as *L. divaricanum* Soland. Marais (*l. c.*) concluded, "Thus, the name *L. africanum* must now be applied to plants which, since De Candolle's treatment, have been included in *L. divaricatum*". Therefore, the correct nomenclature of *L. africanum* is: **Lepidium africanum** (Burm. f.) DC. Syst. 2: 552-53. 1821, quad synon. tandem, excl. specim. et descr. non auct. *Thlaspi africanum* Burm. f. Prodr. Fl. Cap. 17. 1768. Type: *Burmann* in Herb. Deless. (G). *Lepidium divaricatum* sensu DC. *l. c.* 543. 1821, quad specim. Burm. sensu auct. pro parte.

In a recent revisionary study, Jonsell (1975) though holding a similar view, treated *L. divaricatum* as a subspecies (ssp. *divaricatum*) under *L. africanum*. But in spite of the wide range of variation within *L. africanum*, it differs considerably in a number of characters from true *L. divaricatum* and thus it would be better to treat it as a separate species as has been done by Marais (*l.c.*). The distinguishing features between the two are as follows:

L. africanum	*L. divaricatum*
1. Annual or biennial herbs.	1. Perennial, woody (undershrubs).
2. Stem one to many from the base, erect or ascending, moderately to densely puberulous.	2. Stem usually single, branched above, erect, glabrous or sparsely hairy.
3. Racemes both axillary and terminal, short and dense in fruit, 4-6 cm long.	3. Racemes usually terminal, much larger and less dense in fruit, 12-16 cm long.
4. Silicula small, 1.8-3.0 × 1.4-2.0 mm, elliptic to broadly ovate.	4. Silicula comparatively large, 2.5-3.7 × 1.8-2.3 mm, narrowly elliptic to ovate.

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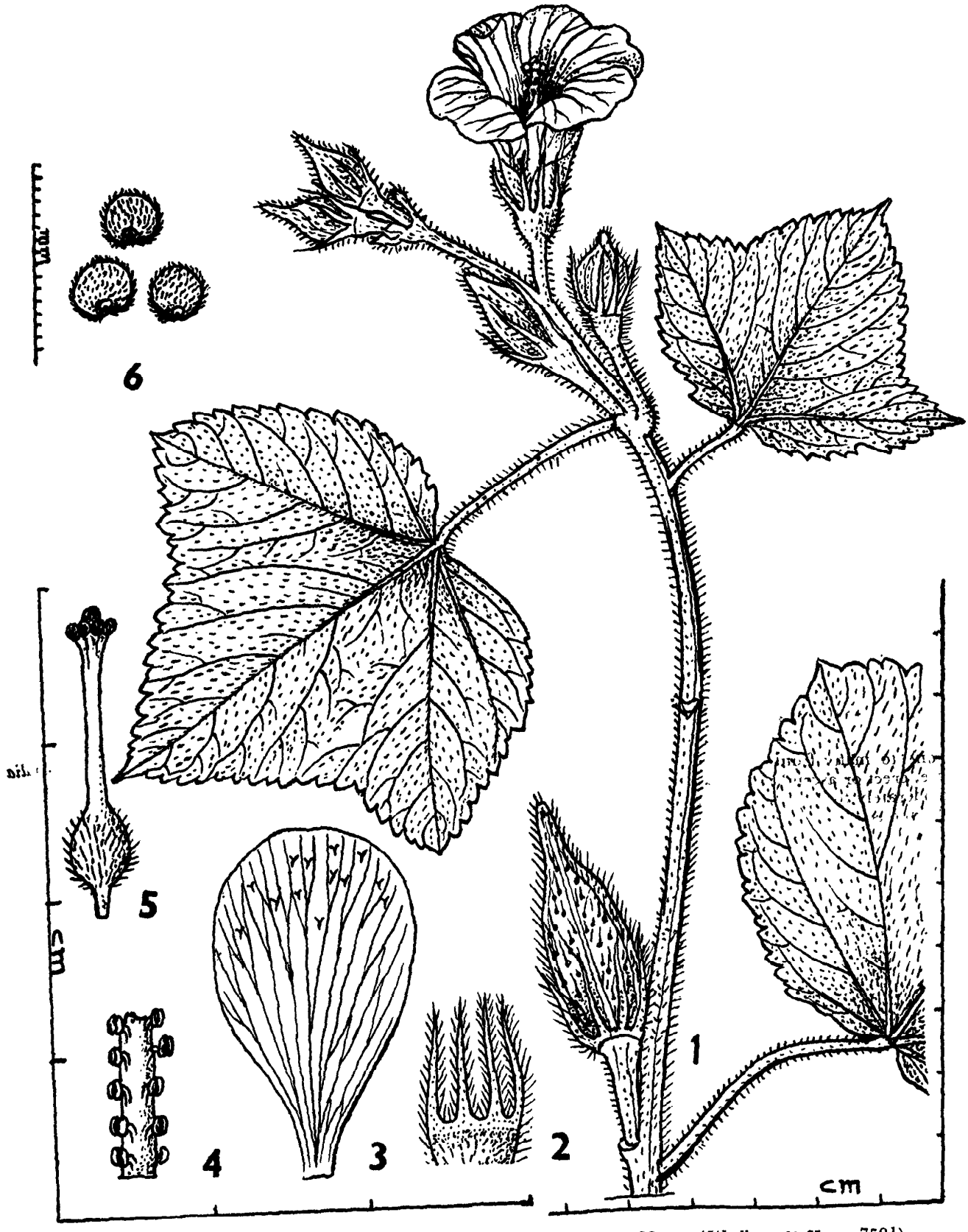
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A NEW VARIETY OF *ABELMOSCHUS TUBERCULATUS* PAL & SINGH (MALVACEAE) FROM RAJASTHAN, INDIA

