

## Occurrence of globally threatened *Hoya pandurata* Tsiang (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae) in Manipur – a new record for India

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### Abstract

*Hoya pandurata* Tsiang (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae) is reported as a new plant record for the flora of India from the state of Manipur. Description and photographs of the species are given for easy identification.

**Key words:** *Hoya pandurata*, New record, India, Manipur

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hoya* R.Br. comprising *ca* 350 – 450 species, is distributed mainly in SE Asia and Australia, with the maximum diversity in Philippines having 104 species (Rodda 2015). In India, the genus is represented by 31 species predominantly distributed in tropical forests of Northeast India, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Jagtap & Singh 1999; Ghosh 2013; Karthigeyan *et al.* 2014). During our recent plant exploration trip to the state of Manipur in June 2017, we came across an interesting species of *Hoya*, in the Kamjong District. After critical examination of the plant, it was identified as *Hoya pandurata* Tsiang, a species so far known only from China and Thailand (Tsiang 1939; Kidyoo & Thaithong 2007).

*Hoya pandurata* is enlisted as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List (CPSG 2004). The species was collected from Kamjong District of Manipur bordering Myanmar. Although, this state has been explored botanically many times by different botanists since 1888, *H. pandurata* was never recorded (Watt 1890; Clarke 1889; Bor 1938; Kingdon-Ward 1952; Deb 1961). This area has biogeographically connected to Myanmar, which shares its other boundaries with Thailand and China from where the species is known. Myanmar serves as the corridor for entering the floral elements from other SE Asian countries to India. The species is therefore, a new record for the flora of India. A taxonomic description, notes and photographs are given to facilitate the identification of this species.

