

A NEW SPECIES OF *ARISTOLOCHIA* FROM KUMAON HIMALAYAS

N. C. NAIR

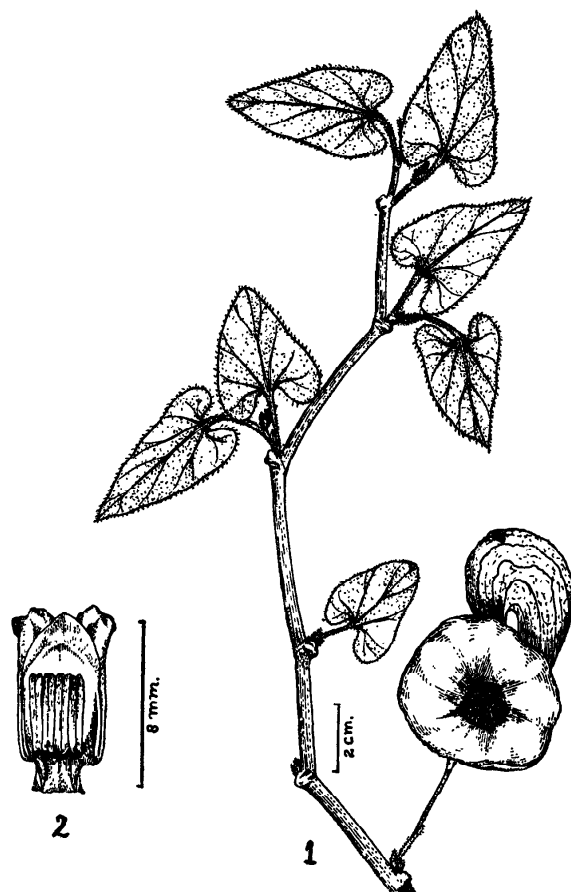
*Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta****Aristolochia gourigangaica* N. C. Nair sp. nov.**

Pertinet ad sect. *Siphisia* Duchart. et affinis est. *A. griffithii* Hook. f. et Thoms. a qua tamen differt foliis late ovato-triangularibus vel lanceolatis, ad margines ciliatis, et alte ad basin cordatis auriculis rotundatis, floribus minoribus fauce elongata et cyathio minore ad margines recurvato.

Herba volubilis perennis ramosissima. Caules cylindrici et ad maturitatem fere glabri, 0.25-2 cm diam. Ramuli flexuosi, villosi, tomentosi, pilis griseo-brunneis praesertim in juvenili conditione, ad maturitatem glabrescentes. Folia simplicia, alterna, exstipulata, decidua, petiolis supra canaliculatis, pubescenti-villosis, glabratis vel pilosis tandem praeter canaliculum, 2.5-7(10) cm longis. Lamina variabilis, late ovato-triangularis vel lanceolata, obtusa vel acuta, alte cordata, auriculis rotundis ad basin, ad margines ciliata, pubescenti-villosa pilis tuberculo insidentibus in juvenili conditione, scabra pilosa in pagina superiore et molliter pubescenti-villosa ad maturitatem, graciliter coriacea, 5-20 × 4-12 cm; pilis vulgo furcatis; nervi 3 e basi, nervis lateralibus 2-3-jugis e nervo medio. Flores axillares solitarii foetidi cum vivi. Pedunculus villosus, 0.5-1.5(2) cm longus, ornato ad apicem una bractea parva ovata obtusa villosa 0.5 cm longa, decidua. Pedicellus (ovariorum stipes) glaber vel pilosus, 2-2.5 cm longus. Perianthii tubus U-curvatus, griseus, glaber intus, pilosus extra, patenter costatus, reticulate nervosus, tumescens in parte inferiore, curvus et angustatus in partem superiorem 2 cm longam cylindricam; pars inferiore tumescens 4-4.5 × 2-2.5 cm; limbus fere circularis ambitu, margine sub-integro, erecto vel paulum curvato, alte vel fusce purpureus et glaber intus, griseus, purpureo-notatus, alte nervosus et pilosus extra, ad 6 cm diam. Fauces alte vel fusce purpureae, albo-maculatae, glabrae, nudae. Gynostegium 0.7-0.8(1) cm longus, apice triangulari trifido lobi stigmatici ovati, triangulares, obtusi, 0.25-0.3 cm longi. Antherae 6, bicellulares, 0.35-0.4 cm longae. Ovarium clavatum, villosotomentosum, ovulis pluribus. Fructus ad 8 cm longus; ad maturitatem fere glaber.