A. tuberculatus Pal et Singh var. **deltoidefolius** Paul et Nayar, var. nov. a typo differt, folius deltoideformis, 3-5 cm latis, seminis majoribus 4-5 mm longis pubescentibus.

Typus: INDIA: Jhalawar (Rajasthan), 19.9.64, *B. M. Wadhwa & D. M. Verma* 7581 (Holotypus—CAL); Jhalawar, 21.9.64, *B. M. Wadhwa & D. M. Verma* 7524 (Paratypus—CAL).

Anual erect herb *ca* 1 m high. *Leaves* deltoid, 3-5-lobed; base broadly cordate to truncate; apex acute; margin dentate, 4-10 × 5-10 cm, 5-7-nerved at the base; both surfaces hispid; petioles 2-8 cm long. *Stipules* linear, 3-5 mm long, hispid. *Flowers* axillary, solitary; *pedicel* 4-8 mm long, accrescent, up to 1.5 cm. *Epicalyx* with 8-10 subequal segments, linear, 5-7 mm long, accrescent, up to 1.2 cm, appressed,



Abelmoschus tuberculatus Pal & Singh var. *deltoidefolius* Paul *et* Nayar (*Wadhwa & Verma* 7581)
Figs. 1-6: 1. Habit. 2. Epicalyx. 3. Petal. 4. Staminal column. 5. Gynoecium. 6. Densely villous.

strigose. *Calyx* tube *ca* 1 cm long, 5-6 mm broad; sepals 5, spathaceous straight on both surfaces. *Petals* 5, obovate, yellow with fleshy base and rounded apex, 1.5-3.5 ×1 1.5 cm; outer surface with a few scattered tribrachiate stellate hairs towards the apex; inner surface glabrous. *Staminal column* 0.8-1 cm long, antheriferous throughout; filaments *ca* 1 mm long. *Ovary* ovoid *ca* 3 mm high and *ca* 5 mm across, pubescent; style glabrous; stigma 5-lobed, scarlet. *Capsule* 1.5-5 cm long and *ca* 1.5 cm across, ovoid to oblong with *ca* 8 mm long tapering apex, densely studded with bristle-bearing tubercles. *Seeds* rounded, 4-5 mm in diameter, dark-brown, densely villous; hilum roundish, dark brown or black, glabrous (Figs. 1-6).

Fl. & Fr.: September-November. Growing mostly in black clayey soil.

Specimens examined: RAJASTAHN: Jhalawar, 14.9.64, *B. M. Wadhwa* 5452 (CAL). MADHYA PRADESH: Saugor C. P. Cantonment, Saugor dt., 14th Oct. 1906, *A. A. Islyath*, 28710 (ISIM). GUJRAT: Sasangir to Junvania (Saurashtra), 5.10.53, *H. Santapau* 16328 (BLATT).

Note: This new taxon is easily recognizable by its 3-5-lobed, deltoideform leaves and larger densely villous seeds (4-5 mm in diameter) whereas *Abelmoschus tuberculatus* Pal & Singh is characterised by pinnatisect leaves and smaller glabrous seeds (*ca* 3 mm in diameter).

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NOTES ON *BRACHYSTELMA ELENADUENSIS* (ASCLEPIADACEAE)

In a recent taxonomic survey of the Asclepiadaceae of Karnataka, the authors made extensive collections in different parts of the State, including collections of the newly described taxon *B. elenaduensis* M. B. S. Char, near Elenadu (Tumkur Dist.), the type locality. Some of these were grown to fruiting in the departmental garden. A study of this taxon has revealed important taxonomic features which have been either missed or misinterpreted by Char (1978). We felt, therefore, that we must rectify its description.

Char (*l. c.*) describes a 'coroline corona' in *B. elenaduensis*. According to him it is "cupular, 1.2 × 2.4 mm obtusely 5-angled around the staminal corona and as high, undulate, purplish and with white hairs outside". But a corolline corona does not exist in the genus *Brachystelma* and the flowers bear only the staminal corona (corona adherent to the staminal column) (Dyer 1971, 1976, 1977; Ramakrishna 1980; Arekal and Ramakrishna 1981, 1981). The cup-like corona in *B. elenaduensis* is actually stalked, 2-seriate; the outer being of 5-bifid, obtuse lobes 0.5 mm high, hairy; hairs nulticellular uniseriate; the inner of 5 tridentate lobes (referred to as 'teeth' by Char *l. c.*) partially covering the anthers (referred to as 'scales' by Char *l. c.*) with flat apices.

In view of the above, the diagnosis of Char (*l. c.*) being modified as follows:

B. elenaduensis is allied to *B. edulis* Coll.