

STUDIES IN THE GESNERIACEAE OF THE OLD WORLD
XLVI: A SECOND CYRTANDRA ON THE NICOBAR ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT. *Cyrtandra occidentalis* Balakr. & Burtt is described and illustrated from the Nicobar Islands, India.

In a previous paper describing a new *Cyrtandra* from the Nicobar Islands a footnote was added to the effect that a second species was known to occur, but that material was not adequate for description (Balakrishnan in *Notes R.B.G. Edinb.* 35:117, 1976). This second species has now been re-discovered and is described below as *C. occidentalis*, the specific epithet referring to its position at the westernmost point of the range of the genus.

Cyrtandra occidentalis belongs to the widespread group that includes the Moluccan *C. decurrens* Vriese (Sect. *Decurrentes* C.B.Cl. quoad typ.): this affinity is indicated by the largish (3 cm) corolla covered on the outside with long golden silky hairs. However it is well distinguished by the small (8–12 mm) free hyaline bracts, pure white almost regular corollas, and rather broad leaves with the petiole sharply marked off from the lamina. It usually grows near streams in dense shaded evergreen forests; it flowers in April–June and fruits in July–August.

Cyrtandra occidentalis Balakr. & Burtt, *species nova* a *C. decurrente* Vriese et speciebus affinis bracteis parvis liberis, corollis candidis immaculatis fere regularibus et lamina in petiolum haud decurrente distinguitur. Fig. 1.

Suffrutex 60–100 cm altus; caulis basi decumbens nodis inferioribus radicans, basi 1 cm diametro lignosus, inferne glaber, apicem versus dense appresse pilosus. *Folia* ad apicem caulis, aequalia, elliptico-lanceolata, aequilaterialia ad basin oblique cuneata vel acuta, apice acuta vel acuminata, grosse et distanter serrulata, 16–24 × 5–9 cm, supra pagina parce costa dense pilosa, infra pagina parce nervis dense pilosis; nervi laterales utrinsecus 12–16, subtus prominentes; petioli 3–6 cm longi, pubescentes. *Inflorescentiae* dense multiflorae, cymosae, ex axillis foliorum delapsorum ad basin caulis orientes, dense et appresse aureo-pilosae; pedunculi usque ad 5 mm longi, ramosi; bractae ovato-oblongae vel ovato-lanceolatae, acutae vel subacutae, 8–12 × 3–6 mm, hyalinae, extra parce pilosae, mox caducae; bracteolae parvae, lineares vel ovatae, usque ad 5 mm longae, c. 2 mm latae; pedicelli c. 4 mm longi, crassi, pubescentes. *Calyx* campanulatus, 1.3–1.5 cm longus, extra in costis porcatus, appresse aureo-pilosus; tubus 7–8 mm longus; lobi 5, ovati, apice caudati, 6–7 mm longi. *Corolla* alba, infundibuliformis, leniter bilabiata, 3–3.2 cm longa, ore c. 2 cm lata, extra dense et longe brunneo-villosa, intus glabra; tubus c. 2 cm longus, basi angustatus, medio abrupte ampliatus; lobi 5, rotundati, 1–1.2 cm longi, 6–8 mm lati. *Stamina* 2, inclusa; filamenta

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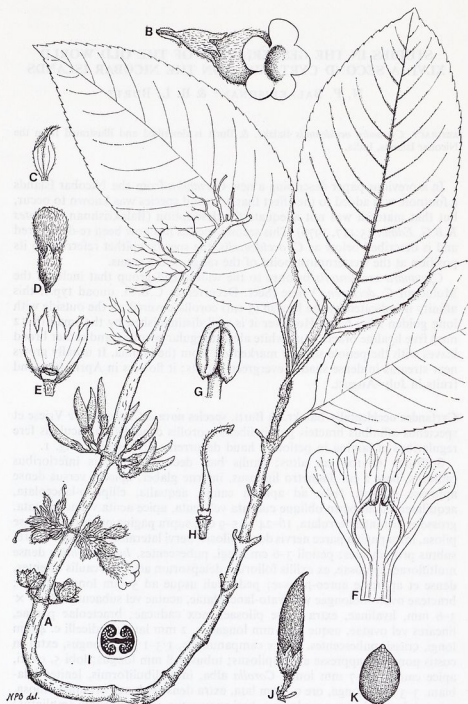


FIG. 1. *Cyrtandra occidentalis* Balakr. & Burt. A, habit $\times \frac{1}{2}$; B, flower $\times 1$; C, bract $\times 1$; D, bud $\times 1$; E, calyx split open showing disc $\times 1$; F, corolla split open showing stamens $\times 1$; G, anther $\times 5$; H, ovary with style $\times 1$; I, ovary, t.s. $\times 5$; J, fruit $\times 1$; K, seed $\times 45$.

c. 1 cm longa, c. 1 cm supra corollae basin orientia, incurva, glabra; antherae c. 2.5 mm longae, apicibus cohaerentes, thecis oblongis longitudinaliter dehiscentibus. *Discus* cupularis, undulatus, 1.5-2 mm crassus, flavo-brunneus. *Ovarium* lineare, album, 7-9 mm longum, c. 2 mm diam.; stylus c. 1.8 cm longus, ad apicem leviter curvatus, puberulus; stigma bilobum, c. 2 mm diam. *Fructus* lineari-ellipsoideus, leviter curvatus, apice anguste obtusus, 2.4-2.6 cm longus, 5-6 mm diam., rugosus, roseo-viridis, calyce persistente. *Semina* numerosa, ellipsoidea, 0.3 mm longa, rubro-brunnea.

Type. India, Great Nicobar Island. Campbell Bay to Chengappa Bay, c. 25 m, 11 vi 1977, in flower, *Balakrishnan* 5700A (holo. CAL); 5700 B-C (iso. PBL); 5700D (iso. E).

INDIA, GREAT NICOBAR ISLAND: on path to Shompen Village, 36.8 km on East-West Road, c. 75 m, 17 vi 1977, in flower, *Balakrishnan* 5825 (CAL, E, PBL); *ibidem*, 23 vii 1976, in fruit, *Balakrishnan* 3984 (CAL, E, PBL); Galathea riverside, 25 km on East-West road, c. 75 m, 16 vi 1977, *Balakrishnan* 5793 (CAL, PBL); Great Nicobar Hill, iv 1905, *Ahmad Ali* 3 (CAL, E).