

A NEW SPECIES OF *IXORA* FROM BURMA

D. B. DEB* & R. C. ROUT*

Ixora keenanii Deb & Rout (Rubiaceae) is described as a new species from Kachin State, Burma.

In the course of taxonomic revision of Indian *Ixora* L., some specimens on loan from E proved to represent a new species which is here described and illustrated.

***Ixora keenanii* Deb & Rout sp. nov.** Fig. 1.

Differt ab *I. kachinensis* Deb et Rout in cymis corymbosis; bracteolis longioribus; calycis dentibus longioribus, oblongis vel oblongo-lanceolatis; corolla-tubis brachyatis; filamentis longioribus, crassis, inter alia et *I. birmahica* Bremek. in bracteolis longioribus; calycis dentibus longioribus, oblongis vel oblongo-lanceolatis; corolla-lobis oblongis; filamentis longioribus, crassis; fructibus magnis; seminibus oblongis inter alia.

Type. Burma: Kachin State, Sumprabum, eastern side of Janrawng Bum, Hpuginhka river side, 1800-2100m, i 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3216A (holo. E).

Shrub 1.5-2.4m high, erect, branched; stem slender, terete, glabrous. *Leaves* opposite, decussate, petiolate, 5-17.5 x 1.2-5.5cm, elliptic, oblong or lanceolate, rarely oblanceolate, acute or acuminate at apex, cuneate or acute at base, coriaceous, glabrous; midrib canaliculate above; lateral nerves 10-15 pair, slender, depressed above, more prominent beneath. *Petiole* 0.5-1.0cm, stout, canaliculate above, glabrous. *Stipules* persistent, interpetiolar, triangular, 4-10 x 2-4mm, cuspidate with cusps 3-7mm, coriaceous, glabrous with colleters within. *Inflorescence* terminal, sessile or subsessile corymbose cymes, 2.5-5.0cm across, puberulous; peduncles up to 0.3cm, puberulous. *Bracts* 4-7 x 1-3mm, puberulous. *Bracteoles* 2 at the base of hypanthium, 3.5-5.5 x 0.5-0.8mm, narrowly lanceolate, puberulous. *Flowers* red or purple red (as mentioned in the field notes), 30-60, subsessile, 4-merous; pedicels up to 1.5mm, stout, puberulous. *Hypanthium* c.1.0 x 1.0mm, obovoid, glabrous. *Limb tube* c.0.2 x 1.2mm, broader above, puberulous; lobes 4, 5-7 x 1.3-1.8mm, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, acute at apex, puberulous. *Corolla* tube 6-7mm long c.1mm across, cylindrical, glabrous; lobes 4, 6-7 x 2.2-3.0mm, oblong, acute or subacute at apex, glabrous. *Stamens* 4 at the throat of corolla; filaments 3-4mm, stout; anthers 3.5-4.0mm, dorsifixed above base, 2-lobed, acute at apex, sagittate at base, dehiscing longitudinally. *Ovary* c.0.8 x 0.8mm, 2-loculed with 1 pendulous ovule in each locule. *Disc* c.0.5 x 0.8mm, annular. *Style* 10-12mm, slender, glabrous. *Stigma* 2 lobed, lobes 1-1.5mm, puberulous. *Drupe*s 13-15mm long, 8-10mm across, ellipsoid, red (as mentioned in the field notes), black when dry,

* Botanical Survey of India, P.O. Botanic Garden, Howrah - 711 103, India

glabrous, with persistent calyx, 1-seeded. *Seeds* c.11 x 5mm, oblong, adaxially excavated, with cartilaginous endosperm. *Embryo* c.10mm, with two equal foliaceous reniform cotyledons cordate at base, rounded at apex, c.5 x 6mm, and with minute plumule and radicle c.5mm, stout. Fl. Jan.–Feb.; fr. Jan.–Mar. Mixed evergreen and deciduous forests, 1200–1800m.

