BULL. BOT. SURV. INDIA
Vol. 24, Nos. 1-4 : pp. 112-113, 1982

TAXONOMIC NOTES ON THE GENUS *ALYSICARPUS* DESV. (LEGUMINOSAE)

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ABSTRACT

Taxonomic notes on two varieties of *Alysicarpus rugosus* (Willd.) DC. and distribution of *A. gamblei* Schindl. are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The taxonomic position and status of *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *ludens* Baker, *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *pilifer* Prain, have been reassessed, during a taxonomic revision of the genus *Alysicarpus.* It is found that *A. gamblei* Schindl., originally restricted to Cuddapah district in Andhra Pradesh now extends northwards up to Madhya Pradesh.

Alysicarpus glumaceus (Vahl) DC. based on *Hedysarum glumaceum* Vahl (1791) is the correct name for the plants so long known under the name *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. based on *Hedysarum rugosum* Willd. (Santapau, 1967). *Wallich* 5762 B & F (*A. ludens*) were described by Baker (1876) as *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *ludens.* Backer (1911) raised it to the specific status, *A. ludens* (Wall. ex Baker) Backer.

In our critical studies on *Wallich* 5762 B & F, it was found that these specimens are more close to *A. heyneanus* Wight & Arnott rather than *A. rugosus* (=*A. glumaceus*) except in the shape of leaflets and texture of the calyx. It is therefore treated as a variety under *A. heyneanus.* The distinguishing characters of *A. glumaceus*, *A. heyneanus* and *A. heyneanus* var. *ludens* are as follows :

Date of receipt : 9.7.81. Date of acceptance : 17.12.81.

1a.	Slender herbs. Calyx teeth glabrous outside, non-ciliate. Pods 2-6 jointed, included within the calyx ; joints 1.5×2.0 mm ...	*A. glumaceus*
1b.	Robust shrubs. Calyx teeth puberulous outside, ciliate. Pods 3-5 jointed, exerted rather far from calyx ; joints 2.5×3.0 mm ...	*A. heyneanus*
2a.	Leaflets obovate, retuse. Calyx teeth puberulous outside ...	var. *heyneanus*
2b.	Leaflets linear-lanceolate, acute. Calyx teeth densely adpressed pubescent outside ...	var. *ludens*

The nomenclature of the plant under discussion is as follows :

Alysicarpus heyneanus Wt. et Arn. var. **ludens** (Baker) Pramanik et Thoth. comb. nov. *A. ludens* Wall. Num. List. no. 5762B. 1832 (nomen). *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *ludens* Baker in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 159. 1976. *A. ludens* (Wall. ex Baker) Backer in School Flora 349. 1911 et Fl. Java 1: 610. 1963. *A. glumaceus* (Vahl) DC. var. *ludens* (Baker) Santapau in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. 16(1): 60. 1967 (ed. 3) ; Raizada, Suppl. Fl. Upper Gang. Pl. 47. 1976.

Type: Wall. Num. List. no. 5762B (Herb. Roxburgh)—(CAL).

Distribution: Plains of Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The occurrence of this plant in Madhya Pradesh constitutes a new record for the area concerned. Its occurrence in Khandala, Maharashtra is

based on a *Blatter* specimen and recorded by Santapau (1967).

Specimens examined: MADHYA PRADESH: Saugor, *Vicary* s.n. acc. no. 121876 (CAL). MAHARASHTRA: Neighbourhood of Khandala, Oct. 1918, *Blatter* s.n. (BLAT).

Alysicarpus styracifolius Wt. & Arn. (1834) is different from *A. styracifolius* DC. (1825). This was pointed out by Thwaites in 1859 who gave the name *A. scariosus* for the former. Similarly the plants from South India including *Wallich* 5765 (*A. pilifer*), referred by Baker (1876) as *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *styracifolius* are only *A. scariosus* Thw.

A careful study of the Wallichian specimen revealed that it differs from typical *scariosus* and should be treated as a distinct variety for the following characters:

Diffuse, herbs. Leaflets elliptic oblong or cordate. Racemes dense; bracts glabrous to glabrescent outside. Pods rarely exerted ...	var. *scariosus*
Erect, herbs. Leaflets linear-lanceolate. Racemes slender; bracts pubescent outside. Pods usually exerted ...	var. *pilifer*

The correct nomenclature of the plant is as follows:

Alysicarpus scariosus Grah. ex Thw. var. **pilifer** (Prain) Pramanik et Thoth. comb. nov. *A. pilifer* Wall. Num. List. no. 5765. 1832 (nomen). *A. rugosus* (Willd.) DC. var. *pilifer* Prain in Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng. 66 (2): 384. 1897 (excl. specimens from Burma). *A. glumaceus* (Vahl) DC. var. *pilifer* (Prain) Ramaswamy et Razi, Fl. Bangalore Dist. 285. 1973.

Type: Wall. Num. List no. 5765 (Herb. Wight & Arnott)—(CAL).

Distribution: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Specimens examined: ANDHRA PRADESH: Cuddapah district, Madurapalle. 166 m, Aug. 1889, *Gamble* 21255 (CAL). TAMIL NADU: Coimbatore district, Marudamalai 653 m, Nov. 1956, *Sebastine* 1444 (CAL); Kuridimalai, 566 m, Nov. 1956, *Subramanyam* 1818 (CAL). KERALA: Thekkamalai Hills, 666 m, Nov. 1956, *Sebastine* 1643 (CAL).

A. gamblei Schindl. is so far known only from the type locality (Cuddapah district, Andhra Pradesh) and Sambalpur district, Orissa (Raizada, 1949). In the course of their studies the authors came across one interesting specimen from Bastar. This has linear leaves, longer and filiform pedicels (3-5 mm) and cylindrical pods which are quite characteristic of *A. gamblei* Schindl. The specimen from Bastar (*Subramanyam* 7261) was wrongly identified as *A. bupleurifolius* (L.) DC. (*Subramanyam* & *Henry*, 1966). This is in fact *A. gamblei* Schindl. and so the occurrence of this species in Madhya Pradesh thus constitutes not only new record but extends its range of distribution to further north from the type locality).

Distribution: Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

Specimens examined: ANDHRA PRADESH: Cuddapah district, Tangelapenta, 500 m, Aug. 1889. *Gamble* 21223 (Type: CAL). MADHYA PRADESH: Bastar district, Jagdalpur, 667 m, Nov. 1958. *Subramanyam* 7261 (CAL, MH). ORISSA: Sambalpur district, Kharior, 715 m, Sept. 1949. *Mooney* 3646 (DD).

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