

A NEW SPECIES OF DURIO FROM BURMA

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In working up the sterculiaceous specimens from the Herbarium of the Indian Botanic Garden in Calcutta I have encountered a specimen of *Durio* which represents apparently a hitherto undescribed species. The description of this species is presented here. Gratefully I acknowledge my thanks to the Director of the Calcutta Herbarium for the loan of the specimen together with the excellent drawing from which the figure published here has been copied partly.

Durio burmanicus Soegeng Reksodihardjo, *spec. nov.* — Fig. 1

Arbor ramwlis dense adpresse minute lepidotis. Foliis chartaceis vel rigide chartaceis~ lanceolatis vel oblongis basi rotundatis apice acuminatis supra giabra smbtus adpresse lepidota nerviis lateralibus phiribus obscuris. Cymis multifloris rwmifloris pedunculi pauciramis dense lepidotis, bractee caducis, pedicelis lepidotis subcrassis, alabastris ovoideis dense fetrugineo lepidotis, epicalyx bilobaUs intus laxe tomentosus extus dense minute lepidotis, calyx ureceolatis 5-dentatis intus glabris extus dense lepidotis, petalis 5, glabris spathulatis apice rotundatis basi unguiculatis¹, stamina 5-phalangibus, filamentis glabris, antheris peltatis disciformis circulariter dehiscentibus, ovatio ovoideo dense lepidota, stylo filiforme laxe stellato-torthentosa, stigmatate ca/pitellata stellato-tomentosa.

Tree. Branchlets slender, densely covered with brown, adpressed, small, fimbriate scales. Stipules linear-lanceolate, acute, circa 7 mm long, lepidote, caducous. Leaves alternate, chartaceous to rigid chartaceous, lanceolate or oblong, 8 — 11 x 2.5 — 3.5 cm, acuminate, base rounded; upper surface glabrous, finely reticulate, midrib sunken; lower surface densely covered with adpressed, silvery-brown, small, fimbriate scales; lateral nerves many, fine, straight, curved and anastomosing near the leaf margin, Petiole slender, 1—2 cm long, thickened towards the apex, densely covered with dull brown, small, fimbriate scales

Inflorescences emerging from gnarls on old twigs or older branches shortly-branched, many-flowered cymes, up to 3 cm long; peduncles stout, densely covered with adpressed, brown, small, fimbriate scales- bracts caducous; pedicels stout, densely covered with small, fimbriate scales!

*) Ph . D, Botanist, Herbarium Bogoriense.

about 7 mm long, slightly thickened at apex. Flower buds ovoid, acutish (young). Epicalyx papery, splitting into 2 more or less equal, ovate, up to 8 mm long valves, inside tomentose, outside densely covered with small, dull brown, fimbriate scales. Calyx urceolate, up to 1 cm high, with 5 about 2 mm high, broadly triangular teeth, outside densely covered with adpressed, golden brown, large fimbriate scales, inside glabrous and lower part papillose. Petals 5, glabrous, spatulate, up to 1 cm long, 5 mm wide at the broadest part, base narrowed into a short claw, apex rounded. Stamens glabrous, about 15—18 mm long, grouped into 5 phalanges, the basal part united into a one mm long tube; each phalange of 5 to 7 stamens, which are free for 1:3 (outermost filaments free nearly to the base); anthers peltate, disc-shaped (unopened), circularly dehiscent and becoming drum-shaped. Ovary ovoid, 5-celled, densely covered with large, golden brown, fimbriate scales (with spines underneath), abruptly contracted into a laxly stellate-haired, 17—20 mm long style; stigma capitate, stellate-haired. Fruit unknown.

TYPE. — *Russel 2253* = CAL. 57359 (CAL).

DISTRIBUTION. — Known only from the type locality: Tavoy, South Burma.

Dicella burmanicus appears to be closely allied to *D. oleyanus* Griff., both species having anthers which are typically peltate, disc-shaped when unopened and drum-shaped after dehiscence by a circular slit. The fruit of *D. burmanicus* is not known yet. However, judging from the relatively long spines beneath the scales on the ovary, it might be expected that the mature fruit should have long spines comparable to those of *D. oleyanus*. The floral differences between *D. burmanicus* and *D. oleyanus* are marked, in that the former has 5 calyx lobes, petals and phalanges, while the latter has only 4 respectively. The vegetative differences between the two species are obvious, especially in the indumentum of the leaves which consists of stellate hairs in *D. oleyanus* and of adpressed fimbriate scales in *D. burmanicus*.

The leaves of *D. burmanicus* resemble those of *D. pinnatifidus* Ridley but the flowers are entirely different.

BURMA. South Burma, Tavoy, Heinze (?) Road Wagon, alt. 500 m, Nov. 4, *Russel 2253* = CAL. 57358, 57359, 57360 (CAL).



Fig. 1. *Dicella burmanicus* Soegong Reinhardt; twig with leaves and flowers ($\times 4$), after drawing by P. B. Das, courtesy of the Calcutta Herbarium; pistil ($\times 7$), petal and stamens (from a mature bud, $\times 35$).