

***DIPTERACANTHUS BEDDOMEI* (C.B. CLARKE)
SANTAPAU (ACANTHACEAE) - A NEW
REPORT TO SOUTHERN INDIA**

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with web supplement

Recently, a species of *Dipteracanthus* Nees was collected from Paruvathamalai Reserve Forest of Polur Range in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu State and this could not be matched with any of the species recorded in southern Indian floras. Studies with Hooker's Flora of British India and the northern Indian floras confirmed its identity as *D. beddomei* (C.B. Clarke) Santapau. The specimens were matched with the authentic specimens housed at Kew Herbarium, London and also expert opinion was sought from the Acanthaceae specialist. This species has not been thus far recorded in any of the published floras of southern Indian states. Therefore, a note on its extended distribution supplemented with a scanned image of herbarium specimen is provided here.

***Dipteracanthus beddomei* (C.B. Clarke) Santapau**

In: Indian For. 79: 322. 1953; Tripathi *et al.*, Fl. Elem. Madhya Pradesh 49. 1994; V. Mudgal *et al.* (eds.), Fl. Madhya Pradesh 2: 305. 1997. *Ruellia beddomei* C.B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 413. 1884. (Acanthaceae).

Erect herb, up to 75cm high. Roots not tuberous. Stems obtusely 4-angled, glabrous with minute vertically aligned sclerides; nodes swollen above and with a horizontal, hairy ridge. Leaves oblong to ovate-lanceolate, slightly falcate, 3-8 x 0.5-3m, base obtuse-subacute, apex acuminate, margin entire and ciliate with stiff-hairs, chartaceous, drying grey-green, sparsely hirsute along nerves above, densely pubescent beneath; sclerides linear, densely irregularly scattered; lateral nerves ca 4 pairs; petioles 0.5-1.3cm long, sparingly hirsute. Flowers solitary, axillary, subsessile; bracteoles leaf-like, elliptic-lanceolate, 1-2 x 0.5-1cm. Calyx-lobes linear-lanceolate, about 1 x 0.1cm, 1-nerved, hirsute, apex acuminate, margin ciliate. Corolla ca 6.5cm long, ca 3cm across, rose-purple; lobes broadly ovate, spreading; tube ca 3.5cm long, lower half cylindrical, upper half ventricose. Stamens four. Styles filiform; stigmas oblong. Capsules clavate, compressed, ca 2 x 0.6cm, base solid, apex acute, minutely pubescent, light brown. Seeds ca 16, discoid, ca 4mm across, thickened along margin, densely pubescent when wet (Fig. 1).

Material examined: Flowers and fruits, 10.xi.2002, Paruvatha-malai R.F., Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu State, 800m,

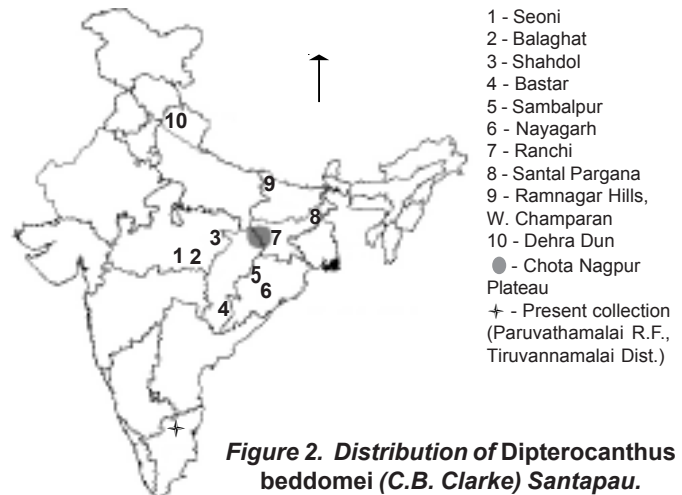


Figure 2. Distribution of *Dipteracanthus beddomei* (C.B. Clarke) Santapau.

coll. R. Vijaya Sankar, FRLHT 71267 (Image 1*); fruits, 12.i.2003, Paruvathamalai R.F., Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu State, 850m, coll. R. Vijaya Sankar and K. Ravikumar, FRLHT 71367; flowers, 16.viii.1939, Palva Block, Nayagarh District, Orissa State, Central India, coll. H.F. Mooney 1088K (!).

This species is endemic to India. It was earlier reported from the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttaranchal. In Madhya Pradesh, it has been rarely recorded in the hilly slopes in Sal forests of Balaghat, Seoni, Shahdol (east & southeastern region of the state: Tripathi *et al.*, 1994; Mudgal *et al.*, 1997). In Chhattisgarh, it was recorded from Bastar (Mooney, 1950). It is reported to be common in Chota Nagpur Plateau of northeastern Chhattisgarh and western part of Jharkhand States (Haines, 1978). It is said to be distributed throughout Orissa (Mooney, 1950; Haines, 1978), Jharkhand (Haines, 1978) and West Bengal (Raizada, 1976) in the hills up to an altitude of 1000m. In Bihar, this species has been collected from Ramnagar hills of West Champaran District (Bhattacharyya, & Sarkar, 1998). In Uttaranchal, it is known only from Dehra Dun (Babu, 1966).

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* See Image 1 on the web at www.zoosprint.org