



## *Hoya rotundiflora* (Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae), a new horticulturally important species from Myanmar

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### Abstract

A new species, *Hoya rotundiflora*, originally found in a market in Thailand and collected in neighboring Myanmar, is described, illustrated and compared with related species. *Hoya rotundiflora* appears to be related to *Hoya thomsonii* and *Hoya lyi* due to the similar growth habit, but it can be easily distinguished by the shape of leaves, corolla and corona lobes.

### Introduction

*Hoya* Brown (1810: 459). is a genus of at least 200 species (Kleijn & van Donkelaar 2001) distributed over a wide area comprising peninsular India, mainland Asia, Malesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Melanesia, New Caledonia and Australia (Forster *et al.* 1998). Most species of *Hoya* are laticiferous wiry climbers, often epiphytic, with fleshy to succulent leaves of various size, colour, and venation. A limited number of species are pendulous (e.g., *Hoya linearis* Wall. in D. Don (1825: 130)) or erect shrubs (Simonsson & Rodda 2009). The genus *Hoya* as a whole has not been recently revised (Meve 2002), but accounts on *Hoya* have been produced for local floras and checklists. The flora of Myanmar is still very little known and only one checklist has so far been published, containing 19 species of *Hoya* (Kress *et al.* 2003). Among the neighboring countries Thailand is the most species rich, with about 40 taxa (Thaithong 2001) followed by China with 32 (He *et al.* 2009), Assam with 14 (Kanjilal *et al.* 1900) and Lao PDR with eight species and one variety (Newman *et al.* 2007). From 2007 onward a *Hoya* species commercially sold as *Hoya* sp. “Square” became widely available in the trade. It was preliminarily identified as *Hoya lyi* Léveillé (1907: 369) and is still often sold under that name. After studying *Hoya* specimens held in A, B, BM, BRUN, E, FI, HBG, K, L, P, SAN, SING, TO & UPNG herbaria, it became apparent that *Hoya* sp. “Square” instead represents an undescribed species. This is formally described here.

### Taxonomy

*Hoya rotundiflora* Rodda & Simonsson, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–3)

*Habitus ad Hoyam lyi et Hoyam thomsonii accedit sed corolla revoluta, corona lobis erectiores et folia margine revolutis recedit.*

**Type:**—Ex hort. Sweden, Stockholm, 1 September 2009, Torill Nyhuus 2009.1 (holotype K).