

28. *SESBANIA SESBAN* (LINN.) MERRILL VAR. *PICTA*
COMB. NOV.

While describing, and systematically rearranging the new species and the species not mentioned by J. G. Baker in the FLORA OF THE BRITISH INDIA, under the genus *Sesbania* Adans. corr. Scop. Prain (1897) had made certain varietal combinations under *Sesbania aegyptiaca* Poir. corr. Pers. Besides var. *typica*, the following varieties have been mentioned by Prain on the basis of the colour of the flowers:

1. var. *picta* Prain; and 2. var. *bicolor* Wight & Arn.

Merrill (1912) studied the taxonomic status of the *Sesbania* spp. found in Manila, and treated *S. aegyptiaca* Poir. corr. Pers. as a synonym of *S. sesban* (Linn.) Merrill.

Andrews (1952), while reviewing the species of *Sesbania* recorded from Sudan, found that the var. *bicolor* Wight & Arn. was not mentioned under *S. sesban* (Linn.) Merrill, and made a new combination *S. sesban* (Linn.)

PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION DIRECTORATE,
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October 30, 1975.

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Merrill var. *bicolor* (Wight & Arn.) Andr.

The new variety '*picta*' created by Prain, mentioned as, 'apparently not native to India though widely cultivated there', has not been combined under *Sesbania sesban* (Linn.) Merrill, which necessitates a new combination. Therefore, the following new combination is proposed:

Sesbania sesban* (Linn.) Merrill var. *picta
(Prain) Tenjarla & P. S. Gupta

S. aegyptiaca Poir. corr. Pers. var. *picta* Prain, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, 66, pt. II(2), 367 (1897); *S. picta* Poir. corr. Pers., Synop. Plan., II, 316 (1807); *Aeschynomene picta* Cav., I.c. iv. 7, t. 314.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are thankful to Mr K. Kashyapa, Scientist, Publications and Information Directorate (CSIR), for his valuable suggestions.

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Sastry, Tenjarla C. S. and Gupta, P. S. 1977. "Sesbania Sesban (Linn.) Merrill Var. Picta Comb. Nov." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 74, 387–387.

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