

A NEW VARIETY OF *SCOPARIA DULCIS* L. (SCROPHULARIACEAE) FROM MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA), INDIA

S. N. PARDESHI AND T. SRINIVASU

Department of Botany, Institute of Science, Fort, Mumbai 400 032

Scoparia dulcis var. *abrahamii* Pardeshi & Srinivasu var. nov. related to *Scoparia dulcis* L. is described. It differs from the latter in having 4 - 5 faintly pinkish-white, falcate corolla.

***Scoparia dulcis* var. *abrahamii* Pardeshi & Srinivasu var. nov.**

S. dulcis affinis, floribus 0.4 - 0.5 × 0.6 - 0.9 cm; corollis 4 - 5, falcatis, leviter roseo-albidis, differt. (Fig.1).

Type : SNP-1002 A (Holotype, Institute of Science, Mumbai) SNP-1002 B (Isotype, BSI).

Perennial under-shrub, stem erect, bushy, densely branched and usually with three branches at each node, glabrous, dull green, ridged, 50 - 90 cm high, stem farinose with fine white dots, 4 - 5 angled below, young branches 4 - 8 angled, ribs prominent, pale green; internode maximum 6.5 cm on main stem and 0.6 cm on branches; leaves exstipulate, short petiolate (0.1 - 0.4 cm), petiole slender, glabrous, leaves simple, deep green above, pale beneath, lamina 0.5 - 2.3 cm long, 0.3 - 1 cm broad, leaves on the main stem larger and 3-nately whorled, rhomboid-obovate, where as those on the branches smaller, both opposite and 3-nately whorled, linear-spathulate, margin singly serrated from the middle of lamina to the apex, lamina broad in centre and tapering at both ends, apex acute, base tapering, glabrous on both surfaces, punctate beneath, foetid, venation reticulate, main nerves 3, alternate, not very prominent. Flower solitary or 2, axillary; complete, actinomorphic, bisexual, hypogynous, tetramerous, white with pinkish tinge, 0.4 - 0.5 × 0.6 - 0.9 cm across on 0.4 - 0.5 cm long pedicel; calyx campanulate, valvate, divided nearly to the base, lobes 4, ovate, 0.2 cm long with 3 parallel nerves, puberulent and ciliolate, persistent; corolla rotate, valvate, fugacious, tube less than 0.1 cm long, pilose with long white hairs (0.2 cm), lobes usually 4, frequently a fifth petal is also present, lobes oblong-sub-acute somewhat falcate (0.3 - 0.4 × 0.15 cm), equal, white with pinkish tinge; stamens 4-5, epipetalous, inserted at the base of corolla tube, filament 0.2 - 0.25 cm, equal, white at the base and pinkish at the apex, anther (1.5 mm. long) pale yellow, versatile, dithecous, oblong-sub-sagittate, extrorse, dehiscence longitudinal; ovary superior, carpels 2, syncarpous, locules 2, ovules many in each locule on axile placentation, style terminal (0.2 cm long), white at the base, pinkish from middle to the apex, stigma capitate; fruit loculicidal capsule, sub globose or sub-ovoid, pale brown, glabrous, 0.2 - 0.3 cm long × 0.3 cm across with persistent style base at the apex, persistent calyx surrounding more than half-way, valves membranous, ultimately 2-fid; seeds many, dark brown, oblong, shortly apiculate at one end with small pitting.

Fl. & Fr.: Throughout year.

Location : Large population of this variety was located on either side of high ways at Kurla for the first time in July 2003. Later on, it was also found in open sunny places and wastelands at Vikhroli, Andheri, Santacruz, Mahim and New Mumbai.

This new taxon is closely related to *Scoparia dulcis* L. but it differs on following characters.

<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L. var. <i>abrahamii</i> Pardeshi & Srinivasu	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L.
Corolla lobes 4 - 5 (lobes 3.5 - 4 × 1.5 - 2 mm)	Corolla lobes 4 (lobes 2.8 - 3 × 1.5 - 2 mm)
Corolla lobes oblong-subacute, falcate	Corolla lobes oblong-round, not falcate
Corolla white with pinkish tinge (entire lobes)	Corolla white with ring of purplish tinge only at the base of lobes



Fig. 1. *Scoparia dulcis* var. *abrahamii* Pardeshi & Srinivasu var. *nov.* : A. Habit; B. Leaves; C. Flowering twig; D. Flower with falcate corolla and E. Fruits.

This taxon is named after retired Scientist Dr. V. Abraham, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai (India).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors are thankful to UGC, New Delhi for financial assistance. We are grateful to the Director, Institute of Science, Mumbai for facilities. We are also thankful to Dr. V. J. Nair, Co-ordinator, AICOPTAX, Centre for Research on Grasses and Bamboos, BSI, Southern Circle, Coimbatore for Latin diagnosis of the description.

REFERENCE

- ALMEIDA, M.R. 2001. Flora of Maharashtra Vol. 3B. 414. Orient Press, Mumbai.
- SINGH, N.P., P. LAKSHMINARASIMHAN, S. KARTHIKEYAN AND P.V. PRASANNA. 2001. The Flora of Maharashtra State (Dicot.) 2 : 546. Botanical Survey of India. Calcutta.
- PRADHAN, S.G., B.D. SHARMA AND N.P. SINGH. 2005. Flora of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. 447. Botanical Survey of India. Calcutta.