



Aeschynomene manipurensis: A New Species from Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots

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General Note

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ABSTRACT

Aeschynomene manipurensis is reported as new record from Indo-Burma regions, India. This species, so far considered as closest to *A. americana* L., native to America, was collected from the valley of Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot regions of India. Detailed descriptions, illustration, photographs are provided which make it as a new species.

Key words: *Aeschynomene*, Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, India, Fabaceae, Manipur, *Aeschynomene americanum*

1. INTRODUCTION

Aeschynomene L. is a monophyletic genus having about 180 species of the tribe Delbergieae belonging to Fabaceae. The genus is widely distributed in mostly warm regions showing aquatic habitat. The genus currently circumscribed is paraphyletic and opinion is that subgenus Ochopodium is elevated to a new genus within Dalbergieae. In India, there are only three species (Sanjappa, 1992)

are reported under this genus (*A. americana* L., *A. aspera* L., *A. indica* L.). So far in Indo-Burma regions of Manipur state of India, species such as *A. indica* L. and *A. aspera* L. are reported under this genus (Yumnam and Tripathy, 2012; Devi, 2013; Mikawlawng et al. 2014). During the survey of Orchid species of Indo-Burma regions under the project "Orchid Bioresources of the North –East India- Conservation, database development and information networks" (grant no.: 102/I.F.D./SAN/4311-4316; Serial No.: 435-443-reg./grant), authors found the species of genus *Aeschynomene* L. In first observation, its phonological keys indicated that it was *A. americana* and not reported earlier from this regions but after the critical analysis it was confirmed that It is a new species of the genus *Aeschynomene*, found near wet and paddy fields of Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot regions, India. The species was collected from 7 different locations. Detailed descriptions, key, illustrations are provided for easy identification of this phytogeographically interesting species.

2. TAXONOMIC TREATMENTS

Aeschynomene manipurensis

TYPE: INDIA, Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, Manipur, Imphal, 565 m, 19 December 2017.

Terrestrial wetland *Herb*, creeping, up to 45-65 cm high. *Stems* hairy, erect or decumbent, green to brownish, glandular. *Leaves* 20-36 mm long, 24-65-foliolate, petiole about 0.3-0.4 cm long, leaflets 20-30 pairs, glabrous, base cuneate, apex aristate. *Racemes*, 2-3 flowered, hairy pedicels & peduncles. *Flowers* pinkish-brown, 8mm long, orbicular petal. *Pod* curved, stalked, 24-28 mm long, 6-10 joints. *Seeds* reniform, brown, 0.3 cm diameter. *Flowering*: September-November. *Fruit*: October-January. *Ecology*, Commonly found in wet areas of forest edges with *Mimosa pudica* L., near paddy field of valley of Indo-Burma regions.

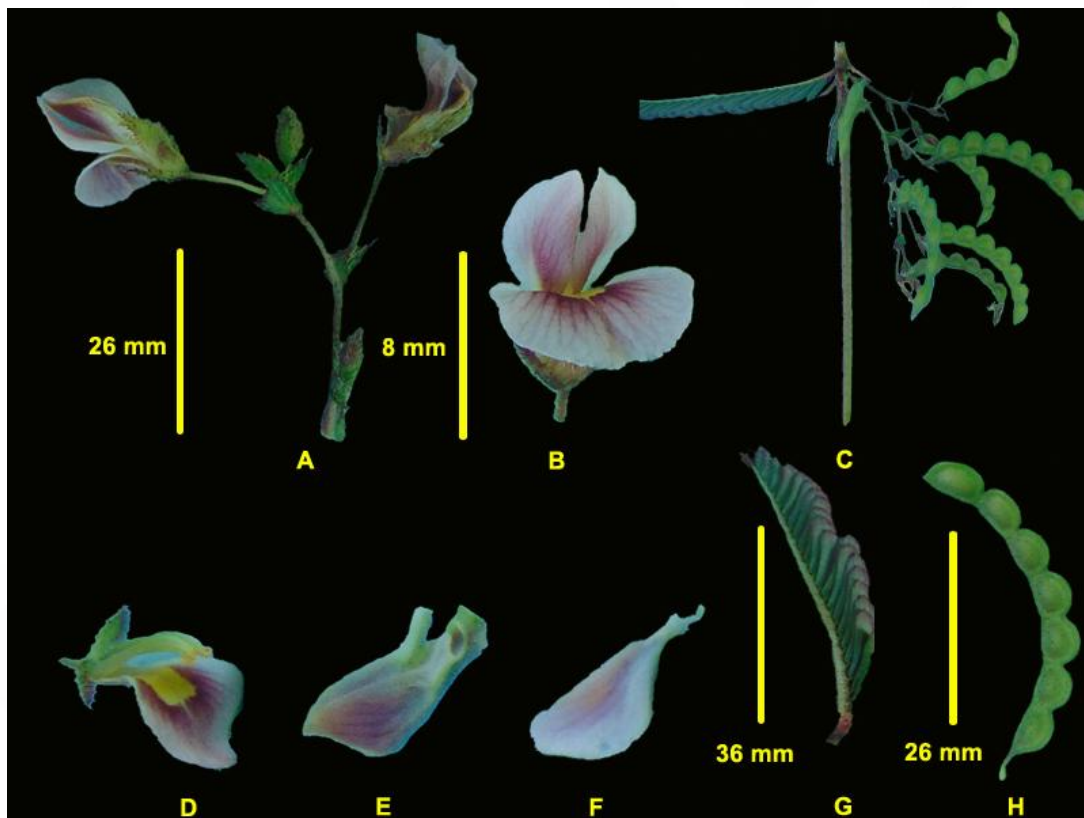


Figure 1 Floral parts of *Aeschynomene manipurensis*

Distribution

The examined specimen (Figure 1) is distributed from 565 msl to 1800 msl in Indo-Burma regions. It is rich in near Imphal valley, Ukhrul district of Manipur, Senapati district of Manipur and near the border area of India-Myanmar.

Conservation status

No threats are observed during the survey of examined plant species in Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot regions.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN. ORC-BDBD-IBSD/2017-0002 dt. 19.12.2017

Note

The critical studied distinguished the present collected species (PCS) as a new species from India. The closest species, *A. americana* show sensation on touch but present collected species has no sensation on touch; the number of flowers in *A. americana* are 4-8 and in PCS has 2-3. The fruits show linear in *A. americana* and curved in PCS. Flowers are yellow in *A. americana* and pinkish-brown in PCS. The above observations made the present collected species are new from India as *A. manipurensis*.

Etymology

The specific name refers to the collected region. The collected region is Manipur state belonging to the one biodiversity hotspot of the world.

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