ARGYROLOBIUM STENOPHYLLUM BOISS. (LEGUMINOSAE-PAPILIONOIDEAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

A. stenophyllum has been reported as new to Indian flora. A key to all the Indian species with a detailed description and illustration of *A. stenophyllum* have been given to facilitate easy identification.

While revising the genus *Agryrolobium* Eckl. & Zeyl. for Flora of India, a specimen from Himachal Pradesh represented in the herbarium of Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun (DD) could not be identified with any of the known Indian species of the genus. After a critical study of the specimen it has been identified as *A. stenophyllum* Boiss. A perusal of literature (Ali 1977 ; Boissier 1872) reveals that this species has not been reported so far from India and is therefore recorded here for the first time.

In India 3 species of *Argyrolobium* are reported so far (Baker 1876, Bhattacharyya 1975). *A. stenophyllum* is distinct and differs from other species in India in length of petiole, shape of leaflets and lobes of calyx. A key to all Indian species together with a detailed description and illustration of *A. stenophyllum* are given to help the correct identity of the species.

Argyrolobium stenophyllum Boiss., Fl. Orient. 2 : 32. 1872 ; Ali in S. U. Sci. Res. J. 2 : 2. 1966 & in Nasir & Ali, Fl. W. Pakistan 100 : 35, f. 2c. 1977. (Figs. 1 & 2.)

Perennial herbs, erect, 9 - 30 cm tall ; stem and branches slender, adpressed pilose. Stipules free, lateral, persistent, 1.3 - 3.0 mm long, subulate to linear, pilose. Leaves 2.8 - 3.8 cm long, alternate, digitately trifoliolate ; petioles 6 - 10 mm long, filiform, finely grooved above, adpressed pilose. Leaflets 8 - 30 × 2 - 5 mm, subsessile, terminal larger than lateral ones, linear or linear-lanceolate, cuneate, entire, acute or acuminate, sericeous to densely sericeous below, glabrous above, ciliate along margins, veins obscure. Racemes 3.5 - 10 cm long, leaf-opposed, 1 - 4-flowered, lax ; peduncles 2.5 - 5.0 cm long, filiform, adpressed pilose. Flowers 5 - 6 mm long ; pedicels *ca* 1 mm long, pubescent. Bracts and bracteoles persistent, 1.5 - 1.8 mm long, subulate to linear, pubescent. Calyx 5 - 6 mm long, persistent, bilabiate, divided nearly to the base, adpressed pilose without, glabrous within, upper lip 4.5 - 5.5 mm long, 2-lobed, lobes *ca* 3 mm long, equal, triangular, ciliate, acuminate, lower lip more or less equal to or slightly shorter than upper lip, 3-lobed, lobes 2 mm long, subequal, middle one slightly shorter and linear, lateral triangular, ciliate acuminate. Standard petal 4.2 - 6 × 2.5 - 3 mm, equal to or shorter than calyx and keel petals, suborbicular, rounded, glabrous except on the dorsal surface where a few hairs present near apex, faintly veined, claw 1 mm long, flat ; wings 4.2 × 1.0 mm, equal to or shorter than the standard but always shorter than keel petals, narrowly ovate, more or less straight, obtuse, glabrous, faintly veined, upper auricle minute, claw 1.2 mm long, flat ; keels 5.5 - 6 × 2 mm, equal to or slightly exceeding calyx, sub-obtuse, slightly curved, lower margins connate all along, convex, glabrous, faintly veined, upper auricle minute, claw 1.2 mm long, flat. Stamens 10, monadelphous, persistent, glabrous, faintly veined ; staminal sheath 3 mm long, slit on the dorsal side, free filaments up to 2 mm long, alternately longer and shorter, flat ; anthers minute, dimorphic, alternately longer and shorter, ovate, basifixed, glabrous. Ovary 3 × 0.5 mm, subsessile, linear, compressed, straight, upper margin ciliate, hairs longer towards apex ; style 2.5 mm long, curved nearly in the middle, glabrous ; stigma capitate, very minute, glabrous. Pods 25 - 30 × 3 - 4 mm, sessile, linear-oblong, compressed, 4 - 7-seeded, valves slightly raised over seeds forming depression between seeds, continuous

within, slightly curved at tip, abruptly apiculate, sericeous. Seeds 2.5 × 2.5 mm, suborbicular, compressed but raised in the middle, smooth, glabrous.

Fls. & Frts. : April-June.

Specimen examined : HIMACHAL PRADESH ('Punjab') : Dalhousie, 40000-7000 ft, June 1880, *J. R. Drummond* 49 (DD).



