

FARSETIA HELIOPHILA BUNGE EX COSS. (BRASSICACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

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Jafri (1957), in his studies on the genus *Farsetia* Turr. in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan merged *F. heliophila* Bunge ex Coss. under *F. jacquemontii* Hook. f. & Thoms., but later (Jafri, 1973) in the Flora of West Pakistan (Brassicaceae) considered *F. heliophila* as a distinct species. Rechinger (1968) also treated it as a separate species.

While examining the species of *Farsetia* Turr. in the herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Jodhpur (BSJO), the author found a specimen differing from the others and which on detailed study was detected to be *Farsetia heliophila* Bunge ex Coss. Since this species has not so far been reported from India, a key to distinguish it from rest of the Indian species, along with the description is given below :

Key to the species

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| 1. Seeds uniseriate : | |
| 2. Flowers 3-5 mm across. Sepals 3-5 mm long, Petals slightly exceeding the sepals ... | <i>F. hamiltonii</i> |
| 2. Flowers 10-12 mm across. Sepals 6-9 mm long. Petals much exceeding the sepals ... | <i>F. heliophila</i> |
| 1. Seeds biseriate : | |
| 3. Leaves linear, 3-40 × 2-8 mm broad, nearly sessile. Petals c. 10 mm long ... | <i>F. jacquemontii</i> |
| 4. Siliquae usually 20-48 × 3-4.5 mm ... | subsp. <i>jacquemontii</i> |
| 4. Siliquae usually 15-20 × 5-7 mm ... | subsp. <i>edgeworthii</i> |
| 3. Leaves broadly linear-lanceolate to ovate, 40-70 × 15-22 mm broad, petiole 5-10 mm long. Petals 14-19 mm long ... | <i>F. macrantha</i> |

Farsetia heliophila Bunge ex Coss., Comp. Fl. Atl. 2 : 227. 1887 ; Bornm. in Beih. Bot. Centrbl. 28. 104. 1911 ; Rechinger, Fl. Iranica 57 : 136. 1968 ; Jafri in Nasir & Ali, Fl. Pakistan 55 : 110, f. 12 C & D. 1973.

Suffrutescent, perennial undershrubs without woody base ; branches strict, erect, rigid and wiry. Leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, usually not more than 20 × 2 mm, attenuated at the base, rotundate or obtuse at the apex. Racemes few-flowered, lax. Sepals 6-9 mm long. Petals 10-12 mm long, pale purple. Siliquae 25-30 × 2-2.8 mm, linear, compressed. Seeds uniseriate, nearly orbicular, 2-2.5 mm in diam. (including the wings).

Fl. & Fr. : Oct.-Jan.

Rare, in sandy moist soil.

Distribution : IRAN and PAKISTAN.

Specimen examined : RAJASTHAN : Rai Singh Nagar, Ganganagar, Roy, 3886 (BSJO).

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