Reinstatement and Lectotypification of *Andrographis gracilis* (*Acanthaceae*), a Lesser Known Endemic Species from Southern Western Ghats, India

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*Andrographis gracilis* Nees (*Acanthaceae*), a lesser known endemic species from the southern Western Ghats, is reinstated as a distinct species and the lectotype for this name is designated here.

**Key words:** *Acanthaceae, Andrographis gracilis*, endemic, India, lectotype, reinstatement, syntype, Western Ghats.

*Andrographis gracilis* Nees (*Acanthaceae-Andrographinae*), one of many lesser known endemic species from the southern Western Ghats of India, was described based on Robert Wight’s collections from Courtallum by Nees (1847). Subsequently, Clarke (1884) synonymized this species under *A. wightiana* Arn. ex Nees [= *A. atropurpurea* (Dennst.) Alston] in Hooker’s *The Flora of British India*. Henceforth, this species has neither appeared as a correct name nor synonym in any of the taxonomic works (Gamble 1924, Kumari 1987, Sasidharan 2004, Nayar et al. 2006, 2014, Karthikeyan et al. 2009) till date.

During the systematic study on the genus *Andrographis* Wall. ex Nees in India, examination of herbarium specimens (or digital images*) housed at BM, BSI, CAL, E*, FRC, K*, L*, MH, P*, RHT, TBGT and Kongunadu Arts and Science College Herbarium, Coimbatore shows that nearly all the specimens of this species were misidentified as either *A. atropurpurea* (Dennst.) Alston or *A. macrobotrys* Nees. However, a critical study of type specimens, description in the protologue and examination of fresh field collections using the optical microscope (Nikon SMZ1500) coupled with digital sight DS-Fi1 camera reveals that this species is very distinct from morphologically closely allied species by many characters. Therefore, it is reinstated and treated here as a distinct species along with detailed description, illustrations, and colour photographs. Further, the micro-morphological characters such as the adaxial and abaxial surfaces of leaves, pollen grains and seeds were examined using the
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G. Gnanasekaranab, E. S. S. Kumarc, G. V. S. Murthyd : インド-西ガーツ山脈南部産の知られざる固有種, Andrographis gracilis（キツネノマゴ科）の復活とレクトタイプ選定

キツネノマゴ科 Andrographinae 亜連の Andrographis gracilis Nees はインド-ウエスタンガーツ山脈南部の固有種であるが、その正体が良く分かっていなかった。ここでは、本種が独立種であることを確認し、レクトタイプ（選定基準標本）を選定した。

Andrographis 属は草本あるいは灌木で、インドに多くの種が知られている。同属の A. paniculata (Burn. f.) Wall. ex Nees はアンドログラフィスあるいは穿心蓮（せんしんれん）の名で知られている、古くからの薬用植物である。

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