 1993) and were also checked with the authentic specimens deposited at BM. This additional species is *Alphonsea ventricosa* (Roxburgh) Hook.f. & Thomson.

Alphonsea ventricosa (Roxburgh) Hook. f. & Thomson, Fl. Ind. 152. 1855 & in Fl. Brit. India 1: 89. 1872. *Uvaria ventricosa* Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 2: 658. 1832. [Fig. 1]

Trees to 40 m, bark grayish yellow and smooth, branches brown tomentose when young. Leaves alternate, oblong to elliptic-oblong, long-acuminate, rounded or subacute at base, 7.0 – 5.0 x 5 – 6 cm, pubescent on midrib when young, glabrous with age; petioles 3 – 5 mm long, puberulous. Flowers in racemes, greenish white, odorous; pedicels ca 2 cm long, brown tomentose; bracts ovate, tomentose; sepals 3, very small, broadly ovate, connate below; petals 3 + 3, oblong-ovate, acute, brown tomentose outside; outer petals ca 8 x 6 mm; inner ones smaller; stamens many, oblong, ca 1.5 mm long; connective slightly apiculate; carpels ca 10, oblong, ca 3 mm long, villous; stigma subsessile, capitate. Fruits 4 – 6, ovoid or subglobose, 3 – 4.5 cm long, minutely pubescent, yellowish when ripe; stalk ca 2.5 cm long, stout.



Fig. 1: A flowering twig and a leaf of *Alphonsea ventricosa* (Roxburgh) Hook.f. & Thomson

Exiccatus: Eastern Nepal, Koshi Zone, Sunsari district, Baklaury VDC-2, March, KM-20050307 (KATH)

Altitude: 125 m; **Location:** 26°73'28.2" N & 087°24'56.7" E

Status: Locally very rare

Flowering: February – March; **Fruiting:** July – August

Economic Importance: Ripe fruits edible

Local Name: Thekiphal

Distribution: Nepal, India (Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya) and Bangladesh

CONCLUSION

Alphonsea ventricosa (Roxburgh) Hook. f. & Thomson has not been reported from Nepal Himalaya earlier. Hence it is an addition to the flora of Nepal.

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