

***Kunstleria* Prain—A new genus record for India and a new species in the genus**

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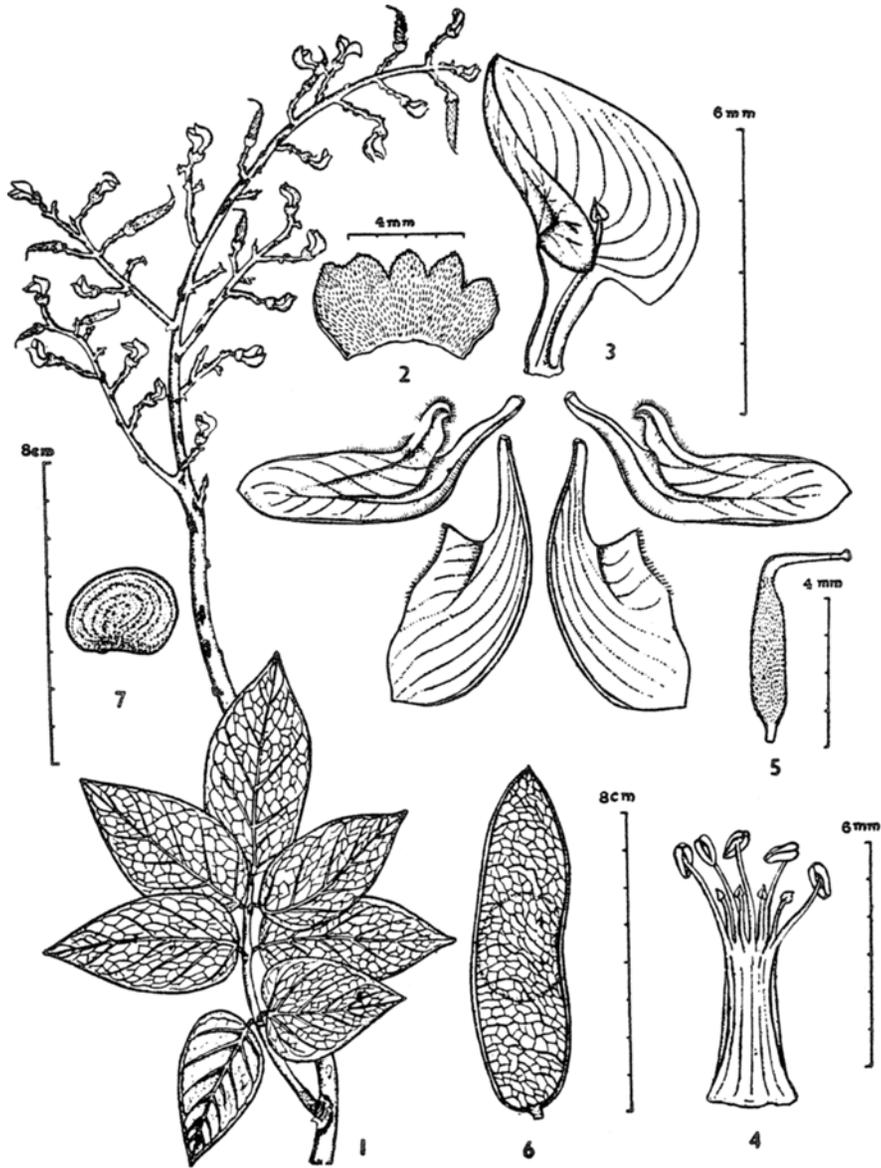
Abstract. *Kunstleria keralensis* C N Mohanan et N C Nair, *sp. nov.* is described and illustrated. The genus is new to the flora of India, earlier reports being from Malaya, Philippines and Australia. The present report on the occurrence of the genus from India is of phytogeographical significance.

Keywords. New *Kunstleria*; *Kunstleria keralensis*.

According to Krishnamoorthy (1960) pristine tropical wet evergreen forest belt extended throughout Kerala as is indicated by the floristic composition of ancient *Kavus* (sacred groves) still extant in the region. From one such *Kavu* near Kodumon, in the relatively underexplored Quilon District, located a curious liana, belonging to Papilionaceae, which could not be compared with any of the known members of the family. On further critical studies of the specimens at the Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, Howrah (CAL) and herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore (MH), it turned out to be a new species of the genus *Kunstleria* Prain and is related to *Kunstleria derryi* Prain. This was confirmed by Dr K Thothathri, Botanical Survey of India, Sibpur, Howrah.

