

A NEW ARTABOTRYS FROM BURMA

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THE circumstances which led to the discovery of this new plant are interesting. It was first collected by Parkinson in 1929 from tropical rain forests in the Bassein District of Lower Burma. From its resemblance to the common *Artabotrys odoratissimus* R.Br. it was at first thought to be the same. Later it was sent to the Dehra Dun herbarium where it was again identified as *A. odoratissimus*. It was lying under this name in the Forest Herbarium, Maymyo, till 1942 when in the course of a revision of the Burmese Anonaceæ undertaken at Mandalay by the author it was recognised as differing considerably from *A. odoratissimus*. The sheets, together with some others of doubtful determination, were sent to Calcutta by the author shortly before the evacuation of Burma. Later the author was able to have them compared with the Wallichian sheets of *A. odoratissimus* by the kindness of Dr. S. K. Mukherjee, who remarked that "Parkinson's No. 8747 and No. 5060 are very different from Wallich's No. 6418 and these differ amongst themselves and are two distinct species." Parkinson's sheets No. 8747 were sent to Kew for comparison and were returned as "*Artabotrys* not matched; not *A. odoratissimus* R.Br." Parkinson's No. 8747 is described below. The material of his No. 5060, though sufficient to establish its distinctness, is too scanty for a full description.

***Artabotrys Parkinsonii* Chatterjee Sp. Nov. (Anonaceæ).**

Planta distinctissima, *Artabotrys odoratissimo habitu folisque similis*, sed ab eo pedunculi floribus minus numerosis minoribusque, petalis obtusis, minutissime pubescentibus, fructu anguste elongato, apice mucronato, inter alia satis recedit.

Extensive climber. Stem and branches terete, brown, longitudinally and minutely wrinkled at least when dry, glabrous, thinly lenticellate. *Leaves* shortly petioled, simple, alternate, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, entire, acute, base cuneate, chartaceous, both surfaces glabrous, upper surface shining; main nerves thin and rather inconspicuous, 7-9 pairs, spreading and anastomosing in loops by their ends below the margin; secondary nerves irregularly transverse. Lamina 9-12 cm. long and 3-3.5 cm. wide; petiole short, 3-5 mm., darker than the midrib, shallowly channelled. *Peduncles* usually leaf-opposed, hook flattened, curved, with about 6-8 flowers on each hook (2-3 flowers at the end of first curvature and some 4-5 flowers at the far end); hooks glabrous except near the bases of pedicels which are minutely rufous-tomentose. *Bracts* 2, minute, subulate, rufous-tomentose. *Flowers* regular, bisexual, greenish, 2-2.5 cm. in diam. Pedicel thinly hairy and gradually thickened upwards near the bases of sepals, 1-1.5 cm.

