

A new species of *Marsdenia* R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae)  
from South India

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ABSTRACT

*Marsdenia raziana* which represents a new species of Asclepiadaceae, collected around Yelnir ghats forests (W. ghats), Samse, Chikmagalur District, has been described and illustrated.

DURING a recent plant exploration around Yelnir forests (Western ghats), Samse, 308 km northwest of Bangalore, populations of an interesting asclepiadaceous member were observed and collected, which on identification proved to be an undescribed species of *Marsdenia* R. Br. The new species is described and illustrated.

*Marsdenia raziana* Yog. et Subr. spec. nov.

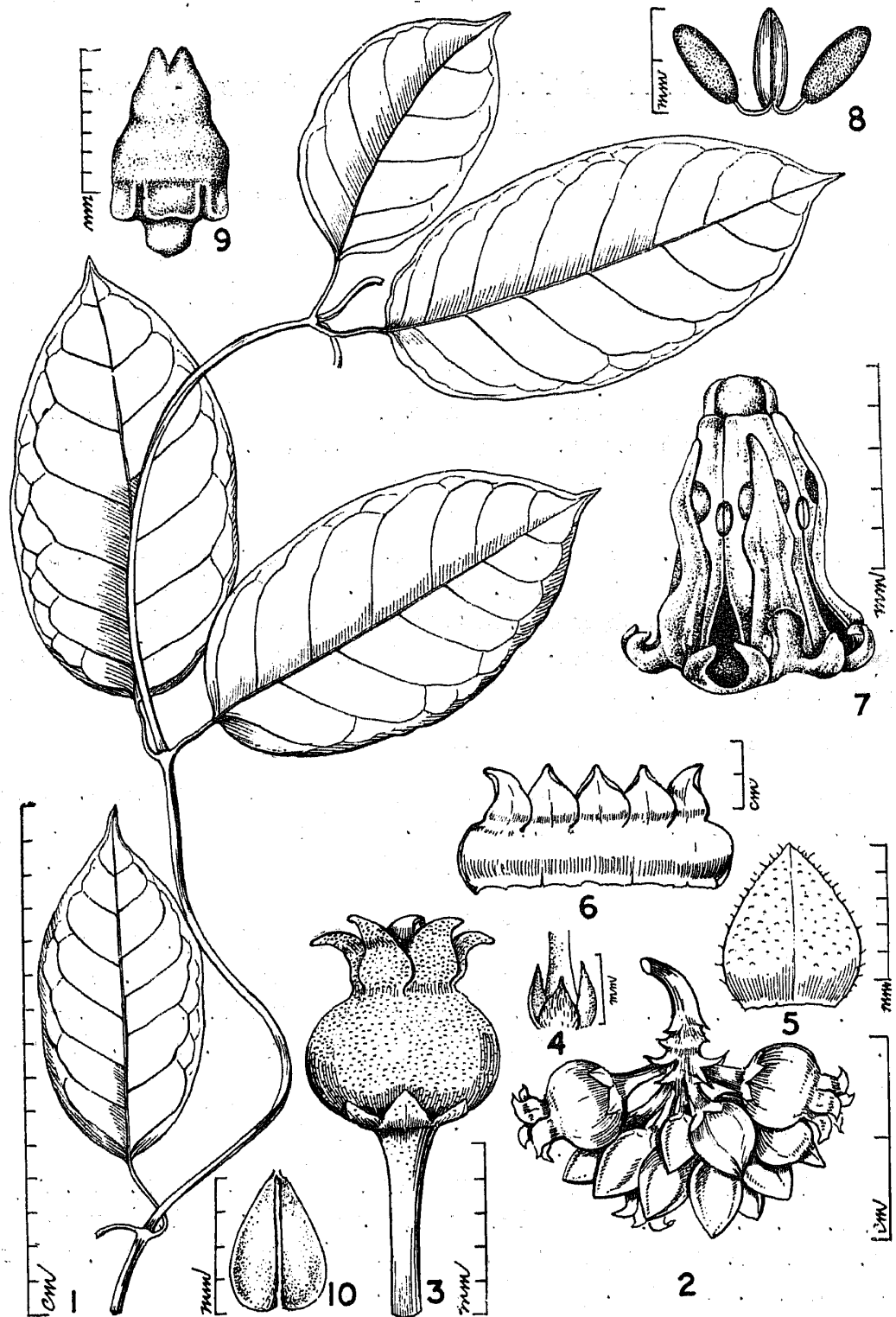
Affinis *M. brunoniana* Wt. & Arn., sed foliis apice acuminatis, basi rotundatis vel cuneatis, (numquam cordatis), corymbis numquam ramosis, multifloribus, confertis, corollis extus puberulosis, corollae lobis ad apicem obtusis differt.

