

Ormosia pinnata (Fabaceae): An addition to Flora of India

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Abstract

Ormosia pinnata (Lour.) Merr. is reported here as new record for India. Description and photographic illustration are provided to facilitate easy identification.

Keywords: Assam, Fabaceae, India, new record, *Ormosia pinnata*

Introduction

The legume genus *Ormosia* Jacks. was established by G. Jackson (1811), comprises around 130 species, distributed in tropical America, South East Asia and North Australia (Pennington *et al.*, 2005). The genus has six species in India (including species recorded here) *viz.*, *O. coccinea* (Aubl.) Jacks., *O. glauca* Wall., *O. pinnata* (Lour.) Merr., *O. robusta* Baker, *O. assamica* Yakovlev and *O. travancorica* Bedd., of these latter two are endemic (Sanjappa 1991).

While working on the Legumes of South Garo Hills of Meghalaya, the authors came across some interesting collections (Accession no. 8605, 8608, 8612, 8614, 8617, and 8618) housed in ASSAM. All these specimens were determined as *O. robusta* Baker from which they differ significantly, but morphologically similar to *O. assamica* Yakovlev and *O. pinnata* (Lour.) Merr. A critical study of the herbarium specimens and consultation of literature (Baker, 1876; Yakovlev, 1971; Hang & Vincent, 2010), the specimens were identified as *O. pinnata*, a species recorded for the first time from India. This was further compared and confirmed with the photograph of type specimen deposited at Royal Botanic Garden, Kew [available at <http://apps.kew.org/herbcat/navigator.do>]. A detailed description, photographs and distributional details have been provided.

Ormosia pinnata (Lour.) Merr., Lingnan Sci. J. 14(1): 12. 1935; Hang & Vincent in Wu *et al.*, Fl. China 10: 75. 2010. *Cynometra pinnata* Lour., Fl. Cochinch. 1: 268. 1790. *Ormosia hainanensis* Gagnep., Notul. Syst. (Paris) 3: 31. 1914. *Fedorovia pinnata* (Lour.) Yakovlev, Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 10: 196. 1973.

A tall tree, up to 30 m tall; stem bark grayish, warty, yellowish-brown inside. Young branches and leaves densely brownish pubescent. Leaves imparipinnate, 19–25 cm long; petiole 2–4.5 cm long; rachis 9.5–11.5 cm long; petiolule 4–5 mm long, grooved, sparsely pubescent; leaflets 7–9, elliptic-lanceolate, terminal leaflet 9–11 × 3–3.5 cm, lateral leaflets 6–11.7 × 1.5–4.3 cm, thinly leathery, glabrous, entire, attenuate at base, acute-acuminate at apex, midvein raised abaxially, impressed adaxially, lateral veins 8–12 pairs. Inflorescences terminal, 12–25 cm long; peduncle and pedicels densely rusty pubescent. Pedicel 7–12 mm long; bracts 2–3 mm long, linear-lanceolate, densely rusty brown pubescent. Flowers pinkish-white, 1.5–1.8 cm across. Calyx persistent, campanulate, 1–1.4 cm across; teeth broadly triangular, 5–6 mm long, adaxial pair 2/3 connate, c. 2 mm long, densely rusty pubescent. Corolla pinkish-white; standard orbicular, 1.4–1.5 × 1.5–1.6 cm, shallowly auriculate at base, claw short; wings 16–17 × 5–5.5 mm, spathulate-obovate, claw 4–5 mm long; keel 16–17 × 6–7 mm, broadly spathulate-obovate, claw 4–5 mm long. Stamens 10, unequal, all fertile; filaments thickly compressed at base, 9–16 mm long; anthers dorsifixed, c. 1.5 mm long. Ovary densely pubescent, 7–9 × 2–2.5 mm; style curved, c. 9 mm long, glabrous; stigma introse, bilobed. Pod dehiscent, 5.5–7.5 × 2.5–3.3 cm, cylindrical or slightly compressed, slightly curved, apex beaked, 1–3 seeded, constricted between the seeds; valves woody, c. 2 mm thick, more so at margin; stiped. Seeds orbicular, c. 1.8 × 1.4 cm, slightly flattened; testa bright-red.

Flowering & Fruiting: July – February.

