A new Species of *Zornia* Gmel. from S. India

BY

N. RAVI

Sree Narayana College, Punalur

(*With a plate*)

A new species, *Zornia quilonensis*, which comes near *Zornia diphylla* (L.) Pers., is described here. It is based on a study of living specimens collected from Quilon, Kerala, south India.

The plant forming the subject of this paper was first collected by the author from the sandy areas of the Sree Narayana College compound, Quilon, in July 1967. Subsequently it was also collected from several localities in and around Quilon Town. A detailed study of the plant revealed that it is a species of the genus *Zornia* Gmel. which is significantly different from the species so far recorded by Dr. Robert H. Mohlenbrock (1961). A description of the proposed new species, which may be called *Zornia quilonensis*, is given below.

Zornia quilonensis sp. nov.

Herba perennis, caulibus prostratis, ad 50 cm. longis, ramosis, glabris. Folia foliolo duplici constantia; petioli foliolis longiores, glabri; foliola oblique oblonga-ovata, mucronata, punctata, uninervia, subpuberula ad basin vel rarius glabra, ad 15 mm. longa, 9 lata; petioli subpuberuli; stipulae glabrae, punctatae, 5-7 nerviae, ad 9 mm. longae, 3 mm. latae. Inflorescentia axillaris, spicata, fractiflexa, floribus 3-18; bracteae late elliptico-lanceolatae, acutae, ad 10 mm. longae, 4 mm. latae, auricula ad 2.5 mm. longa, 5-nerviae, sparse ciliatae ad margines, facie glabra, punctata; calyx 3 mm. longus, nervis 4-7 ornatus, nervo anteriore eminente, varie hirsuto, ad margines pilosus; vexillum 8 mm. longum. Lomentum 2-6-articulatum, exsertum; articuli $3 \times 2{\cdot}5$ mm., reticulati, punctati, copiose puberulenti, aculeis pluribus 1 mm. longis retrorsum scabris ornati; semina 2·25 mm. longa, 2 mm. lata, luteolo-brunnea, subreniformia.

Typus lectus ad Quilon in Kerala, in India meridionali, a N. Ravi mense julio 1967 et positus in herbario collegii Sree Narayana ad Quilon sub numero 275.

Zornia quilonensis sp. nov.

Perennial herb. Stem prostrate, 50 cm. long, branched, glabrous. Leaves with two leaflets ; petioles longer than the leaflets, glabrous ; leaflets obliquely oblong ovate mucronate, punctate, base generally slightly puberulous or rarely glabrous, one nerved, 15 mm. long, 9 mm. broad ; petiolule slightly puberulous ; stipules glabrous punctate, 5 to 7 nerved, up to 9 mm. long and 3 mm. broad. Inflorescence axillary 3 to 18 flowered zig-zag spike ; bracts broadly elliptic-lanceolate, acute, to 10 mm. long, to 4 mm. broad, the auricle 2.5 mm. long, 5 nerved, sparsely ciliate at the margins, surface glabrous punctate ; calyx 3 mm. long, 4 to 7 nerved with varying number of stiff hairs on the prominent anterior nerve, hairy at the margins ; standard 8 mm. long. Loment with 2-6 articles exerted ; articles 3 mm. long, 2·5 mm. broad, reticulate, punctate, copiously puberulent, with numerous retrorsely scabrous prickles to 1 mm. long ; seeds 2·25 mm. long, 2 mm. broad, yellowish brown and subreniform.

This species appears to be distinct. It certainly can be included in the *Isophylla* group. It resembles *Zornia diphylla* (L.) Pers. in the presence of glandular loments which are much exserted from the bracts. But it differs from the latter in having reticulate loments with scabrous prickles and punctate bracts and leaflets.

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Reference

Mohlenbrock, R. H. (1961) A monograph on the Leguminous genus *Zornia*. *Webbia* **16** (1).



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