Holotypus *Yoganarasimhan* 1448 lectus ad Chikmagalur in ditone Karnataka alt., 1200 m, die 20-11-1972, positus in herbario centrali nationali ad Calcuttam (CAL). Isotypi (*Yoganarasimhan* 1448 A-B) et paratypi (*Yoganarasimhan* 0566 A-B) positi in Regional Research Centre (Ay.), Bangalore.

*Marsdenia raziana* Yog. et Subr. spec. nov.

Allied to *M. brunoniana* Wt. & Arn. but differs in having leaves abruptly acuminate at apex, base rounded or cuneate (never cordate), flowers in unbranched, many-flowered, crowded, condensed corymbs, corolla puberulous without and corolla lobes blunt at apex.

Climbing shrubs; stems twining, cylindrical, glabrous, striate. Leaves 8-14 × 3.5-7 cm, oblong, abruptly acuminate at apex, membranous, green above, paler beneath, base rounded or cuneate (never cordate). Flowers reddish-brown, many, crowded, in axillary, condensed, unbranched corymbs,



Figures 1-10. *Marsdenia raziana* Yog. et Subr. spec. nov. Fig. 1. A portion of twig. Fig. 2. Inflorescence. Fig. 3. Flower. Fig. 4. Base of pedicel showing bract and bracteoles. Fig. 5. Sepal (abaxial view). Fig. 6. Corolla opened (adaxial view). Fig. 7. Gynostegium. Fig. 8. Pollinium. Fig. 9. Style and thimble-shaped stigma. Fig. 10. Ovary (Yoganarasimhan 1448).

peduncles 5–12 mm long, stout, fleshy; bracts *ca* 1 mm long, 1 at the base of each pedicel, ovate-acute, margins somewhat erose; bracteoles 2, a little longer than the bract, acute at apex, slightly erose on upper half, somewhat expanded at base; pedicels 5–7 mm long, stout, fleshy, each leaving a scar when caducous. Calyx 5-lobed, free almost to the base, puberulous without, glabrous within; lobes *ca* 6 × 3 mm, ovate-acute, fleshy, margins ciliolate. Corolla urceolate or subcampanulate, 5-lobed, puberulous without; lobes *ca* 5 × 4 mm, ovate-acute, fleshy, free above, reflexed when open, contorted. Staminal corona of 5 erect fleshy lobes arising from and with their basal portion adnate to the staminal column, adpressed to the back of the anthers for most of their length, free only at the apex, base with 2 short flaps. Gynostegium *ca* 5 mm long, arising from the base of the corolla; anthers erect, with a hyaline membranous appendage on the upper portion more or less surrounding the bases of stigma, passing down to form cartilaginous anther wings; base of anther wings covered by alternate pairs of short coronal lobes; pollinia erect, 1 in each anther loculus, translucent, borne on a slender translator, equaling in size the corpusculum; corpusculum *ca* 2 mm long, dark brown, rigid. Ovary *ca* 4 mm long, 2-carpelled, free, many ovuled; style short; stigma *ca* 4 mm long, shortly bilobed, thimble-shaped (figures 1–10).

The holotype of this species (*Yoganarasimhan* 1448), isotypes (*Yoganarasimhan* 1448 A–B) were collected from the Yelnir forests of the Western Ghats (13°9' N and 75°18' E), Samse, Chikmagalur district, Karnataka state, at an altitude of about 1200 m on 20–11–1972 in flowering condition. The paratypes (*Yoganarasimhan* 0566 A–B) were also collected from the same locality on 1–12–1974. The holotype is deposited at CAL; the isotypes and paratypes are deposited at the Herbarium of the Regional Research Centre (Ay.), Bangalore.

The authors wish to dedicate the specific epithet of this taxon to Dr. B. A. Razi, Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, University of Mysore, Mysore, for his significant contributions to the taxonomy and phytogeography of Indian flora.

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