

Bauhinia albo-lutea (Miq.) Prain in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 66(2): 181. 1897. Type as above.

Phanera nicobarica Balakr. & Thoth. in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 17(1-4): 201. 1975; *syn. nov.* Type: 15 km on East-West road, Great Nicobar, + 100 m, 23 Aug. 1975, Balakrishnan 3043 (holotype CAL!; isotype CAL!, PBL); 18 km on North-south road, Great Nicobar, ± 25 m, 17 July 1976, Balakrishnan 3824 (paratype CAL!, PBL); on the way from Galathea Bay to Pulobaha Bay, Great Nicobar, ± 125 m, 26-3-1966. Thothathri & Banerjee 11661, 10661 typo. err. in protologue' (paratype CAL!).

Bauhinia nicobarica (Balakr. & Thoth.) Bennet in Ind. J. Forest. 5(4): 326. 1982. Type as above.

Note: The paratype specimen (Thothathri & Banerjee 11661) of *P. nicobarica* differs from rest of the specimens in having most of the petals with cuneate bases (a character not mentioned in the protologue) in addition to the few subcordate and typical cordate ones. Similar petal-character, i.e. with cuneate bases was also noted by Prain (1897: 182) but he erred in assigning this characteristic to *B. albo-lutea* which is only a synonym of *B.*

stipularis (cf. de Wit 1956). This interesting variation in the petal-character requires further observation to find out whether it has any special taxonomic value.

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We are grateful to Prof. Kai Larsen for confirming the identity of *P. nicobarica* and permitting us to publish the matter independently though they (Prof. K. & S.S. Larsen) had realized years ago that *P. nicobarica* is the same as *B. stipularis*. We are also grateful to the authorities of the Rijksherbarium, Leiden and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for providing the photographs of the type specimens.

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33. *PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS* L. (ASTERACEAE) FROM NEIL ISLAND — A NEW ADVENTIVE TO THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mikania cordata (Burm. f.) B.L. Robinson and *Chromolaena odorata* (L.) R.M. King and M. Robinson are the two major weeds of Asteraceae hitherto reported to be growing along roadsides and in forest clearings in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Saldanha 1987). *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. yet another member of the family Asteraceae which ranks third among the top seven weeds of the world (King 1966) has been found for the first time — on Neil, a small island situated towards the southern end of Ritchies' Archipelago, Northeast of Port Blair, South Andaman. Even a relatively recent botanical survey

of the island did not include *P. hysterophorus* in the list of plants collected from there (Basu 1987).

This species is known to be dispersed mainly through the agencies of water, vehicles and animals. Wind dispersal in this species is highly restricted and is only of the order of a few metres (Auld *et al.* 1982/83). In view of this, inadvertent introduction through the agency of man is perhaps the only explanation for the occurrence of *P. hysterophorus* on so many far flung islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The complete description and other details are given by R.S. Rao, in

the first report of the naturalising of the weed in India.

It is imperative that steps are taken to eradicate the weed at the earliest. It may otherwise pose a threat to the native flora of the islands owing to its allelopathic effects.

Parthenium hysterophorus L., Sp. Pl. 988. 1753; Voight, Hort. Sub. Calcutt. 62. 1845; Rao, in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 54: 218. 1956.

Voucher specimens of the plant: South andaman: Neil Island: Sharma and Prashanth 101, dated 20-10-1988: deposited in the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Circle, Port Blair (PBL).

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34. A NOTE ON THE REDISCOVERY OF *JASMINUM ANDAMANICUM* BALAKR. AND N.G. NAIR — AN ENDANGERED ENDEMIC SPECIES

The genus *Jasminum* is a fairly well represented member of the family Oleaceae. Nine species of this genus occur in the Andaman — Nicobar islands of which three species are endemic. *Jasminum andamanicum* Balakr. and N.G. Nair was originally described by Balakrishnan and Nair from the old collections of Dr King's Collector (1894) and Parkinson (1915) at CAL and PBL. These specimens were known to have been collected from the Middle Andamans and South Andamans. After Parkinson's collection (1915) it had never been collected again.

During the floristic survey of Mount Harriet hill ranges, we collected this interesting wild ornamental endemic *Jasminum*. The area from which the species has been collected supports a semi-evergreen type of forest. Mount Harriet hills, the highest peak of South Andamans is rich in plant diversity. About 46.7 sq. km of these hill ranges have been declared as a National Park. *J. andamanicum* is found growing sparsely along

the edges of the forests at Shoalbay. This area is not included in the National Park area of the hill ranges. There is every possibility of extinction of this endangered endemic species if proper protective measures for conservation are not taken.

Being an interesting re-discovery, a brief description is given below on the basis of the recent collection:

Jasminum andamanicum Balakr. and N.G. Nair in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 21: 215. 1979.

Scandant climbing shrubs, woody at base, pale greyish or creamy white with fissured bark, young branchlets greenish, smooth. Leaves trifoliate, opposite, dark green above, comparatively pale green beneath; leaflets 3-10 x 2-6 cm, lateral nerves 5-8 pairs, petiole c. 3 cm long, terminal petiolules 0.9-2.2 cm long, lateral petiolules c. 4-9 mm long. Inflorescence in paniculate cymes up to 12 cm long, erect, densely matted with white wooly pubescence. Flowers white with pleasant smell, calyx pale whitish,



Mohanraj, P et al. 1994. "Parthenium Hysterophorus L. (Asteraceae) from Neil Island: a new Adventive To the Andaman and Nicobar Islands." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 91, 161–162.

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