Fig. 1

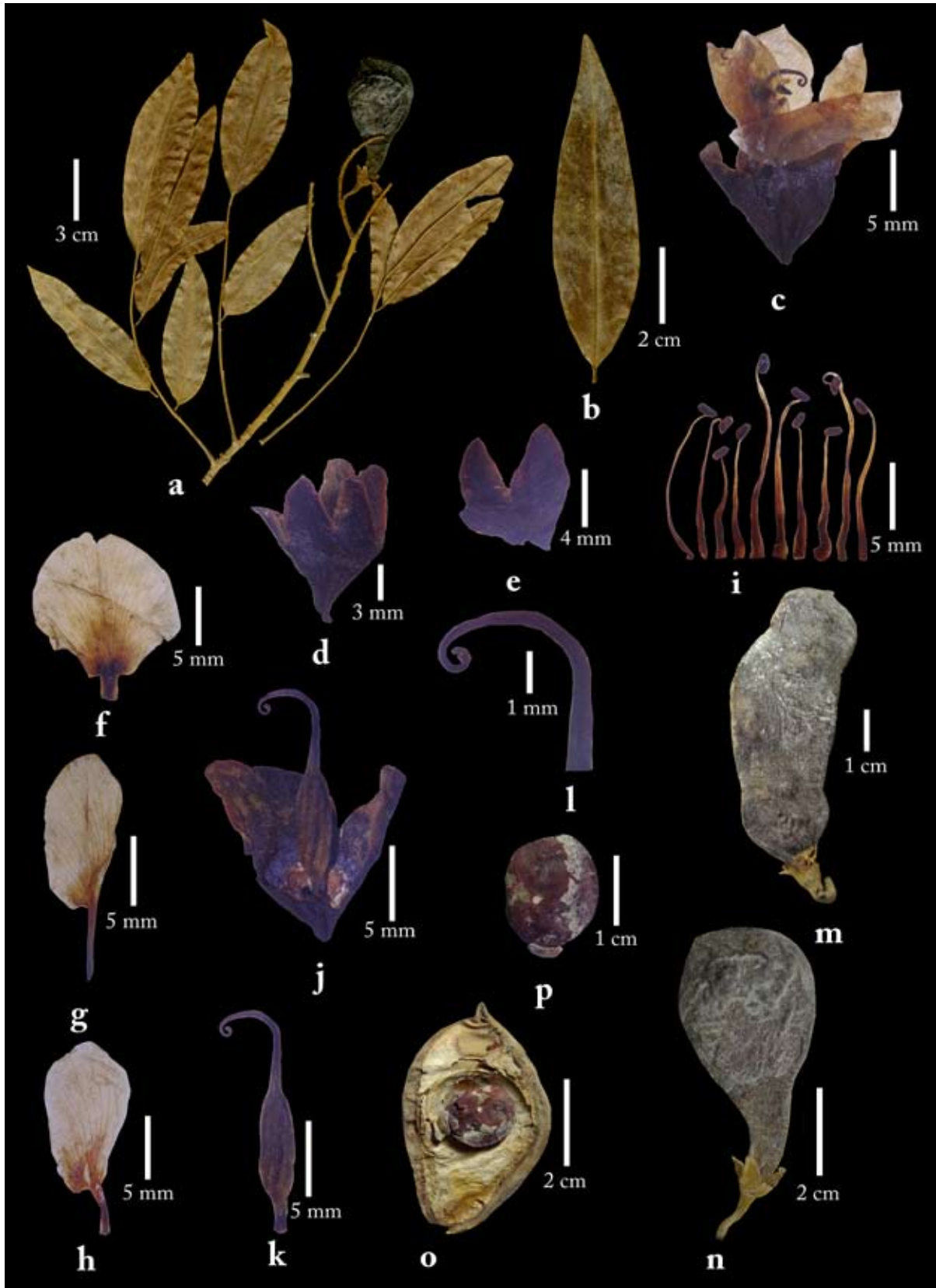


Fig. 1. *Ormosia pinnata* (Lour.) Merr.: **a.** Fruiting twig; **b.** Leaflet; **c.** Flower; **d.** Calyx; **e.** Calyx lobes; **f.** Standard petal; **g.** Wing petal; **h.** Keel petal; **i.** Stamens; **j.** Calyx split open to show Gynoecium; **k.** Pistil; **l.** Style and Stigma; **m.** & **n.** Legume; **o.** Legume split opened; **p.** Seed.

Distribution: India (Assam), China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Specimens examined: INDIA: **Assam**, Cachar, Phulertal forest, 18.11.1914, *U. Kanjilal* 4721, Acc. No. 8612, 8617, 8618; Sibsagar, Baruasali to Sapakati, 23.02.1914, *U. Kanjilal* 3481, Acc. No. 8605, 8608, 8614 (ASSAM!). VIETNAM: **Tourane**, May 1927, *J. Clemens & M.S. Clemens* 4015 (K Image!).

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