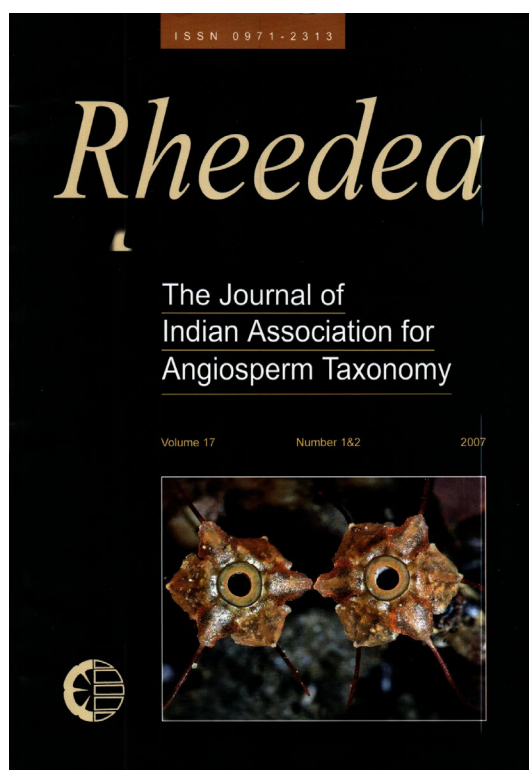




## Collection of *Artabotrys nicobarianus* D. Das (Annonaceae) after Three Decades

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## Collection of *Artabotrys nicobarianus* D. Das (Annonaceae) after Three Decades

### Abstract

*Artabotrys nicobarianus* D. Das, endemic to the Great Nicobar Island, was recollected from the Campbell Bay National Park after a lapse of 33 years. Fruit of this species is described for the first time based on the present collection. Detailed description along with illustrations and field notes are provided.

Keywords: *Artabotrys nicobarianus*, Campbell National Park, Fruit, Description

### Introduction

The genus *Artabotrys* R. Br. has about 100 species distributed in tropical region, particularly South East Asia. In India, the genus is represented by six species (Mitra, 1993), of which one species is reported from Great Nicobar Island (Hajra & Rao, 1999).

D. Das described *Artabotrys nicobarianus* in 1969 based on specimens collected by Thothathri and Banerjii in 1966 from the Galathea National Park in the Great Nicobar Island. Since then, it has not been collected though its distributional localities were well botanized (Balakrishnan *et al.*, 1989; Hajra & Rao 1999). The species was considered 'possibly extinct'.

The first author collected *A. nicobarianus* during a floristic exploration in Great Nicobar Island and confirmed its identity at PBL.

***Artabotrys nicobarianus*** D. Das, Bull. Bot. Surv. India. 11:194. (1969) 1971; Mitra, Fl. India 1: 252.1993; Hajra & Rao, Fl. Gr. Nicobar Isl. 126. 1999.

### Fig. 1

*Scandent shrubs* with hooked peduncles, young parts pubescent. *Leaves* simple, alternate, elliptic, cuneate at base, acute to acuminate at apex, 9-14 x 3-6 cm, glabrous; petiole c. 0.5 cm long. *Flowers* fasciculate on hooked peduncles; peduncles compressed, brown tomentose; bracts minute, brown tomentose; pedicels slender, 0.7-1.2 cm long, tomentose; sepals 3, ovate, acute, c. 0.4 cm long, tomentose outside, glabrous inside; petals 6 (3+3), outer ones clawed, 4-5 x 0.5-0.7 cm, limb linear-lanceolate, acuminate, tomentose on both sides, inner ones c. 2.8-4.8 x 0.2-0.3 cm

long, subclavate or terete, grey tomentose; stamens many, 1-1.5 mm long; connective convex, beaked. *Carpels* a few, ovoid, c. 0.5 cm long, densely strigose; ovary ovoid; stigma sessile; ripe carpels ovoid to oblong, 3-3.5 x 1.5-1.7 cm; sessile to subsessile, woody, narrowed at both ends, pointed at apex, brownish with dark pink spots all over, seed one, brown, ovoid, 1.5-1.7 x 1 cm.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: March-July

*Distribution*: So far known only from the Great Nicobar Island.

*Habitat*: Tropical evergreen dense forests at 100-200m.

*Specimens Examined*: INDIA, **Great Nicobar Island**, Galathea Bay to Pulobaha Bay, 26 March 1966, Thothathri & Banerjii 11524 (CAL); V. B. Shimpale 530 (CEMDE, Delhi University, Delhi).

*Note*: Although the species flowers profusely, most of the flowers fall early and fruit set is low. Flowers emit foetid smell. Only two individuals were observed in about 10 km<sup>2</sup> area.

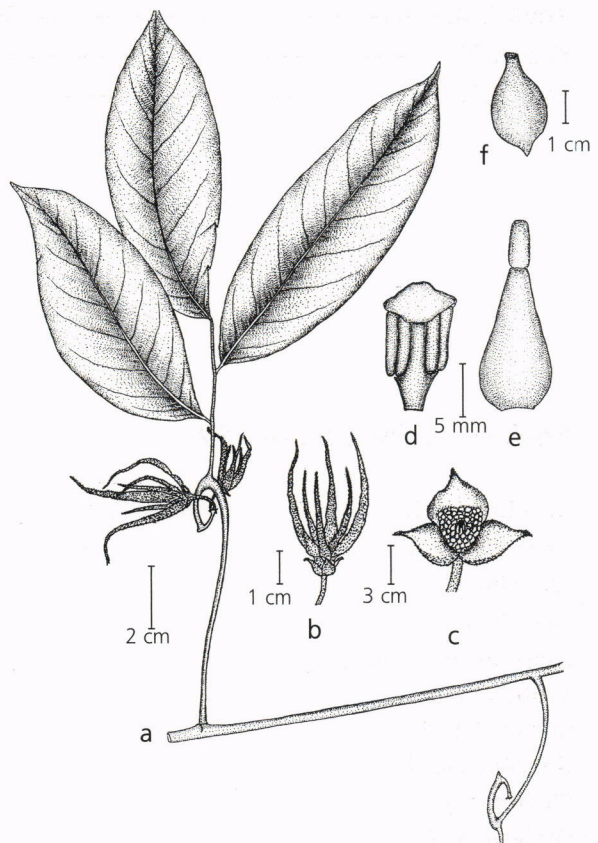


Figure 1. *Artabotrys nicobarianus* D. Das - a. Flowering twig; b. Single flower; c. Stamens and pistils; d. Single stamen; e. Gynoecium; f. Fruitlet.

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