Holotypus N. C. Nair 35654 et isotypi N. C. Nair

35654B-D lecti in valle Gauriganga, ad altit. 2800 m mense maio 1965, in montibus Himalayanis Kumaonensibus. Holotypus positus in CAL. Isotypi C-D positi in herbario regionis septentrionalis Bot. Surv. Ind. ad Dehra Dun (BSD); Isotypus B in K. Paratypi N. C. Nair 36765, 36761 lecti ex eodem loco mense mait 3, 1966, positi in Dehra Dun herbario (BSD).



*Aristolochia gourigangaica* N. C. Nair sp. nov.  
Figs. 1-2 : 1. Branch. 2. Gynostegium.

***Aristolochia gourigangaica* N. C. Nair sp. nov.**

Belongs to the section *Siphisia* Duchart. and is allied to *Aristolochia griffithii* Hook. f. et Thoms. but different in the broadly ovate triangular to lan-

ceolate leaves with ciliate margin and deeply cordate base with rounded auricles, smaller flowers with elongated throat and smaller cup with recurved margin.

Perennial much branched climber. Stem cylindrical and nearly glabrous at maturity, 0.25-2 cm across. Branchlets flexuous villous tomentose with grey brownish hairs especially when young, nearly glabrescent at maturity. Leaves simple, alternate exstipulate, deciduous. Petiole grooved above, pubescent-villous, glabrate or hairy finally except along the groove, 2.5-7(10) cm long. Lamina very variable in shape and size, broadly ovate triangular to lanceolate, obtuse or acute at the apex, deeply cordate with rounded auricles at the base, ciliate margin, pubescent villous with tubercle-based hairs when young, scabridulously hairy on the upper surface and softly pubescent villous on the lower surface at maturity, thinly coriaceous, 5-20 × 4-12 cm; hairs usually forked or branched; nerves 3 from the base with 2-3 pairs of lateral nerves from the mid-nerve. Flowers axillary solitary emitting strong foetid odour when fresh. Peduncle villous, 0.5-1.5(2) cm long, with a small ovate, obtuse, villous, 0.5 cm long, deciduous bract at the apex. Pedicel (stipe of the ovary) glabrate or hairy, 2-2.5 cm long. Perianth tube 'U'-curved, greyish, glabrous within and hairy without, conspicuously ribbed and reticulately veined, inflated in the lower part curved and narrowed into a 2 cm long cylindrical upper

part; lower inflated portion (sac) 4-4.5 × 2-2.5 cm; limb nearly circular in outline with subentire erect or slightly recurved margin, deep or dark purple and glabrous within and greyish with purplish tinge, strongly veined and hairy without, upto 6 cm across. Throat deep or dark purple, spotted white, glabrous, naked. Gynostegium 0.7-0.8(1) cm long, with triangular 3-fid apex; stigmatic lobes ovate, triangular, obtuse 0.25-0.3 cm long. Anthers 6, 2-celled 0.35-0.4 cm long. Ovary clavate, villous-tomentose, ovules many. Fruit upto 8 cm long; nearly glabrous at maturity.

The holotype of this species (*N. C. Nair* 35654) and isotypes 35654B-D have been collected from Gouriganga Valley, alt. 2800 m on May 4, 1965 at Radgadi (Near Munsiri), Kumaon Himalayas. The holotype is deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah (CAL) and isotypes C-D in Northern circle Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun (BSD) and isotype B in Kew Garden, Richmond Surrey, England (K). The paratypes (*N. C. Nair* 36765, 36761) collected from the type locality on May 3, 1966 are also deposited in the Northern Circle Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun (BSD). The specific epithet indicates the locality of the type.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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