

The Genus *Anomalolejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn. New To Asia

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Taxonomic description of the genus *Anomalolejeunea pluriplicata*, a new record for India is presented.

The genus *Anomalolejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn. had earlier been known from Cape Town and Madagascar in South Africa (Bonner, 1962; Berghen, 1953). In a recent survey of liverworts from eastern Himalayas, several plants, growing epiphytically on the bark of angiosperms were collected, which are clearly referable to South African *A. pluriplicata* (Pearson) Schiffn. (Arnell, 1963), thus constituting a new record not only for India but also for Asiatic flora. The genus is rare and is represented by the only species. In most of the morphological features, it resembles an allied genus *Cheilolejeunea* but differs in perianth which is 8-10 plicate in the former and 5 plicate in the latter. Schuster (1980) treated *Anomalolejeunea* as a subgenus of *Cheilolejeunea*. The taxonomic details of the plant have been provided.

Anomalolejeunea pluriplicata (Pearson) Schiffn.

Plants yellowish - brown, irregularly branched by *Lejeunea* type of branching; stem in cross-section (60-70 μ m in diameter) with 7 cortical and 8-10 comparatively smaller medullary cells, cells thick-walled. Leaf-lobes imbricate, widely spreading with entire margin, ovate - oblong, 0.4-0.6 mm long, 0.3-0.4 mm wide, antical margin arched, apex subacute, incurved, leaf cells with prominent trigones, basal cells

12-28 x 12-20 μ m with large bulging trigones and intermediate nodular thickenings, apical marginal cells 7-12 x 6-9 μ m; leaf-lobules about 1/3 of the lobe length, second tooth distinct. Underleaves orbicular, 0.24-0.3 mm long, 0.2-0.35 mm wide, bifid only for 1/3 of the length, sinus 'V' or 'U' shaped, apex of the lobes rounded-obtuse, about 3 times of the stem width. Monoecious. Male inflorescence terminal on lateral branch, bracts in 6-7 pairs, apex of the lobes rounded, margin entire; bracteoles present only at the base. Female inflorescence terminal either on the main axis or on lateral branch, with 2(1) subfloral innovations; bracts and bracteoles smaller than perianth, bracts oblong, 0.5-0.7 mm long, 0.3-0.4 mm wide with obtuse-rounded apex; bract-lobules small, attached for about 2/3 of their length, apex obtuse; bracteoles obovate with wavy or entire margin, bifid only at apex, perianth pyriform, narrowed towards both the ends, somewhat compressed with 8-10 plicae (2 lateral, 3-4 dorsal and 3-4 ventral), plicae smooth, extended for about 2/3 of the perianth length, beak prominent, Sporophyte not seen.

Specimens examined LWU 3992/79, *A. pluriplicata* (Pearson) Schiffn., Loc.: Jowai (Meghalaya), Date: Nov.11.1979. Coll.: A. Kumar and U.S. Awasthi. Det.: R. Udar and A. Agarwal.

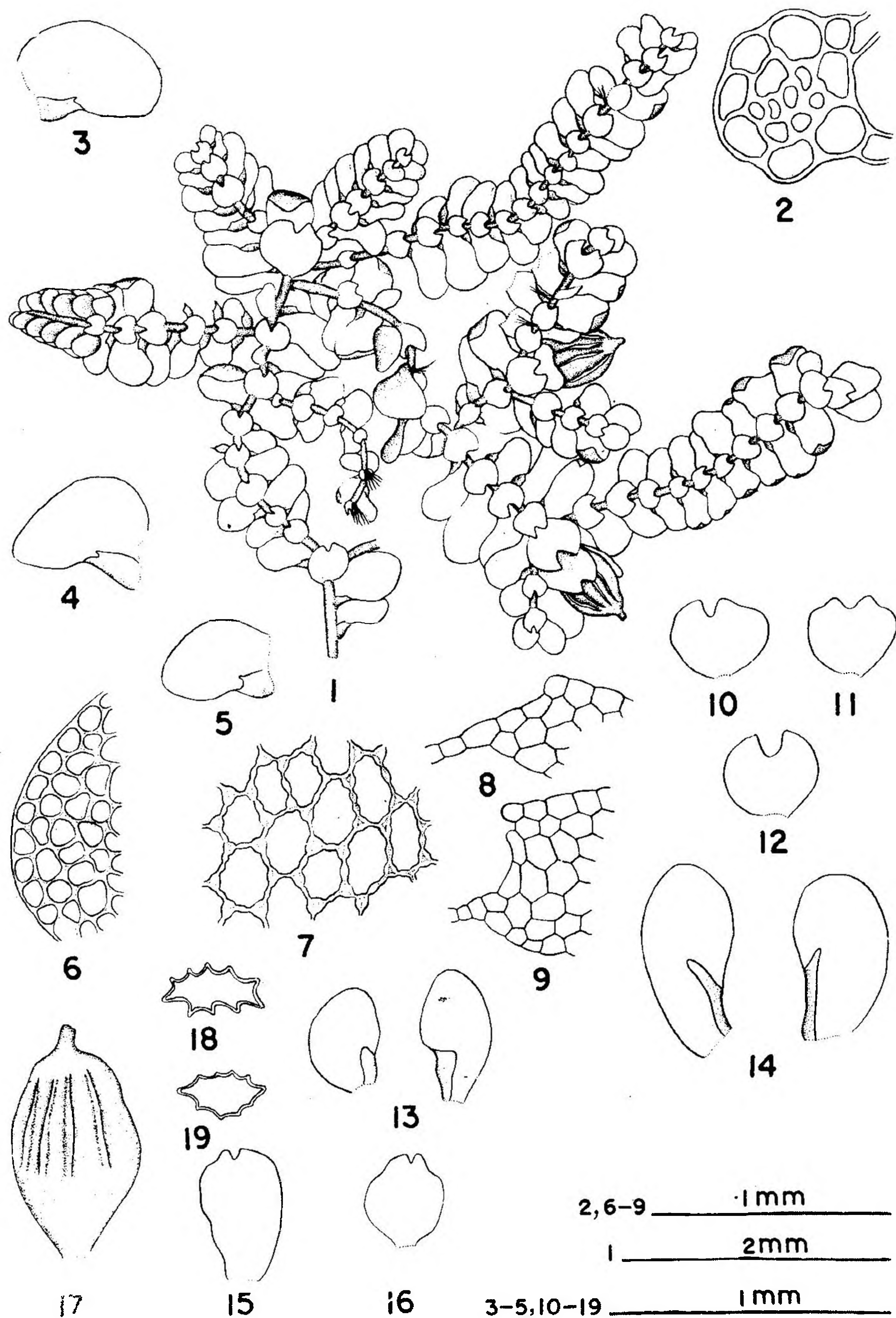


Fig. 1. Plant in ventral view; 2. Cross-section of the stem; 3-5. Leaves; 6. Apical leaf-cells; 7. Basal leaf-cells; 8,9. Leaf-lobules; 10-12. Underleaves; 13, 14. Female bracts; 15, 16. Female bracteoles; 17. Perianth; 18, 19. Cross-sections of the perianth.

Range: South Africa and India (eastern Himalayas).

The taxon grows in association with several species of *Frullania* (*F. itoana*, *F. meyeniana*, *F. nepalensis*, *F. gracilis*), *Drepanolejeunea erecta* and *Leucolejeunea paroica* and shows trans-oceanic bicentric disjunct distribution between Africa and India.

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