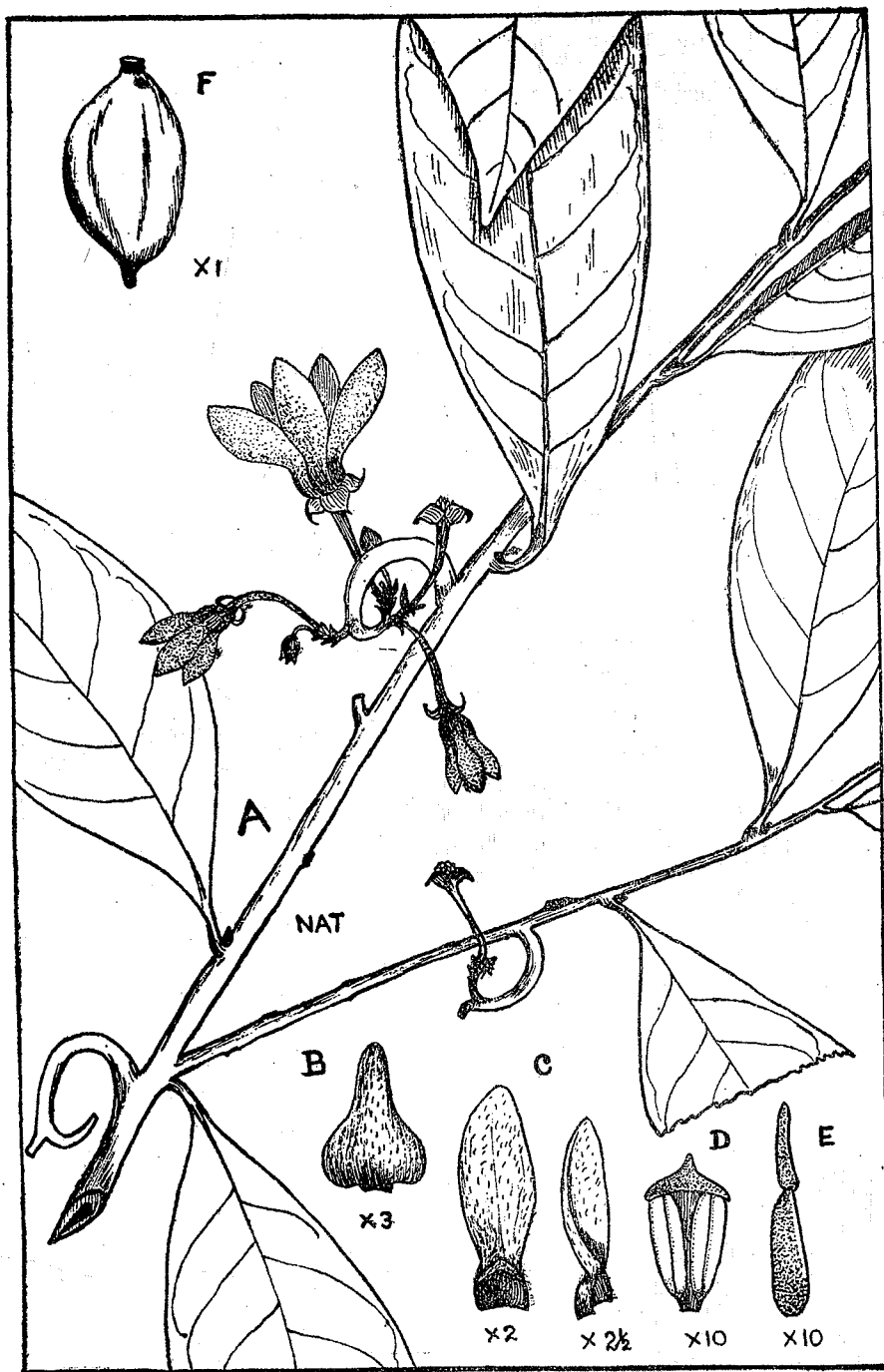


Fig. 1. *Artabotrys Parkinsonii* Chatterjee Sp. Nov.
A. Twig with leaves and inflorescence; B. Sepal; C. Outer and inner petals; D. Stamen; E. Carpel; F. Fruit.

long. *Sepals* 3, valvate, broadly deltoid, shortly acuminate, coriaceous, 4–5 mm. wide, hairy on both surfaces with golden brown hairs. *Petals* 6, biseriate, free; outer series larger, coriaceous, constricted near the base, upper part broadly ovate-lanceolate with obtuse apex, both surfaces thinly hairy except the dark and glabrous inner side of the shallow concavity near the base below the constriction, 1.5 cm. long and .5 cm. wide; a thin, minutely and densely tomentose strip is present just above the glabrous area of the petal below the constriction; inner petals slightly smaller in size, alternating with the outer, constricted near the base like the outer petals but the concavity at the base is very deep and the inner petal looks like a cochleate lamina; the concavity is dark and glabrous and the limb is thinly hairy; 1 cm. long and .3 cm. wide. *Stamens* many, free, sessile, connective produced to form a cushion-like top with mucronate apex at the centre 2 mm. long, anther-lobes dorsal and narrowly elongated. *Carpels* many, free, ovary narrowly conical, glabrous; stigma cylindrical, smooth, slightly and gently curved, glabrous, fluted on the top of the ovary where there is a constriction; about 2.5 mm. long with stigma. *Fruit* of 10–12 ripe carpels at the end of the peduncle which is swollen and much thickened; ripe carpels ellipsoid, dry, subsessile, indehiscent glabrous, with hard mucronate tip. Pericarp rather fibrous, 3 cm. long, 1.7 cm. wide. *Seed* one in each carpel, with ruminant endosperm.

Burma—Bassein District; Pyinmadon Chaung, C.E. Parkinson No. 8747, dated the 15th February 1929 (type and cotype in Herb. Calcutta).

This plant resembles *Artabotrys odoratissimus* in general habit and foliage, but differs in having more flowers on each peduncle, smaller size of the flowers, minutely pubescent obtuse petals, and slightly longer fruit with mucronate hard apex.

The work was carried out partly at the Agricultural College, Mandalay, and partly at the Botanical Laboratories of the Cotton College, Gauhati, Assam. The author acknowledges with grateful thanks very valuable help and encouragements received during the investigation from Dr. N. L. Bor, Mr. D. Dhind, Dr. K. Biswas, Dr. S. K. Mukerjee and Mr. V. Narayanaswami.