

***Anisomeles indica* (L.) Kuntze var. *mollissima* Benth. (Lamiaceae) – An addition to the Flora of Orissa from Malkangiri**

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Abstract

Anisomeles indica (L.) Kuntze var. *mollissima* Benth. (Lamiaceae) collected from the district Malkangiri is an addition to the flora of Orissa. Brief description and illustration of the same are provided.

Key words: *Anisomeles indica* var. *mollissima*, Malkangiri, Orissa, New report.

Introduction

During botanical exploration to study the floristic wealth of Malkangiri district (Map. 1) in Orissa, India, an interesting taxon of Lamiaceae was collected from Mudulipada (Bonda hills), at an elevation of 454 m MSL. After careful and critical examination, the specimen was identified as *Anisomeles indica* (L.) Kuntze var. *mollissima* Benth. The identity was confirmed by comparing with the protologue and authentic specimens housed at Central National Herbarium, Kolkata (CAL). After referring with important published literature the taxon is found to be an addition to the flora of Orissa state (Haines 1924; Mooney 1950; Saxena & Brahmam 1995).

Hence, a brief description along with photographs (Fig. 1 & 2) highlighting the diagnostic features of the taxon is provided here in order to facilitate easy identification.

Taxonomy

Anisomeles indica (L.) Kuntze var. *mollissima* Benth. in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 1140. 1924; Prain, Beng. Pl. 2: 638. 1963 (repr. ed.); Backer & Brink Jr., Fl. Java 2: 624. 1965. (Fig. 1 & 2)

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Fig. 1 & 2. *Anisomeles indica* (L.) Kuntze var. *mollissima* Benth.



Table. Showing study area

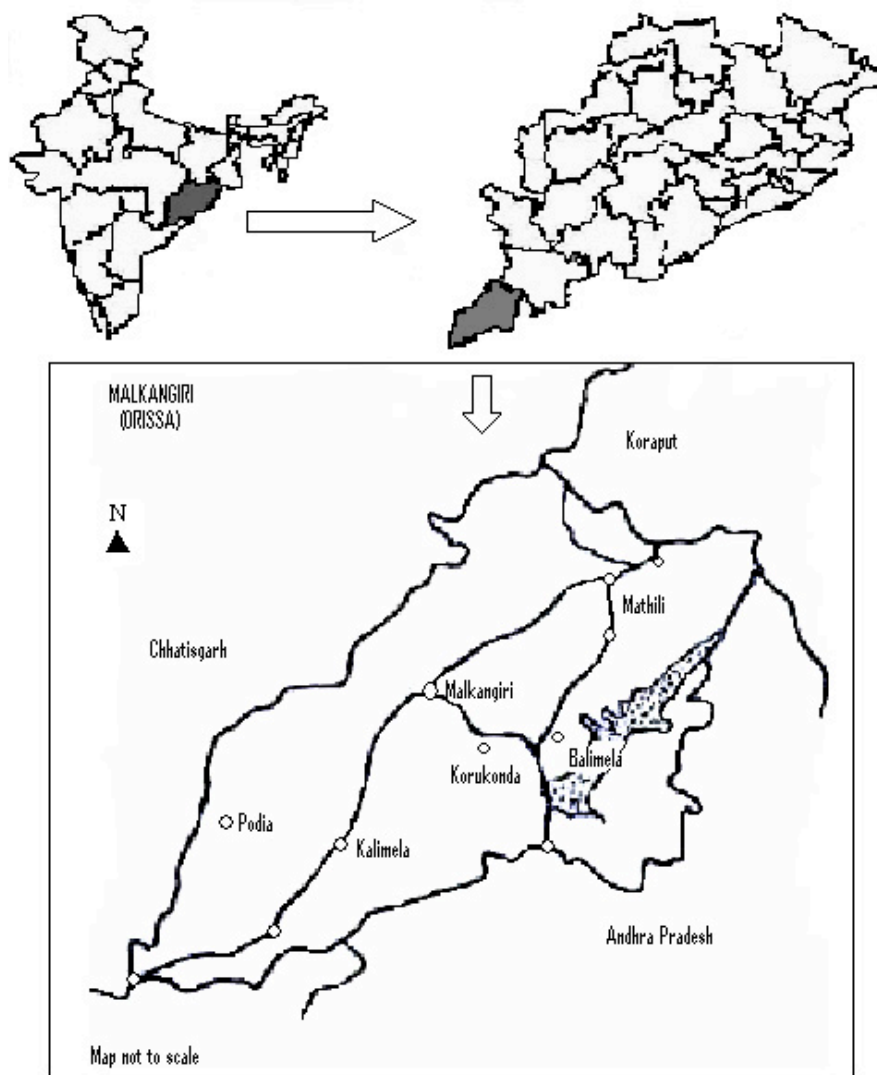
<i>Anisomeles indica</i> var. <i>mollissima</i>	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> var. <i>indica</i>
Stems densely hirsute.	Stems glabrous, sometimes pubescent.
Leaves coriaceous, densely hirsute on both surfaces, but ash-white and softly wooly pubescent on the abaxial surface.	Leaves not coriaceous, sometimes puberulous, but not ash-white on the abaxial surface.
Inflorescence densely villous.	Inflorescence glabrous or sometimes thinly pubescent.

Erect, strongly aromatic undershrubs, 80-150 cm high; stem branched, densely hairy along the groove, 4-angular. Leaves opposite, simple; lamina 5-9 x 2-4 cm, ovate-lanceolate, thick, crenate-serrate, base cuneate, pubescent on both sides, less dense on adaxial surface, cottony-white or densely villous on abaxial surface except on veins and veinlets; petioles 1-3 cm long. Flowers in dense axillary cymes, on 1.8-2.3 cm long inflorescence, purplish; bracts filiform, up to 1.3 cm long, linear or subulate. Calyx 0.6-0.8 cm long, gamosepalous, 5 partite, lobes sub-equal, densely villous. Corolla bilipped, tube short, annulate within; upper lip erect, entire, short, lower lip broad, spreading, trilobed, lateral lobes small, middle lobe large, bifid. Stamens 4, didynamous, exserted, pubescent at base. Styles 0.4-0.7 cm long, gynobasic. Stigma bifid, lobes sub-equal. Ovary 4-partite, superior. Nutlets ovoid, brownish or black, polished. Flowering & Fruiting: November-March.

Specimens examined:

Chittagong, 1876, *J. L. Lister* 360854 (CAL); Coonoor, Nilgiri Hills, 29.08.1878, *G. King* 360859 (CAL); Poona, 05.12.1888, *M. Woodrow* 1723 (CAL); Kunjaban hills, North of Agartala (600-900 ft.), 01.01.1915, *P. M. Debbarman* 651 (CAL); Barnihat, Assam (200 ft.), 21.10.1915, *U. Kanjilal* 6083 (CAL). Mudulipada (Bonda hills), Malkangiri (454 m), 23.11.2007, *Sahu, Biswas and Brahman* 10396 (RRL B).

This taxon is close to *A. indica* var. *indica*, but can be differentiated by the following characters shown in the table.



Map 1. Showing study area

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