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SALACIA ACUMINATISSIMA KOSTERM., SPEC. NOV. (CELASTR.)
FROM SRI LANKA

A.J.G.H. KOSTERMANS

Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Description is provided for a rare new species of *Salacia*.

ABSTRAK

Pertelaan dikemukakan untuk jenis baru *Salacia* yang jarang.

Salacia acuminatissima Kosterm., *spec. nov.*

Liana, ramulis tenuibus griseis, ad nodos sub-incrassatis, foliis oppositis coriaceis glabris ellipticis conspicue acuminatis basi breve cuneatis supra laevibus subtus laxe obscure inconspicue reticulatis, costis 5-paribus filiformibus, floribus axillaribus minutis, fructus ellipsoideus, apice acumen curvatis conspicuis munitis.

TYPUS: *Gunatilleke s.n.* (PDA).

Woody climber, 10 m long, glabrous in all its parts, diam. ca. 3 cm. Bark smooth, greyish. Branchlets thin, slightly thickened at the nodes. Leaves opposite, coriaceous, elliptic, 2 x 4.5 — 2.5 x 6 — 3 x 5 cm, rather broadly distinctly acuminate with blunt tip, base shortly cuneate; above smooth, midrib thin, prominulous, ribs ca. 5 pairs, erect-patent, filiform. Flowers white to greenish white, axillary on strongly reduced, up to 2 cm long branches. Pedicels slender, 3 mm long. Sepals depressed orbicular, stiff, 1—1.5 mm long. Petals spatulate, twice as long; ovary brownish green, fruit ellipsoid, 1.5 x 2.5 cm, apically narrowed into a long, bent, sharp acumen, 5 mm long.

DISTRIBUTION : Sinharaja Forest, S.W. Sri Lanka, wet evergreen forest alt. 200 m. Only known from the type locality.

The climber was pointed out to me by Dr. Nimal Gunatilleke of the Paradeniya University. I visited the place and tried — in vain — to discover another specimen. The species is outstanding because of the bent, sharp, long fruit acumen, quite different from that of other *Salacia* species of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka, Sinharaja forest, near tree 57 (Gunatilleke's number), fl-fr Gunatilleke^e s.n. (private collection); same plant, Febr., buds, *Kostermans 27302* (AARH, BO, G.K.P).

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