



## Rediscovery of *Ginalloa andamanica* Kurz (Angiosperms: Viscaceae) – an endemic and threatened species from Little Andaman Island, India

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The genus *Ginalloa* Korth. belonging to Viscaceae of Indo-Malesian region comprises of nine species (Mabberley 2008), of which two species, viz., *G. andamanica* Kurz and *G. helferi* Kurz are known to occur on Andaman Islands, India (Karthigeyan et al. 2009). The endangered semi-parasitic shrub *Ginalloa andamanica*, was described by Kurz in 1872 and has been considered endemic to the South Andaman Island. In the Flora of British India, J.D. Hooker (1886) included this species, without seeing the specimen, based on the Kurz's report. Later Balakrishnan & Rao (1983) and Nayar & Sastry (1990) treated it as rare and endangered in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While revising the family Viscaceae

for India, Sanjai & Balakrishnan (2006) could not either collect or see any specimen. Hooker (1886) and Barlow (1997) doubted the existence of this species. While surveying the Little Andaman Island, one of us (LR) collected a sample of this species from the broken branches of *Artocarpus chama* Buch.-Ham. in the inland evergreen forests. The distribution of the species is extremely rare and only a few individuals were noted on that tree and most of them were very healthy. The tree was found in association with *Alstonia kurzii* Hook.f., *Dipterocarpus gracilis* Blume, *Dipterocarpus grandiflorus* Blanco, *Drimycarpus racemosus* (Roxb.) Hook.f., *Dysoxylum arborescens* (Blume) Miq., *Kopsia scortechinii* King & Gamble and *Melicope glabra* (Blume) T.G. Hartley. The Island was initially declared as tribal reserve in 1957 and later as a reserve forests in 1963. This species is rediscovered after a lapse of 136 years. Sanjai & Balakrishnan (2006) reported the non-availability of specimens in the Indian herbaria and lack of information. Hence, a detailed description with line diagram is provided here.

### *Ginalloa andamanica* Kurz

in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. II, Nat. Hist. 41(2): 309. 1872 & Forest Fl. Burma 2: 326. 1877; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 228. 1886; M.P. Nayar & Sastry, Red Data Book Ind. Pl. 3: 259. 1990; Sanjai & N.P. Balakr. in Rheedeia 16: 80. 2006. (Image 1; Fig.1).

**Specimen examined:** 15.v.2007, area between Krishna Nallah and Nanjappa Nagar, Little Andaman Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India, coll. L. Rasingam, #25930 (PBL - Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair), preserved samples mutilated.

Aerial semi-parasitic shrub, ca. 80cm high; branchlets dark black, terete, longitudinally wrinkled, with whitish, ellipsoid lenticels, glabrous; internodes up to 4cm long. Normal leaves obovate to ovate-oblong or sub-orbicular, 2-6.5 x 1-4 cm, rounded at apex, base oblique, attenuate and contracted into the petioles, entire along margins, wavy when dry, thickly coriaceous, dark black, glabrous; nerves three, obscure above, visible beneath; petioles very short, up to 2mm long or obsolete, glabrous. Rudimentary cataphyll-like leaves borne ca. 5mm above the base of each branch, ca. 1mm long, glabrous. Inflorescence axillary and terminal spike of decussate pairs of cymules, ca. 5cm long; bracteoles entire to shortly fimbriate, densely clothed with stellate crystals. Male flowers very small, globose, ca. 2mm long, petals three, ca. 1mm long, glabrous. Female flowers cylindrical. Fruits ellipsoid, slightly tuberculate, angled, ca. 7x3 mm, glabrous, crowned by short persistent calyx.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** February-June.

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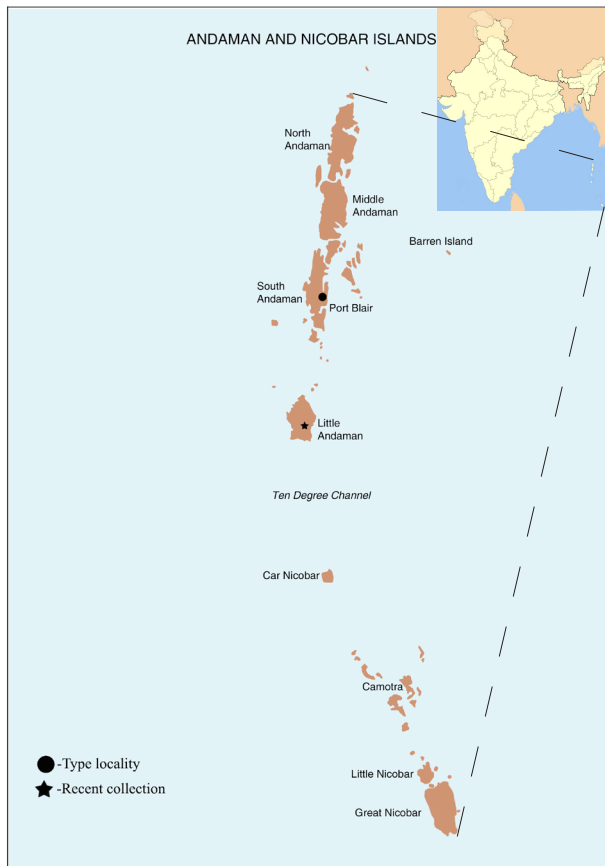
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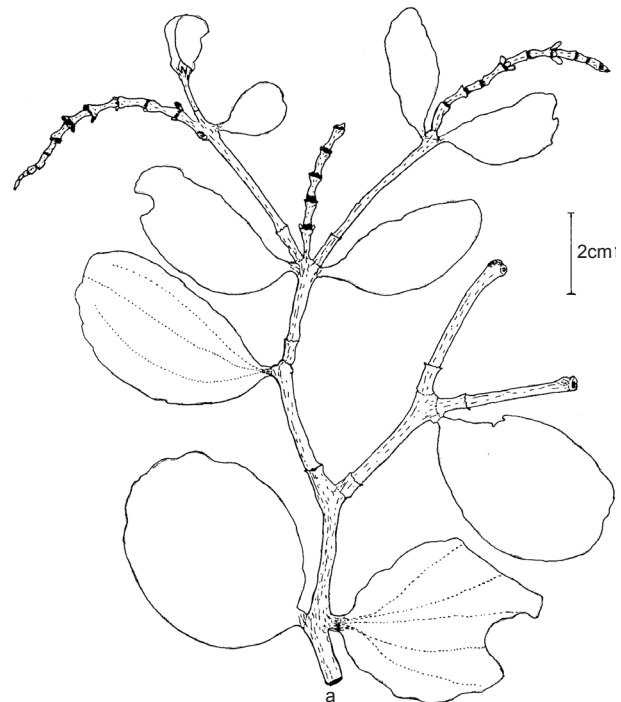
**Image 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands giving the distribution of *Ginalloa andamanica* Kurz**

**Distribution:** South and Little Andaman Islands (Endemic).

**Habitat:** Branches of *Artocarpus chama* Buch.-Ham. Very rare in inland evergreen forests.

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**Figure 1. *Ginalloa andamanica* Kurz  
a - Habit**

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