

A NEW SPECIES OF *LITSEA* LAMARCK (LAURACEAE) FROM KARNATAKA

K. R. KESHAVA MURTHY,
S. N. YOGANARASIMHAN and
K. VASUDEVAN NAIR

Regional Research Centre (Ay), Jayanagar,
Bangalore 560 011, India.

SYSTEMATIC studies carried out on the Flora of Coorg District, Karnataka¹ revealed a new species of *Litsea* Lam., which is described here.

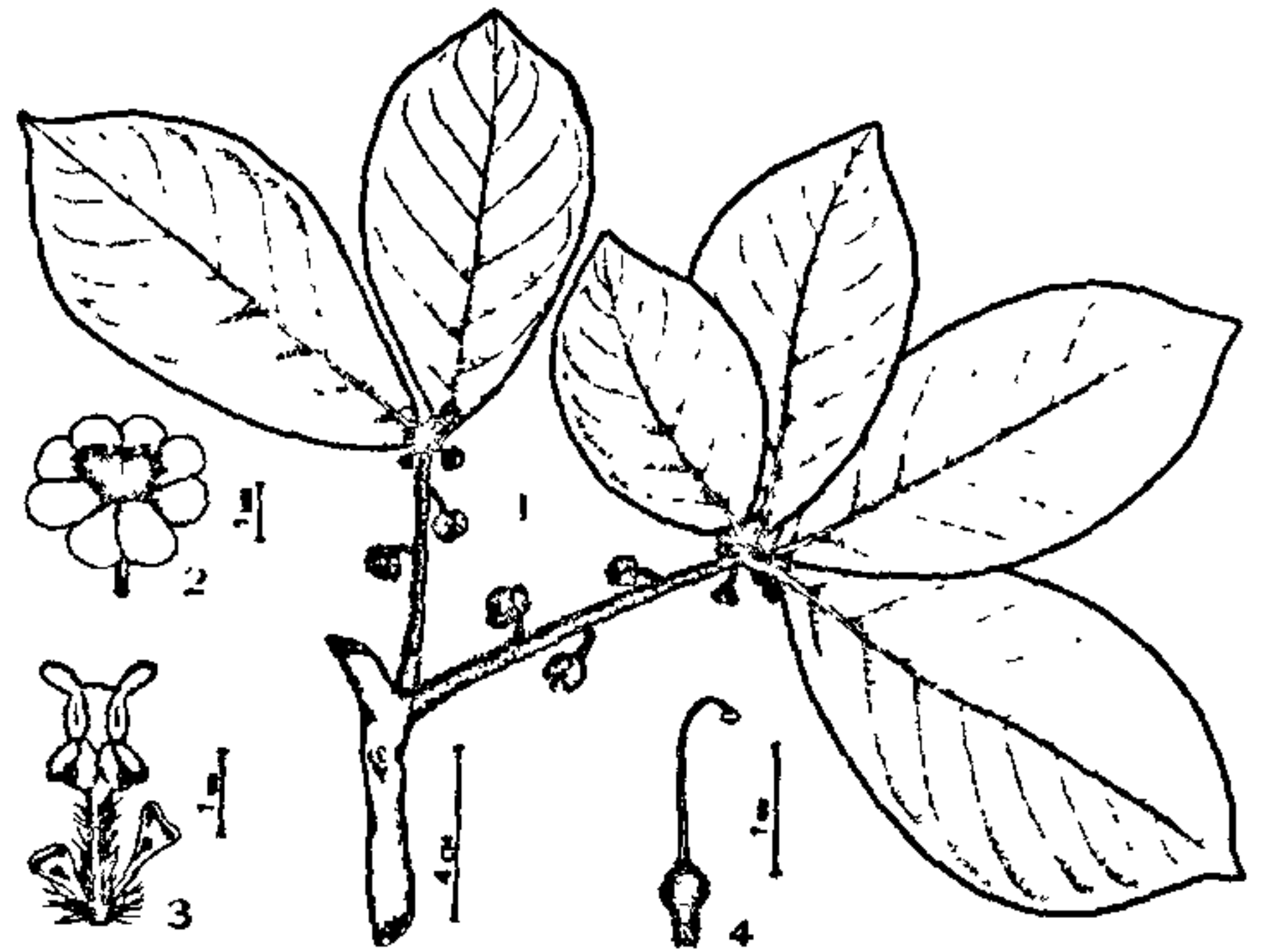
Litsea lakshmammaniana Keshav. et. Yog. sp. nov.

