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***Andrographis longipedunculata* (Sreem.)  
 L.H. Cramer (Acanthaceae) from  
 northwest India**

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As a part of survey and collection of medicinal plants of India, under the Center of Excellence Programme supported by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the authors collected the endemic species *Andrographis longipedunculata* (Sreem.) L.H. Cramer in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. This species has so far not been reported in these states.

Acanthaceae are comprised of many globally important medicinal plants, and *Andrographis*, Wall. ex Nees consisting of over 32 species, is distributed chiefly in tropical and subtropical Asia (The Plant List, 2010). In India, it is represented by 26 species and two varieties (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2009). *Andrographis longipedunculata* was collected and described by Sreemadhavan (1967) from Nagpur, India, as *Neesiella longipedunculata* Sreem. Later he (Sreemadhavan, 1968) proposed the genus *Indoneesiella* Sreem. and a new combination *I. longipedunculata* (Sreem.) Sreem. Cramer (1992, 1996), while revising the Acanthaceae of Sri Lanka, assigned *I. echioides* (L.) Sreem. and *I. longipedunculata* to *Andrographis*. The 1968 species was subsequently renamed *Erianthera longipedunculata* (Sreem.) M.R. Almeida (2003). The type specimens of this species were collected from Nagpur, Maharashtra State [K. Subramanyam 4696 (holotype: CAL; isotypes: MH)]. This peninsular endemic species, other than its type locality at Nagpur in Maharashtra, has also been collected from Andhra Pradesh (Pullaiah and Moulali, 1997), Tamil Nadu (Henry *et al.*, 1987), and Karnataka (Ganesh Babu, Chitradurga District, 2011). The genus *Andrographis* in Gujarat and Rajasthan is represented by only two species *i.e.*, *Andrographis echioides* and *A. paniculata* Nees (Cooke, 1905; Shah, 1978; Bhandari, 1978;

Sharma & Tiagi, 1979; Bole & Pathak, 1988; Shetty & Singh 1991).

During October–November 2012, a focused botanical survey was conducted to collect medicinal plants for the repository of FRLH, Bangalore, in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat and the Jalore District in Rajasthan. *Andrographis longipedunculata* was collected near the Rajkot Railway Track on the waste lands along the track bunds. These specimens were later cross checked with various *Andrographis* accounts given in the relevant literature (Hooker, 1885; Shah, 1978; Cooke, 1905; Matthew, 1983; Bole & Pathak, 1988; Shetty & Singh, 1991; Almeida, 2001). All samples are deposited in the herbarium (115904 & 114944) of Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLH), Bangalore, Karnataka.

***Andrographis longipedunculata* (Sreem.)  
 L.H. Cramer (fig. 1)**

*Phytologia* 15: 271. 1967.

**Herbs** erect, 30–60 cm high; branchlets hispid, 4–gonous. **Leaves** pubescent, subsessile, elliptic to oblong, 4–5 × 1.5–2 cm, broadest in the middle, acute to shortly auriculate basally, subacute apically. **Inflorescences** axillary paniculate racemes, unilateral; bracts elliptic-lanceolate; racemes usually exceeding leaves, up to 10 cm long. **Flowers** ca. 1 cm apart. **Calyx-lobes** 5, ca. 6 mm, linear-lanceolate, acute, glandular hairy. **Corolla** white with a pink tinge, tubular, ca. 8 mm, slightly ventricose above, 2-lipped; lobes 5, unequal, 2+3, imbricate; upper lip erect ca. 5 mm, shortly 2-fid; lower lip deflexed, 3-lobed, obtuse, ca. 3 mm. **Stamens** 2; filaments ca. 7 mm; anthers ca. 2 mm. **Ovary** obovoid, ca. 2 mm, pubescent; ovules 4; styles ca. 1.5 cm long, hairy, stigmas unequally 2-fid or linear, curved. **Capsules** ovoid, pointed above and narrow below, ca. 1.2 x 0.4 cm, glandular-

ciliate. **Seeds** 4, ovoid, ca. 1.5 mm across, glabrous.

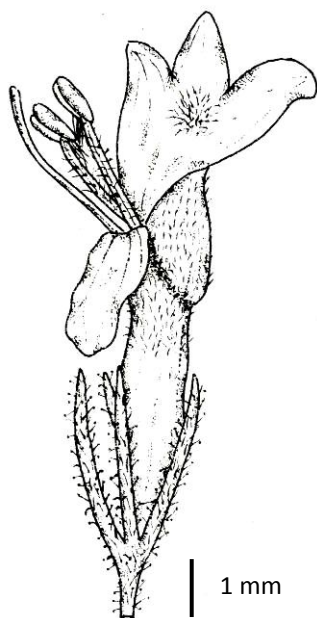
**Flowering & Fruiting:** October–November.

**Habitat:** Occasional in the open scrub forests, cultivated lands, waste lands and in fallow fields.

**Distribution:** Endemic to Peninsular India (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2009) in the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and now Gujarat and Rajasthan.



**Figure 1A:** Inflorescence of *A. longipedunculata*



**Figure 1B:** Flower of *A. longipedunculata*

*Andrographis longipedunculata* was described initially from specimens obtained in Maharashtra, and later in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Incidentally it was also collected in Karnataka (Ganesh Babu, 2011). In the field one could easily overlook this species

because of its similarity with *A. echioides*, but can be distinguished by its elliptic-oblong leaves and much branched and longer inflorescences than the leaves. The present collection, which forms addition to Rajasthan and Gujarat, reveals the continued need for focused and intensive surveys in under or unexplored areas. Further explorations are needed in the adjacent areas or similar habitat to ascertain the conservation status of this endemic species.

**Specimens studied:** (**Gujarat**) Bagodara, along road side, Ahmedabad, 22°58'35"N, 72°32'57"E, 44 m, 2 Nov 2012, *Umeshkumar Tiwari 115904* (FRLH); (**Rajasthan**) Dhavada village, Jalore, 25°31'20"N, 072°32'12"E, 240 m, 28 Oct 2012, *Umeshkumar Tiwari 114944* (FRLH).

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