

## A NEW MERREMIA FROM NEW GUINEA (CONVOLVULACEAE)

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*Merremia aniseiifolia* Ooststr., *sp. nov.* — Fig. 1.

*Planta* herbacea, caulibus gracilibus, scandentibus vel prostratis?, sparse patule pilosis, glabrescentibus. *Folia* breviter petiolata, petiolis 3—5 mm longis, sparse patule pilosis, lanceolata vel lineari-lanceolata vel interdum oblonga, (2.5—)5—7 cm longa, 6—10 mm lata, basi rotundata, apice acuta mucronulata, in marginibus adpresse pilosa, ceterum sparse pilosa vel glabra, nervis lateralibus utrinque 4—6 ascendentibus. *Inflorescentiae* axillares, pedunculatae, 1-florae; pedunculis 2—4(—6) cm longis, gracilibus, sparse patule pilosis vel glabris; pedicellis apicem versus incrassatis, verruculosi, 6—10 mm longis; bracteis minutis, subulatis. *Sepala* aequalia vel interiora subbreviora, 12—15 mm longa, exteriora 2 crassiuscula, ovato-lanceolata vel anguste ovata, apicem acutum versus attenuata vel acuminata, dorso verruculosa et sparse breviter pilosa, interiora 3 membranacea, oblonga, cuspidata, laevia et glabra vel sepalum tertium ad basin verruculosum. *Corolla* infundibuliformis, verisim. c. 2—2.5 cm longa, glabra, flava. *Stamina* inclusa, filamentis 6—7 mm longis, c. 2.5 mm supra basin corollae insertis, basi breviter pilosis, antheris maturis contortis, c. 3—3.5 mm longis. *Discus* annularis. *Ovarium* pilosum; stylo incluso, c. 8—10 mm longo, glabro.

NEW GUINEA. W. New Guinea: Kebar Valley, Andjai, c. 600 m alt., on grassland, rather common, herb, flowers yellow, 6-9-1959, V. W. Moll B.W. 9511 (L, type; LAE).

This new species belongs to section *Streptandra* Hallier f., Bot. Jahrb. 18 (1894) 114. It shows the conical acute flower buds and the 5 dark lines in the midpetaline bands of the corolla characteristic of this section. Its nearest ally in the Malaysian flora is apparently *Merremia tridentata* (L.) Hallier f., Bot. Jahrb. 16 (1893) 552. Of the subspecies into which *M. tridentata* can be divided it most resembles subsp. *hastata* Ooststr., a drawing of which may be found in Flora Malesiana ser. I, vol. 4 (1953) 445, fig. 27. It differs from this subspecies in having quite entire leaves, in the longer sepals (12—15 mm long), the outer of which are verruculose and sparsely hairy, and in the hairy ovary. In *M. tridentata* subsp. *hastata* the leaves are dentate at the base, and the sepals are only 6—7 mm, rarely up to 10 mm long, smooth and glabrous, as is the ovary.

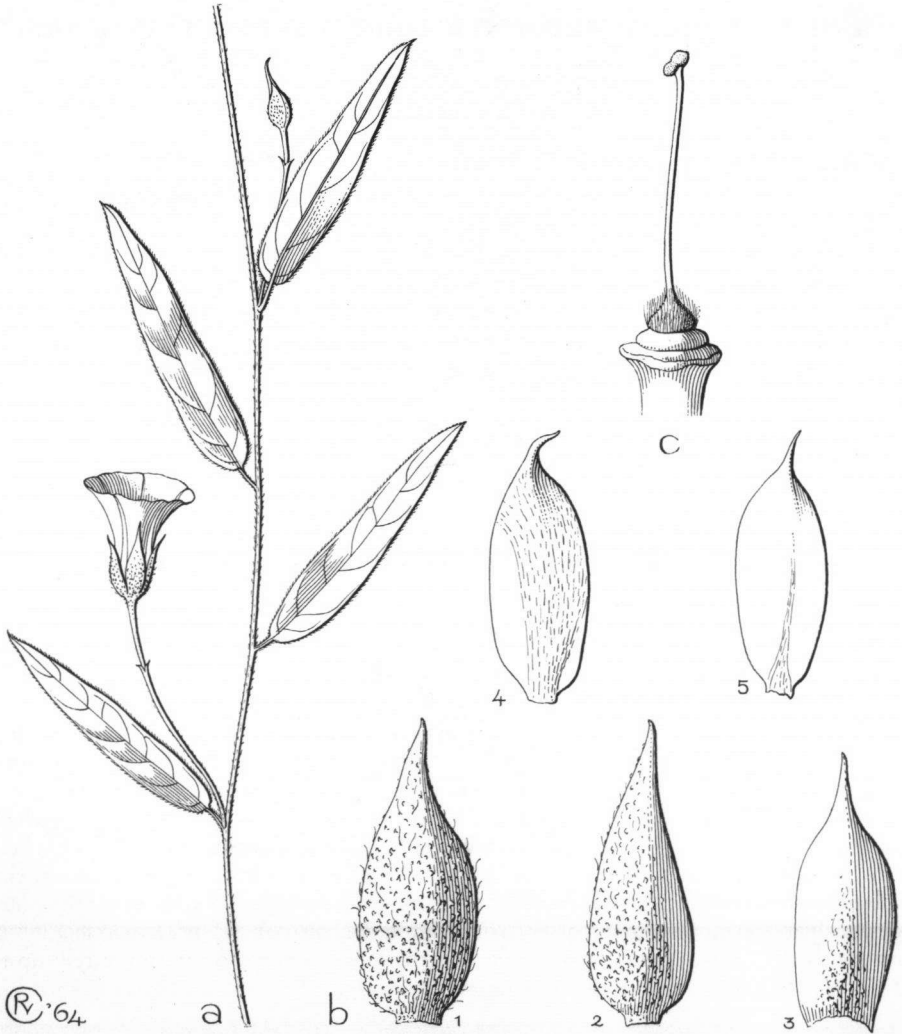


Fig. 1. *Merremia aniseifolia* Ooststr. — a. Flowering stem,  $\times \frac{1}{2}$ ; b<sub>1-5</sub>. sepals 1-5,  $\times 3$ ; c. pistil,  $\times 4$  (Moll B. W. 9511).