

***Lycianthes laevis* (Dunal) Bitter [Solanaceae]: a new record for Mizoram, India**

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Abstract

The *Lycianthes laevis* (Dunal) Bitter [Solanaceae] is collected from Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mamit District, Mizoram and is reported as new record for the State.

Key words: *Lycianthes laevis*, Solanaceae, New record, Mizoram.

INTRODUCTION

During the floristic excursion to Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram, the authors came across some interesting specimens. After critical study and comparison with other specimens at Botanical Survey of India, ERC, Shillong *Lycianthes laevis* (Dunal) Bitter [Solanaceae] was identified. A perusal of literature related to the flora of Mizoram (Gage 1901; Fischer 1938; Deb & Dutta 1987) and ASSAM Herbarium it revealed that this species has not been reported earlier from Mizoram. A detailed taxonomic account of the species along with a photograph and distribution is provided for its easy identification. The specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, ERC, Shillong (ASSAM) for future reference.

Lycianthes laevis (Dunal) Bitter, Fl. China 17: 1–378. 1994. *Solanum laeve* Dunal, Solan. Synops. 22. 1816; Hooker f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 231. 1883; N.P. Balakrishnan, Fl. Jowai. 2: 333. 1983. *Lycianthes crassipetalum* (Wallich) R.R. Mill, Fl. Bhutan 2(3): 1061. 2001. [Solanaceae]

Herbs, 1 – 1.5 m. Stem often tinged purple, minutely puberulent towards apex. Leaves unequal paired, oblong-lanceolate, 7-20 x 2-7 cm, entire, acuminate, obliquely cuneate at base, membranous, sparsely pubescent adaxially, glabrous abaxially, puberulent along veins; petiole 1-3 cm. Flowers 2 – 5 in axillary fascicles; Pedicels 1 – 2 cm; Corolla 6 – 8 mm, purple, lobes elliptic-lanceolate, ca. 4 × 1.1 mm, glabrescent. Filaments ca. 0.5 mm; anthers oblong, ca. 2.4 mm; Style slender, 7 – 8 mm. Berries globose, 4 – 6 mm in diameter, orange-red; Seeds ovate, discoid.

Flowering & Fruiting: July – December

Habitat: Shady moist places

Distribution: N E INDIA: Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram; CHINA, BHUTAN.

Specimen examined: Mizoram, Dampa Tiger Reserve forest, Teirei, 27.10.07, B. K. Sinha 116967 (ASSAM).

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Figure 1. Habit of *Lycianthes laevis* (Dunal) Bitter

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