

## A New Species of the Genus *Saurauia* (*Actinidiaceae*) from Great Nicobar Islands, India

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*Saurauia nicobarica* T. K. Paul is described from Great Nicobar Islands as new to science. This species is characterized by its leaves having an acute or obtuse base, bracts linear lanceolate, densely hairy, outer two sepals densely brown tomentose and sparsely pilose fruits.

**Key words:** *Actinidiaceae*, Great Nicobar Islands, new species, *Saurauia*.

The genus *Saurauia* Willd. consists of *c.* 300 species widespread in tropical America and Asia (Mabberley 1997). Recently Paul (1993) recorded eight species of this genus from India. Most of the species of this genus in India occur in tropical and subtropical forests in the Eastern Himalayas and Northeastern India up to 2150 m in elevation. Only one species viz., *Saurauia bracteosa* DC. is reported from Great Nicobar Islands (Yoganarasimhan et al. 1982). A scrutiny of some unidentified specimens of this genus collected from Great Nicobar Islands housed at the Central National Herbarium (CAL) provid to be a new species, which is described here with illustrations.

***Saurauia nicobarica*** T. K. Paul, sp. nov.

[Fig. 1]

Affinis *S. bracteosa* DC., sed bracteis linearis–lanceolatis, 6–8 mm longis, 1–1.5 mm latis, folii basi acutis vel obtusis, ovario sparse piloso differt.

**Type:** INDIA: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, ca. 31 km on East-West Road, Great

Nicobar Island, alt. ca. 100 m, 9 Dec. 1978, N. G. Nair 7206 (holotype–CAL).

Shrubs or small trees, up to 7 m tall. Young stems and branches densely pubescent with brownish hairs, glabrescent when mature. Leaves alternate, simple, lamina elliptic-oblong or oblong-obovate, 10–30 × 4–10 cm, base acute or obtuse, apex acute, obtuse or shortly acuminate, margin with spinulose serratures, lateral veins 8–20 on either side of midvein, both surfaces of young leaves densely pubescent with brownish hairs, mature leaves glabrous or glabrescent in upper surface, lower surface with few hairs, mainly on veins and veinlets; petioles 2–4 cm long with dense reddish-brown tomentum, exstipulate. Flowers in corymbs; peduncles 5–11 cm long with brown tomentum, glabrescent, each peduncle bearing 5–11 flowers, pedicels 5–20 mm long, densely brown tomentose; bracts 6–8 × 1–1.5 mm, linear-lanceolate, outer surface with dense brown tomentum, inner surface glabrous except towards apex. Sepals 5, free, imbricate, 3–5 × 3–3.5 mm, ovate-oblong,



Fig. 1. *Saurauia nicobarica* T. K. Paul. A. Twig with inflorescence. B. Bract. C. Outer sepal. D. Inner sepal. E. Petal. F. Fruit with persistent style. G. Seed.

Table 1. Comparison between *Saurauia bracteosa* and *S. nicobarica* in morphological characters

Characters		<i>S. bracteosa</i>	<i>S. nicobarica</i>
Leaf	base	rounded or subcordate	acute or obtuse
	margin	dentate-serrate	spinulose-serrate to dentate-serrate
	apex	shortly acuminate	acute, obtuse or shortly acuminate
Bract	shape	oblong, oblong-obovate, foliaceous, sparsely hairy	linear-lanceolate, densely hairy
	size	20–45 × 10–20 mm	6–8 × 1–1.5 mm
Flower	sepal	outer 2 sepals densely scaly, inner 3 scaly or glabrous	outer 2 sepals densely brown-tomentose, inner 3 sparsely hairy or glabrous
	petal	obovate, notched at apex	obovate, entire at apex
	style	4–5	3 or 5
	ovary	densely tomentose	sparsely hairy
Fruit		10–15 × 8–12 mm, densely white-tomentose	5–10 × 5–6 mm, sparsely pilose

outer 2 glabrous within, densely brown-tomentose without, hairs 2–3 mm long, inner 3 sepals glabrous, hyaline towards margin, persistent. Petals 5, free or connate at base, imbricate, 2–5 × 1.5–4 mm (in bud condition), obovate, apex entire, glabrous, white, fragrant. Stamens numerous, adnate to base of petals, filaments ca. 1.5–2 mm long, anthers ca. 1 mm, versatile, bright yellow. Ovary globose, 3–4 × 3.5 mm, sparsely hairy; styles 3 or 5, connate at base, 3–4 mm long, persistent; stigmas simple. Fruit a berry, globose, 5–10 × 5–6 mm, sparsely pilose. Seeds numerous, ca. 0.75 × 0.5 mm, pyramidal, reticulate, pitted.

Additional specimens examined: INDIA: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Great Nicobar Islands, Laful forest, 6 May 1980, D. K. Hore 7773 (CAL); Great Nicobar Islands, Laful forest, 13 June 1981, D. K. Hore 8880 (CAL).

Flower and Fruit: May–December.

Ecology: Grown in mixed forest, nearby

roadsides, forest edges, along rocky stream bank, scarce.

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T. K. パウル：インド，グレートニコバル諸島からの *Saurauia* 属（マタタビ科）の 1 新種

インド・グレートニコバル諸島から *Saurauia* 属（マタタビ科）の 1 新種 *Saurauia nicobarica* T. K. Paul を記載した。これまでグレートニコバル諸島からは *Saurauia bracteosa* DC. のみが知られていたが，CAL（インド国立中央標本館）に所蔵された標本の中にこれと区別されるもの

があり，新種として記載した。本種は，葉の基部が鋭形または鈍形，苞は線形～披針形で密毛に被われ，外側の 2 枚の萼片には茶色の密綿毛があり，果実にまばらに軟毛があるなどの特徴がある。

（インド植物調査局国立中央標本館）