

***Clerodendrum trichotomum* Thunberg (Lamiaceae): a new record to the flora of India from Assam**

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Abstract

Clerodendrum trichotomum Thunberg (Lamiaceae), so far known from China, Korea and Japan, is now reported for the first time for India from Charaipung Reserve Forest under Digboi Forest Division in Tinsukia district of Assam in North-east India. Detail taxonomic description along with illustrations is provided for its easy recognition.

Key words: *Clerodendrum trichotomum*, New record, Assam, India

INTRODUCTION

During floristic study of Tinsukia district of Assam the authors collected some specimens of a species of *Clerodendrum* Linnaeus (Lamiaceae) from the Charaipung Reserve Forest under Digboi Forest Division in the Tinsukia District of Assam. After critical examination of the specimens and scrutiny of herbarium specimens in ASSAM and CAL Herbaria and consulting relevant literature *Flora of China* (Wu & Raven 1994), *Flora of Japan* (Ohwi 1953) and *Flora of Taiwan* (Peng *et al.* 1998) the plant was identified as *Clerodendrum trichotomum* Thunberg hitherto not reported from India and hence form a new record for India. The voucher specimens are deposited at the Herbarium of Botany Department, Gauhati University (GUHB), CAL and ASSAM for future reference. A detailed taxonomic account of the species along with its distribution and illustration is provided here.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Clerodendrum trichotomum Thunberg, Fl. Jap. 256. 1784; Schauer in DC., Prodr. 11: 668. 187; J.D. Hooker in Curtis's Bot. Mag. 37: t 6561. 1881; Maximowicz in Bull. Acad. Sci. St. Petersb. 3: 85. 1887; Forbes *et* Hemsley in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 26: 262. 1890; Diels in Bot. Jahrb. 29: 550. 1900; Matsud. in Bot. Mag. Tokyo 26: 341. 1912; Chung in Mem. Sci. Soc. China 1(3): 154. 1932; H. Hara in Bot. Mag. Tokyo 51: 52. 1937; Chen Rong, China Taxonomy of Trees 1098, F. 984. 1937; Pei Jian, Zhou Tai Yan, Chinese Medicinal Flora 3: 132. 1953; Liu Shen-e, *et al.*, Northeast woody atlas 485 F. 155. 1955; Pei Jian, Southern Jiangsu Seed Plants Manual 629, F. 1021. 1959; Chinese Higher Plant Field Guide 3: 598, F. 5149. 1974; Yunnan Flora 1: 475. 1977; Li, Woody Fl. Taiwan 827. 1963. [Lamiaceae]. **[Plate – I].**

Vernacular Name: Glory tree (English), *Kusagi* (Japanese), *Chapa-genda* (Bangla).

A deciduous trees, 4 – 6 m high. Leaves simple, opposite; petiole 4 – 10 cm long, pubescent; lamina ovate, 7 – 18 cm x 3.2 – 4.5 cm, entire, dark green, both surfaces soft-



PLATE - I: *Clerodendrum trichotomum* Thunberg [Lamiaceae]. **A.** Habit in natural habitat; **B.** Flowering twig; **C.** Unripe fruits with persistent calyx; **D.** Ripe fruits; **E.** Seeds

pubescent. Inflorescence terminal, 6 – 16 cm long and 12 – 25 cm across; bracts 1 – 2.3 cm long, lanceolate, caduceous; pedicels 2 – 12 cm long, softly pubescent. Flowers 2.5 – 3 cm long, bisexual, sweetly fragrant; calyx greenish, deeply 5-lobed, lobes ovate, acute, reddish, spreading in fruit, 10 – 11 cm long in flower; corolla white, 2.6 – 3.2 cm long, 5-lobed, lobes oblong rounded, glabrous; stamens 4, long exerted, equal; style filiform, exerted; stigma bifid. Fruit a blue-purple, drupe, surrounded by red persistent calyx.

Flowering: April to May; **Fruits:** June to September.

Global distribution: China, Korea and Japan, India.

Specimens examined: Charaipung RF, Digboi Forest Division, Tinsukia District, Assam, 22.05.2013, N. Das & J. Sarma, 1134 (N 27° 20' 14.5" / E 95° 29' 26.7"); 24.05.2013, N. Das & J. Sarma 1143 (N 27° 20' 33.8" / E 95° 29' 27.2" 3); 27.05.2013, N. Das & J. Sarma 1126 (N 27° 20' 33.8" / E 95° 29' 39.2"). [GUHB, CAL, ASSAM].

Uses: *Clerodendrum trichotomum* is used in folk medicines in countries like China, Korea, Thailand and Japan. The roots and leaves are mildly analgesic, antirheumatic, hypotensive and sedative. The pounded seeds are used to kill lice (Yeung 1983; Duke & Ayensu 1985). A decoction is used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and hypertension (Ramatullah *et al* 2010).

Notes: In Flora of China (Wu & Raven 1994) the distribution of the species is also shown in India. However, scrutiny of literature and herbarium survey in ASSAM, CAL and KEW revealed that species was not reported so far from India before its present collections from Assam.

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