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NOTE

***LINOSTOMA DECANDRUM* (ROXB.) WALL. EX ENDL.
(THYMELAEACEAE): AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF
ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA**

L. Rasingam & K. Karthigeyan

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***LINOSTOMA DECANDRUM* (ROXB.) WALL. EX ENDL. (THYMELAEACEAE): AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA**

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Linostoma Wall. ex Endl. is a small genus in the family Thymelaeaceae distributed in Bangladesh, Myanmar, northeastern India to Indo-China, Thailand, Malay Peninsula, and Borneo (Nevling 1961). Nevling (1961) has recognized three species of *Linostoma*, of which *Linostoma decandrum* (Roxb.) Wall. ex Endl. is reported from the Assam and Manipur states of northeastern India.

While working on unidentified specimens collected from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands deposited at PBL and CAL, the authors came across a few specimens of *Linostoma*. After critical study with relevant literature, all the specimens were found belonging to *Linostoma decandrum*. Since the species had not been reported so far from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Rao 1986; Lakshminarasimhan & Rao 1996; Mathew 1998; Pandey & Diwakar 2008), it forms a new distribution record to the islands' biogeographic zone. A detailed description for the species along with a herbarium image is provided for easy identification.

Taxonomic treatment

Linostoma decandrum (Roxb.) Wall. ex Endl., Gen. 331. 1837; Kurz, Forest Fl. Burma 2: 334. 1877; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 198. 1886; Brandis, Indian Trees 545. 1906; Nevling in J. Arnold Arbor. 42: 307. 1961. *Nectandra decandra* Roxb., [Hort. Beng. 90. 1814 nom. nud.] & Fl. Ind. 2: 425. 1832. (Image 1).

Specimens examined: s.n. (CAL!), 19.iii.1892, Anikhet Hill jungle, Andaman Islands, coll. Dr. King's collector; 47 (CAL!), 23.i.1901, Andamans, Coll. Dr. Prain's Collector; 12355 (PBL!), 23.xii.1986, Kalpong No. 10, North Andamans, Coll. G. Chakraborty & G.S. Kindo.

Climbing shrubs, up to 15m; branchlets terete, glabrous. Leaves simple, opposite, elliptic to oblong-elliptic or oblong-lanceolate, 3–9.5 × 1–4.5 cm, obtuse to acute or shortly acuminate at apex, entire along margin, cuneate to rounded at base, coriaceous, glabrous on both surfaces, lateral veins many, parallel. Petiole canaliculate, 2–9 mm long, glabrous. Inflorescence terminal, umbelliform, 2–3 flowered; peduncles 3–5 cm long, glabrous. Bracts foliar, opposite, oblong, 3–5.5 × 1–1.8 cm, obtuse at apex, entire along margin, rounded at base, chartaceous, white, glabrous. Flowers small, light greenish-pink. Calyx tube fusiform, 5–7 × 2–2.5 mm, reddish without, lobes 5, linear, 6–8 × c. 2 mm, greenish within, reflexed. Petals 10, white, clavate, 3–6 mm long. Stamens exserted, 15–16; filaments slender, white; anthers yellow. Ovary stipitate, ellipsoid, c. 3mm long, densely hairy; style filiform, 8–10 mm long; stigma capitate. Fruits ovoid-ellipsoid, 1–1.5 × 0.5–0.9 cm, appressed hairy; fruiting pedicels 5–6 mm long, swollen.



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Image 1. Herbarium of *Linostoma decandrum* (Roxb.) Wall. ex Meisn.

Seeds ovate- triangular, c. 9×4 mm.

Habitat: The plants grow in moist localities in evergreen forests.

Flowering & Fruiting: December–March.

Distribution: India: Assam, Manipur, the Andaman Islands; Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Indo-China, Malay Peninsula and Borneo.

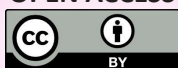
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