***Hoya pandurata* Tsiang in *Sunyatsenia* 4: 125. 1939. [PLATE – I]**

**Type:** SW China, Yunnan, Sze-Mao, 1700 m, Aug. 1936. *A. Henry* 12258 (**Holotype:** NY; **Isotype:** A, E, K, US).

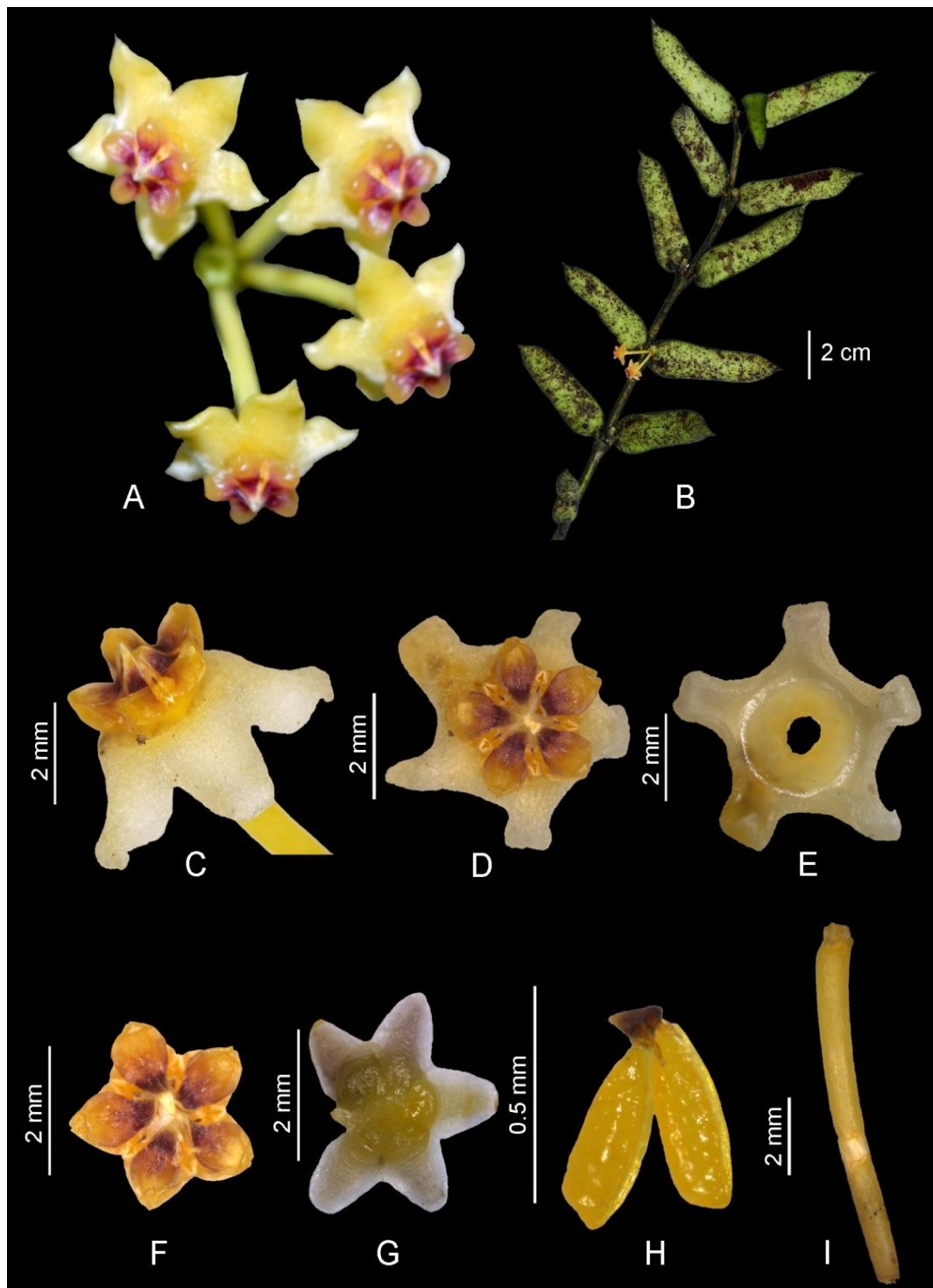


PLATE - I. *Hoya pandurata* Tsiang: A. Flowers; B. Leaves; C. Lateral view of flower; D. Upper view of flower; E. Corolla; F. Corona; G. Calyx; H. Pollinia; I. Pedicel

Epiphytic sub-shrub. Stem glabrous, pendent, greenish grey. petiole ca 5 mm long; lamina 5–6 × 1–1.4 cm, pandurate, succulent, bicolor, glabrous, midrib obscure, base rounded, apex acuminate. Inflorescence extra-axillary in globose umbels, 7–9-flowered; peduncle 4–5 mm long; pedicel 8–11 mm long, glabrous. Calyx ca 3.5 mm across, gamosepalous, lobes 5, ca 1.8 × 0.9 mm, glands-5, apex acute, glabrous. Corolla creamy to pale yellow, reflexed at maturity, ca 8 mm in diam., gamopetalous, lobes 5, acute, glabrous outside, glandular hairy inside, ca 3.2 in diam., deep red in centre, diminishing to red; broadly elliptic, stellate, slightly raised, teeth longer than anthers. Pollinia ca 0.4 × 0.16 mm, oblanceolate, caudicle horizontal, retinaculum ellipsoid. Fruits and seeds not seen.

*Flowering:* June – July

*Specimens cited:* India, Manipur, Kamjong, Grihang, N 224° 821.371' & E 094° 502.514'; 1316 m, 09th June, 2017; *J S Khuraijam, D Husain, P Katiyar 309590* (LWG).

*Distribution:* India (Kamjong District of Manipur), China, Thailand.

*Habitat:* Epiphytic on trees in mixed *Quercus* forest at 1316 m amsl.

*Conservation status:* The species is locally uncommon and confined to moist forest. Globally, the species is threatened and categorised as Vulnerable [B2ab (ii,iii,iv) ver 3.1, 2004].

*Notes:* *Hoya pandurata* can be easily recognised from other *Hoya* species by its attractive small yellowish flower with reddish corona. The species has been introduced in CSIR-NBRI Botanic Garden for *ex-situ* conservation, and efforts are being made for its multiplication and rehabilitation in the natural habitat.

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