Fig.1. ***Argyrolobium stenophyllum*** **Boiss. (*Drummond* 49)**

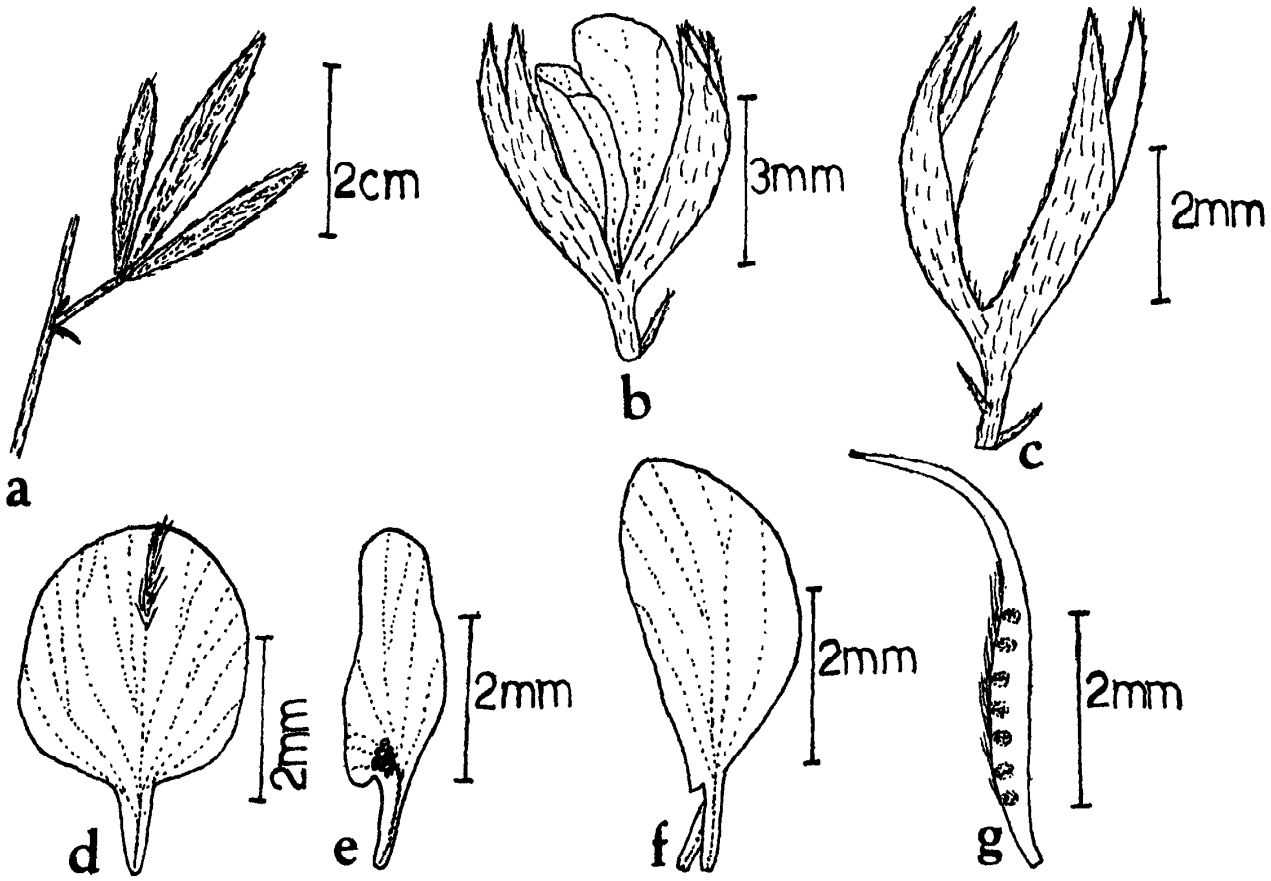


Fig. 2. a-g: *Argyrolobium stenophyllum* Boiss. a. Leaf. b. Flower. c. Calyx. d. Standard. e. Wing. f. Keel. g. Carpel. (*Drummond* 49).

Distribution : India (Himachal Pradesh); Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Key to the species in India

1a. Leaflets elliptic, linear or linear-lanceolate; upper lip of calyx shortly bilobed ... 2
1b. Leaflets broadly obovate or obovate-spathulate; upper lip of calyx deeply bilobed ... 3
2a. Leaflets elliptic, both surface pubescent; petioles 2-5 mm long ...*A. flaccidum*
2b. Leaflets linear or linear-lanceolate, pubescent below, glabrous above; petioles 6-10 mm long ...*A. stenophyllum*
3a. Leaflets broadly obovate, nearly as broad as long; petioles shorter than leaflets ...*A. roseum*
3b. Leaflets obovate-spathulate, longer than broad; petioles longer than leaflets ...*A. album*

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