

AN UNDESCRIBED SPECIES OF MYCETIA REINW. (RUBIACEAE) FROM INDIA

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The present paper describing a new species of *Mycetia* Reinw. (*Rubiaceae*) is based on a collection by J. L. Lister in 1874—75 and subsequently by G. King's Collector Badul Khan in January, 1890 from Daffa Hills, NEFA. The late Dr. G. King named the taxon *Adenosacme listeri* King MSS which was not published. Later on I. H. Burkill in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 10 (1925) 298 named his specimens (*Burkill 36423 & 37321*) from the Abor Hills *Adenosacme listeri* King without description. An examination of Burkill's specimens in the herbarium (CAL) reveals that his collection is not conspecific with Lister's, named by King. Very recently G. Panigrahi & S. K. Kar in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 5 (1963) 27 named a collection (*Panigrahi 19395*) *A. listeri* King ex Burkill, probably without knowing that it was not a validly published name and that the specimen is not conspecific with Burkill's collection, where as it is identical with Lister's.

The generic name *Mycetia* Reinw. has been established as the valid name for *Adenosacme* Wall. Studies on the genus *Mycetia* Reinw. suggest that Lister's collection deserves specific status as suggested by King. Recent collection of the material indicates that the plant exists over a larger area. Hence it is considered desirable to name and describe the species. Specific name suggested by King after the first collector Lister is retained here.

Mycetia listeri Deb, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1.

Accedit ad *M. longifoliam* Kuntze, e fam. Rubiacearum, a qua tamen differt foliis glabrescentibus late linearibus.

Frutex parvus, ramosus, caule tereti fragili, ad nodos tumescente, juvenili quidem pubescenti. *Folia* stipulata opposita simplicia, inaequalia in singulis paribus, 9—28 × 0.7—3.5 cm late linearia membranacea integra longe acuminata, ad basin attenuata in petiolum ad 8 mm longum puberulum, lamina subfalcata, inaequali ad basin, nervis 12—20 ad utrumque latus alternis apicem versus arcum efformantibus; nervis omnibus puberulis infra, vix supra; stipulis interpetiolaribus, foliacis, ovato-ellipticis vel lanceolatis, obtusis ± 0.8—1.5 cm longis, puberulis, ciliatis vel glandularibus ad margines. *Inflorescentia* axillaris et terminalis, folio brevior, paniculato-cymosa bis terv furcata ad 10 cm diam.; pedunculis erectis, ad 3.5 cm longis, bracteis deciduis, parvis, formae variae, interdum glandularibus. *Flores* pedicellati, bisexuales regulares ad 8 mm longi, 2 mm diam, pedicellis gracilibus ± 3—8 mm longis. *Calycis* 4.5—5 mm longi lacinae persistentes chartaceae ± 3 mm longae ad margines glandulis oblongis dispersis ornatae; tubo hemisphaerico ± 2 mm diam. *Corolla* alba ± 6 × 2 mm; lacinae 5, in alabastro valvatae, intus dense pubescentes. *Stamina* 5 epipetala, ad basin laciniarum fixa, filamentis ± 0.3 mm, antheris ± 2.25 mm lineari-oblongis bilobis dorsiofixis. *Carpella* bina syncarpa, stigmatibus bilobis puberulo, stylo unico, simul cum stigmatibus ± 7.5 mm longo; ovarium hemisphaericum biloculare ovulis plurimis placentae axiali fixis. *Fructus* baccatus ovalis 3—4 mm diam. bilocularis, seminibus plurimis minutis angulosis ± 0.3 mm.

