

# *IXORA CALYCINA* THW. (RUBIACEAE)—NEW TO THE INDIAN FLORA

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## Abstract

*Ixora calycina* Thw. is reported for the first time from India. Its description and illustrations of its various parts have been given in this paper.

## Introduction

*Ixora calycina* Thw. is endemic to Ceylon (Beddome, 1874; Hook. f., 1880; Trimen, 1894). This has not been recorded in any Indian floristic works though we found several specimens from the Indian region (West Bengal, Assam & Tamil Nadu) lying in the general collections at CAL. Thus it constitutes a new record for the Indian flora and is being described in this paper.

## Description

*Ixora calycina* Thw., *Enum. Pl. Zeyl.*, 155, 1859; Beddome,  *Ic. Pl. Ind. Or. t.* 97. 1874; Hook. f., *Fl. Brit. Ind.*, **3**: 138, 1880; Trimen, *Fl. Ceylon*, **2**: 347. 1894.

*Type*—Thwaites 448 Ceylon Central Province—(CAL & MH).

Shrub; young branches glabrous; stipule  $4 \times 3$  mm, under surface hairy, upper glabrous; cups 2-3 mm long. Leaf  $7-14 \times 2-4.5$  cm, oblong, elliptic-oblong or oblong-obovate, apex blunt or mucronate, base tapering, glabrous, petioled; petiole 4-8 mm long, glabrous; reticulately veined with 9-11 lateral anastomosing nerves joining the midrib. Inflorescence trichotomous, brachiate, pedunculate; peduncle 1.7-2 cm long, pubescent; number of flowers per head 130-150; bract 3.8-8 mm long, linear, acute. Flowers 4-merous white, sessile or shortly pedicellate; pedicel 1-2 mm long, pubescent; bracteole 2.8-3 mm long, linear, acute. Calyx-tube 1.3-2 mm long, pubescent or glabrous; lobe 4.2-5.5 mm long, rarely 5 lobed, elliptic, acute, glabrous or pubescent or only narrower part pubescent. Corolla-tube 2.5-3.4 cm long, glabrous; lobe  $5-7 \times 2.4-3.3$  mm, oblong, obtuse or rounded apex; filament 1-1.5 mm, long, glabrous; anther 3.5-4 mm long, dorsifixed; style 2.7-3.6 cm long, glabrous; stylar-arms 2-3 mm long.

*Ecology*—From sea level to 2121 m.

*Flowering & Fruiting*—February-September.

*Distribution*—India (Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam); Ceylon.

*Specimens examined*—India; Tamil Nadu, 1891, *s. l. s. n.* (CAL Acc. No. 210131); West Bengal, Chandernagore, August 1902, *Abu Hosein s. n.* (CAL Acc. Nos. 210134 & 210135); Assam, Negriting, 30 April, 1895, *s. l.* 11343 (CAL); Unknown locality, 1 May, 1924 (CAL).



Text-figs. 1-7. *Ixora calycina* Thw. 1. Habit, 2. Stipule, 3. Calyx, pedicel and bracteole, 4. Flower, 5. Flower cut open, 6. Anther and filament, 7. Stigma, style and ovary. (drawn from small letter 11343, CAL).

*Remarks*—Beddome, Hook. f., and Trimen (l.c.) based the description of the species on Ceylonese material. The specimens from the Indian region have acute calyx tips and rounded corolla lobe, whereas in the Ceylon material the calyx-lobes are lanceolate and corolla-lobes ovate, acute. One gathering (*Abu Hosein s.n.*, CAL Acc. no. 210134) has constantly 5 corolla lobes instead of 4 that are usually met within the genus.

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