

A VARIANT OF *ANDROGRAPHIS OVATA* C.B. CLARKE (ACANTHACEAE) - AN ENDEMIC MEDICINAL PLANT FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present research was to investigate the identification of a variant ternate phyllotaxy of *Andrographis ovata*. This is the first announce on variant ternate phyllotaxy of *Andrographis ovata* Clarke.

KEYWORDS: Variant, *Andrographis ovata*, Medicinal plant, Shevaroy Hills, Ternate *phyllotaxy*.

INTRODUCTION

Andrographis ovata C.B. (T.Anderson ex Bedd) Clarke is an endemic medicinal shrub belonging to the family Acanthaceae. *Andrographis ovata* is widely used as traditional medicine in Tamilnadu. It is claimed to possess snake bite, diabetes, fever, skin disorders and antimicrobial

properties.^[1,2]

In the Flora of British India^[3] the Genus *Andrographis* is classified under the Traibe Acantheae, subtribe Andrographideae, order of Personales. 40 species distributed in the Tropical Asia are recognised in this genus.^[4] Among these species, 24 have been found mainly in the hilly areas of the district of Tamilnadu, India.^[5] Six species of *Andrographis* are reported by Matthew.^[6] Twenty one species of *Andrographis* are reported by Henry *et al*^[7], in which 18 species are reported to be endemic in India.^[8] In all the known species of *Andrographis*, the leaves are reported to prove opposite phyllotaxy. The present investigation deals with the identification of peculiar with ternate phyllotaxy.

An investigation of the specimens available in the Central National Herbarium (Botanical Survey of India), Kolkata; the Regional Herbarium, Chennai and Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, the Rapinat Herbarium, Tiruchirapalli, Tamilnadu reveals the existence of only opposite phyllotaxy in the species collected from varied habitats.

Alagesaboopathi and Balu^[9-11] reported the abnormal ternate phyllotaxy of *Andrographis lineata*, *Andrographis paniculata* and *Andrographis alata*.

The authors collected this variant of *A. ovata* (Fig.1) from Shevaroy Hills (Eastern Ghats), Salem district of Tamilnadu. The plant specimens were identified and confirmed with the Flora of Tamilnadu and voucher specimen (No.27/15.10.17) deposited in Department of Botany, Government Arts College (Autonomous), Salem for the future reference. It resembles *A. ovata* in all descriptions except its peculiar ternate phyllotaxy. It is felt that this character potency have developed due to some speedy mutation in its genome. This abnormal leaves has been subjected to further experimental proves to assess the character of this abnormal nature. The present investigation is the first announce of ternate phyllotaxy of *Andrographis ovata*.



VARIANT



NORMAL

Fig. 1: Variant of *Andrographis ovata* C.B. Clarke.

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