Kunstleria is a small genus. It was believed to comprise 11 species of which five are Malayan, four are Philippine and two are Australian (Polhill 1971). Earlier studies on Indian Flora contain no reference to this genus. The present discovery, therefore, is a new generic record for Indian flora. It is also of phyto-geographical interest.

Kunstleria resembles *Spatholobus* Hassk in habit, calyx, corolla and stamens. It differs in having exstipellate leaflets and indehiscent pods. The seed is centrally situated in the pod as in *Lonchocarpus* Benth. However, *Kunstleria* differs from *Lonchocarpus* in having unfascicled flowers, deeply toothed calyx and free vexillary stamen. In the characters of the inflorescence and in the presence of free upper stamen *Kunstleria* approaches *Aganope* Miq. but differs in having wingless pod, a deeply toothed calyx and the vexillary filament adnate to the base of the claw of the standard petal.



Figures 1-7. *Kunstleria keralensis* C N Mohanan et N C Nair, *sp. nov.*
 1. Habit. 2. Calyx tube split open. 3. Petals. 4. Staminal column except the vexillary stamen. 5. Gynoeceium. 6. Pod. 7. Seed.

Kunstleria keralensis C N Mohanan et N C Nair *sp. nov.*

Kunstleria derryi Prain affinis, sed differt foliis majoribus, subcoriaceis, in nervis nervulisque sparsim pilosi; staminibus, vexillari excluso, dimorphis, ovario stipitato, leguminibus ad medium suturae anticae parum depressis monospermis.

Holotypus Mohanan 68351 lectus ad locum Kodumon, prope Adoor, Quilon, Kerala, India australem, alt. 125 m, die 12-2-1980, et positus in herbario CAL. Isotypi Mohanan 68351 (quinque specimina) positi in herbario MH. Paratypi

Mohanan 68348, sex specimina ad eundem locum, die 30-5-1980, positi in herbario MH.

Allied to *Kunstleria derryi* Prain, but differs in leaves being larger, subcoriaceous, sparsely hairy on nerves and nervules; stamens, excluding the vexillary, dimorphic; ovary stalked; and pods slightly depressed at middle of the anterior suture, one seeded.

Liana. Leaves 5-7 foliolate, 6-48 cm long; rachis 3-13 cm long, minutely pubescent; leaflets opposite, 1.5-20 × 1-8 cm, ovate-elliptic to elliptic lanceolate, bluntly acuminate at apex, obtuse to subcordate at base, sparsely adpressed hairy at nerves; lateral nerves 4-6 pairs, arched along margins, veins finely reticulated, impressed above and raised beneath; petiolules 2-10 mm long, brownish pubescent. Flowers subsessile, in 15-30 cm long terminal panicles; peduncles minutely brownish pubescent. Calyx campanulate, ca. 3 mm long, 2-2.5 mm across, finely brownish tomentose; lobes 5, triangular, ca. 1.5 mm long, upper two connate. Corolla deep purple; standard 4-5 mm × 4-4.5 mm, broadly ovate, cordate at base, glabrous, veins red; claw ca. 3 mm long; wings 4-4.5 mm × 1.5-2.5 mm, ciliate at margins towards base; claw ca. 2 mm long; keels 4-4.5 mm × 2-3 mm, ciliate towards base of the upper margin; claw ca. 2 mm long. Stamens diadelphous, 9 + 1, excluding the vexillary dimorphic; 5 versatile anthers on ca. 2 mm long filaments alternating with 4 basifixed anthers on ca. 1 mm long filaments; staminal tube 3-4 mm long; vexillary filament ca. 3 mm long, quite free from staminal tube and adnate to the base of the standard claw; anther basifixed. Ovary ca. 4 mm long, ca. 1.5 mm across, silky pubescent, stalk ca. 1 mm long; ovules 2; placenta marginal; style curved, ca. 2 mm long, glabrous; stigma capitate. Pods strap-shaped, 5-11.5 cm × 2-2.6 cm, slightly depressed at middle of the anterior suture, oblique at base, cuspidately acute at apex, densely golden yellow tomentose when young, glabrous with few adpressed hairs when mature pale brown, reticulate; seeds flattened, obliquely suborbicular, 2.5-2.8 cm across, brown scurfy.

Holotype (*Mohanan* 68351-CAL) and isotype (*Mohanan* 68351—five specimens—MH) were collected at Kodumon, near Adoor, Quilon District, Kerala, South India at an altitude of 125 m on 12 February 1980; paratypes (*Mohanan* 68348—six specimens—MH) were also collected from the same locality on 30th May 1980.

The specific epithet refers to Kerala from where the new species was collected.

Acknowledgements

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References

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