Litsea ghatica Sald, affinis sed foliis nervis laterali-
bus 7–10–jugis; perianthio lobis 8; staminibus 16,
biseriatis, stigmatе irregulariter lobato differt.

Allied to *Litsea ghatica* Sald., but differs in having leaves with 7 to 10 pairs of lateral nerves; 8 perianth lobes; stamens 16 in two series and irregularly 3-lobed stigma.

Trees, 6 to 8 m tall, branchlets grey or pale brown-tomentose. Leaves 8–20 × 4.5–9.5 cm, subverticillate, at the ends of branchlets, obovate, abruptly acute or very shortly acuminate at apex, cuneate at base, glabrous above except on nerves, densely grey-tomentose beneath; lateral nerves 7 to 10 pairs. Flowers greenish-yellow, four each in internodal and extra-axillary solitary umbellules, supported by 4 orbicular concave bracts; bracts 6 to 7 mm across, densely grey-tomentose. Perianth lobes 8, in two whorls, each 3–4 × 0.5–1 mm, obovate-oblong, villous without, glabrous within. Stamens 16, biseriate; filaments up to 2 mm long, villous at base; glands up to 1 mm or little longer, distinctly stalked; anthers up to 1 mm long, 4-celled; pistillode absent. Ovary up to 2 mm long, ovoid, unilocular; ovule solitary, pendulous; style up to 3 mm long, curved; stigma 3-lobed; staminodes 16, each 2 to 3 mm long; of the outer row eglandular; of the inner row with 2 stalked glands at base; stalks up to 1 mm long. Berry up to 1 cm across, globose; fruiting pedicel up to 4 mm long (figures 1 to 4).

Holotype K. R. Keshava Murthy and party 4414 A (male), *Isotype* 4414B, collected from Shola forests of Tadiandamol, Coorg District, on 28 October 1983 at an altitude of 1550 m are deposited at the Herbarium of Regional Research Centre, Bangalore (RRCBI); *Isotype* 4414C deposited at CAL. *Paratype* S. N. Yoganarasimhan 0609 (female), collected in flowers and fruits from Kotigehar, Charmadi



Figures 1–4. *Litsea lakshmammaniana* sp. nov.: 1. Twig; 2. Flower; 3. Stamen with staminodes; 4. Ovary.

ghats, Chikmagalur District, Karnataka on 4 December 1974 at an altitude of 450 m is deposited at RRCBI.

This taxon is dedicated in memory of the first author's mother Smt. Lakshamma.

The authors are thankful to Drs. A. N. Henry, Karthikeyan and Sundararaghavan of BSI for suggestions; to the Deputy Directors of MH, CAL and BSI for permitting to consult the herbarium; to Dr V. J. Nair for the latin diagnosis and to Mr Gurudev for assistance.

28 August 1986; Revised 14 November 1986

1. Keshava Murthy, K. R., *Studies on the Flora of Coorg (Kodagu) District, Karnataka*; Ph.D. thesis, University of Mysore, Mysore, 1986.

OCCURRENCE OF *NEOTESTUDINA CUNNINGHAMIAE* IN INDIAN SOIL

A. B. CHANDRA and K. NATARAJAN
CAS in Botany, University of Madras,
Madras 600 025, India.

WHILE studying the fungal flora of some copper-mine sites, *Neotestudina Cunninghamiae*, having the following characters, was isolated.