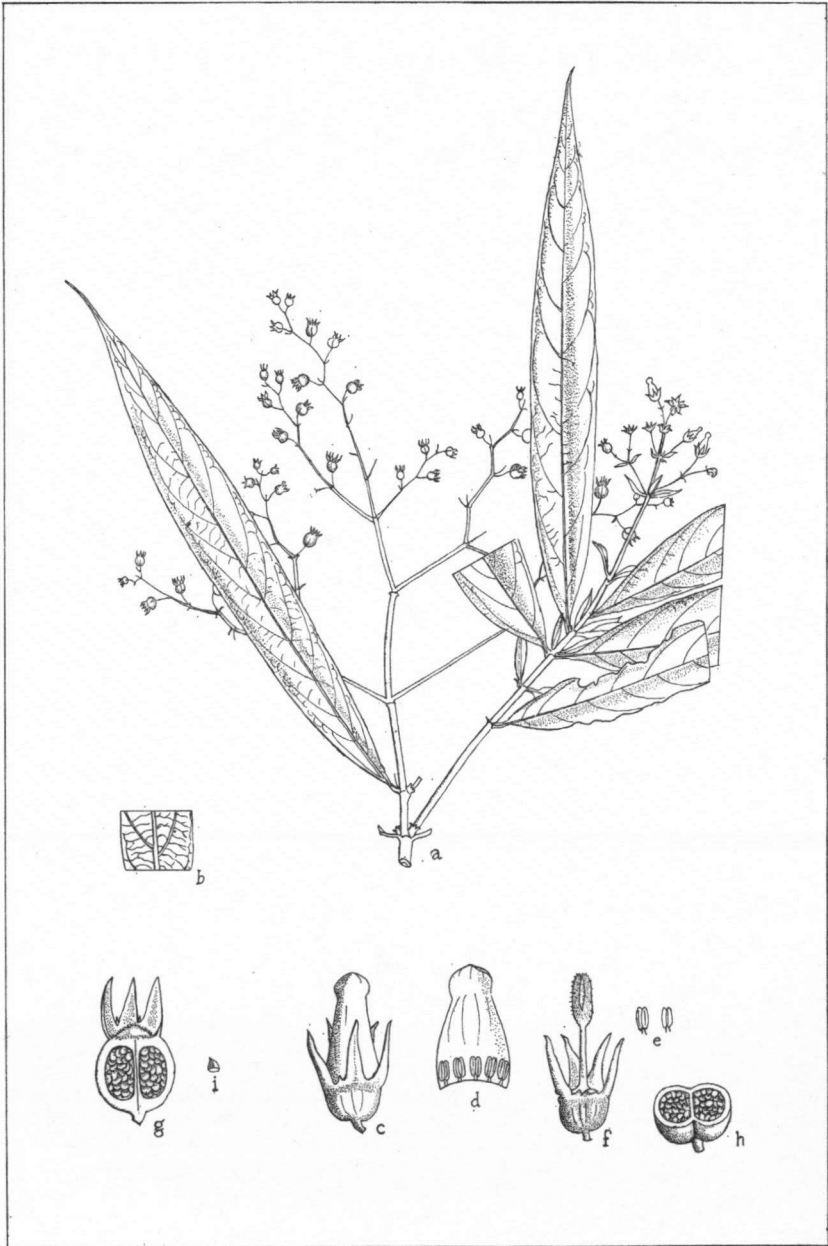


Fig. 1. *Mycettia listeri* Deb. — a. Portion of the plant showing the habit; b. portion of a leaf showing venation; c. a flower; d. corolla with stamens; e. stamens showing attachment of the filament with the anther; f. pistil showing stigma, style, and ovary with sepals; g. longitudinal section of the ovary; h. cross section of the fruit; i. seed.

Typus *J. L. Lister (a) s.n.* lectus in collibus Daphla dictis in loco Shemguh ad alt. 1213 m. in NEFA in India, 1874—1875.

Isotypus *J. L. Lister (b) s.n.* lectus eodem loco ac die, paratypi *Badulkhan 55 a-d* lecti eodem loco mense januario 1890. Hi omnes typi positi sunt in CAL; paratypus alius, *Panigrahi 19395*, lectus in Subansiri FD in Assamia, positus in ASSAM.

***Mycetia listeri* Deb, spec. nov.**

This species is near to *Mycetia longifolia* Kuntze (*Rubiaceae*) differing in glabrescent broadly linear leaves.

Shrub small, branching; *stem* terete, brittle, swollen at the nodes, pubescent when young. *Leaves* stipulate, opposite, simple, unequal in pairs, 9—28 × 0.7—3.5 cm with some intermediate ones diminutive in form, broadly linear, membranous, entire, long acuminate, attenuated at the base, petiole short, up to 8 mm long, puberulous, lamina slightly falcate, unequal at the base, veins about 12—20 on either side, alternate, arching towards the apex; midrib, veins, and veinlets puberulous beneath, scarcely so above; stipules interpetiolar, foliaceous, ovate-elliptic or lanceolate, obtuse ± 0.8—1.5 cm long, puberulous, ciliate or glandular at the margin. *Inflorescence* axillary and terminal, shorter than the leaf, di- and trichotomously branching panicle of cymes up to 15 cm across; peduncle erect, up to 3.5 cm long; bracts deciduous, small, varying in shape, sometimes glandular and forming a rim like structure. *Flowers* pedicellate, bisexual, regular, gamopetalous, epigynous, about 8 mm long and 2 mm across; pedicel slender ± 3—8 mm long. *Calyx* gamosepalous, about 4.5—5 mm long, lobes 5, persistent, chartaceous, about 3 mm long, with scattered oblong glands at the margin, tube hemispheric, ± 2 mm across. *Corolla* white, tubular, ± 6 × 2 mm, lobes 5, valvate in bud, densely pubescent within about $\frac{1}{3}$ the length in the middle sector. *Stamens* 5, epipetalous, attached at the base of the corolla lobes; filaments very short, ± 0.3 mm, anthers ± 2.25 mm, linear-oblong, 2-lobed, dorsifixed. *Carpels* 2, syncarpous; stigma 2-lobed, puberulous; style 1, stigma and style ± 7.5 mm long; *ovary* inferior, hemispherical, 2 celled with many ovules in axile placentation. *Fruit* a berry, ovoid, ± 3—4 mm in diam., 2-chambered; seeds many, minute, angled, ± 0.3 mm.

INDIA. North East Frontier Agency: Shenguh, 1213 m., Daphla hills, 1874—75, *J. L. Lister s.n.* (CAL: a—Holotype; b—Isotype); Daffia Hill, Jan. 1890, *Badul Khan (Dr. King's collector) 55 a-d* (CAL) flowers white. Subansiri F.D., — 9th mile (14.4 KM.) from Kimin (250 m.), 25-5-1959, *G. Panigrahi 19395* (ASSAM).

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