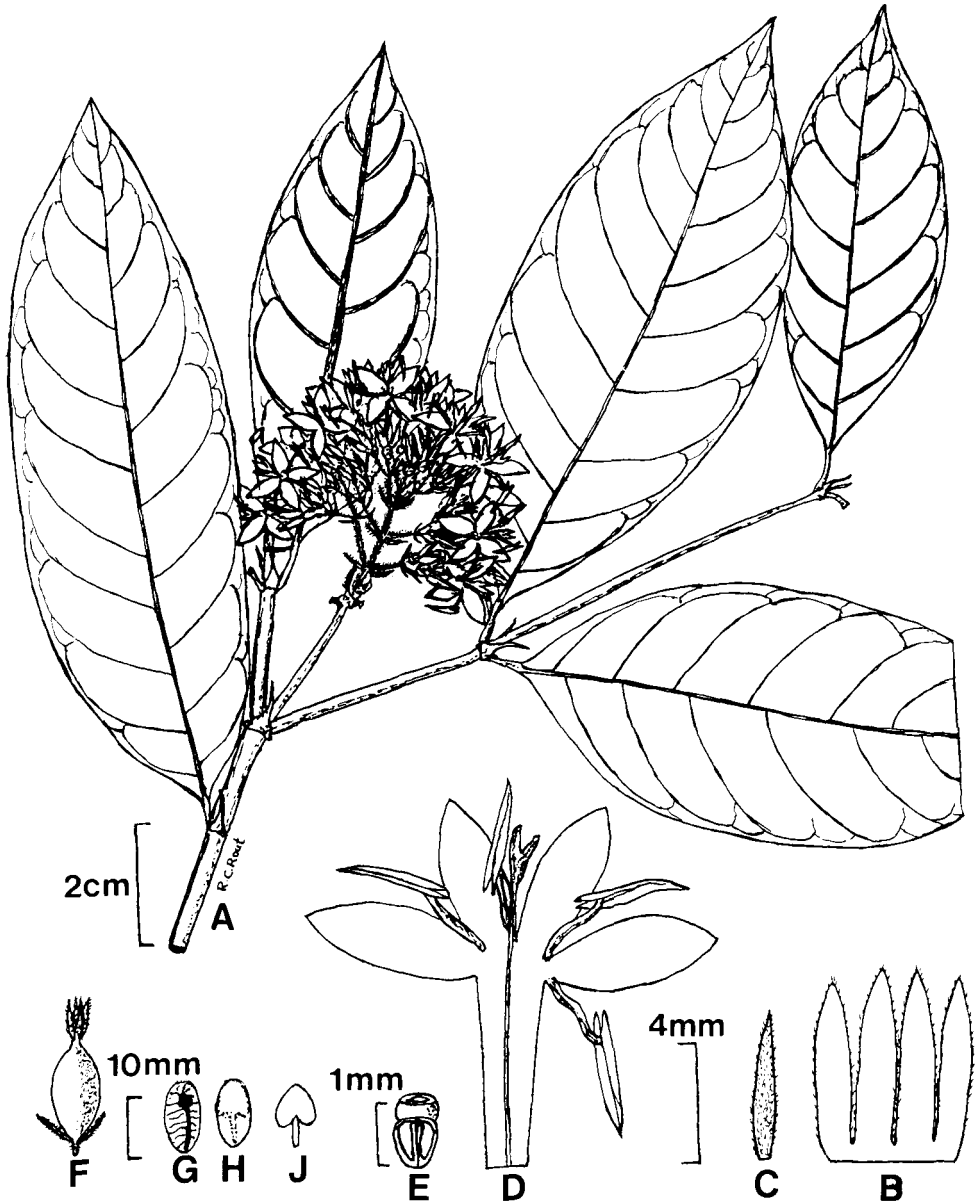


FIG. 1. *Ixora keenanii*. A, Habit; B, Calyx; C, Bracteole; D, Corolla split open showing floral parts; E, Placentation; F, Fruit; G. & H. Adaxial and abaxial view of seed, position of embryo indicated in H; J, Embryo. A–E, from *J. Keenan et al.* 3216; F–J, from *J. Keenan et al.* 3777. Drawn by R. C. Rout.

BURMA. Kachin State, Sumprabum subdivision: Kanal Bum, 1800–2100m, 18 i 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3295, 3306 (E); between Ning W' Krok and Mapi Zup, 1500–1800m, 19 i 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3326 (E); east of Hpuginkhu village, 1200m, 19 ii 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3644 (E); 1500m, ii 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3699 (E); 1350m, iii 1962, *J. Keenan, U. T. Aung & U. T. Hla* 3777 (E).

Ixora keenanii is similar in many respects to *I. kachinensis* and *I. birmahica*; the diagnostic features are compared below.

TABLE 1. Comparison of *Ixora keenanii*, *I. kachinensis* and *I. birmahica*

	<i>I. keenanii</i>	<i>I. kachinensis</i>	<i>I. birmahica</i>
Inflorescence:	Sessile or subsessile corymbose cymes 2.5–5cm across, puberulous; peduncles up to 0.3cm; flowers 30–60	Sessile or subsessile brachiate cymes 10–17cm across, puberulous; peduncles up to 0.2cm; flowers 200–300, congested	Peduncled corymbose cymes, 7.5–8cm across, puberulous; peduncles 0.7–1cm; flowers 41–60
Bracteoles:	3.5–5.5 x 0.5–0.8mm, narrowly lanceolate, acuminate at apex, puberulous	1–2 x 0.2–0.5mm, narrowly lanceolate, acute or acuminate at apex, puberulous	c.1 x 0.4mm, lanceolate, acute at apex, puberulous
Calyx Teeth:	5–7 x 1.3–1.8mm, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, acute at apex, puberulous on both sides	1–1.2 x 0.4–1mm, triangular, acute or acuminate at apex, puberulous on both sides	1–1.3 x 0.4–0.5mm, narrowly triangular, acute at apex, puberulous outside, glabrous within
Corolla tube:	6–7mm long, c.1mm across	13–25mm long, 0.5–1mm across	23–30mm long, 0.8–1.2mm across
Corolla lobes:	6–7 x 2.2–3mm, oblong, acute or subacute at apex	4–5 x 1.5–1.8mm, oblong, acute at apex	4–5 x 2.5mm, ovate-lanceolate, acute at apex
Filaments:	3–4mm, stout	c.1.5mm, stout	c.1.2mm, slender
Fruits:	Drupes 13–15mm long, 8–10mm across, ellipsoid, with large persistent calyx teeth	—	Drupes c.10 x 7mm, ellipsoid, with minute persistent calyx teeth
Seeds:	c.11 x 5mm, oblong	—	c.9 x 6mm, obovoid

The species is named after one of the collectors, the late James Keenan, who was a botanist on the staff of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh for nearly 30 years and spent one year (1961–2) carrying out fieldwork in Burma.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh for loan of specimens, which yielded this species. Thanks are also due to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta for award of a Senior Research Fellowship to one of them (R.C.R.) and the authorities of the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta for facilities to carry on the study.