Interesting new species of *Cassia* Linn. (Leguminosae) from Kolaba (Maharashtra)

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MS received 26 March 1980; revised 25 October 1980

Abstract. A new species of *Cassia kolabensis* Kothari, Moorthy et Nayar is described with illustrations.

Keywords. *Cassia kolabensis*; new species.

On studying the flora Kolaba and Thana districts of Maharashtra, authors have collected populations of *Cassia* with imparipinnate leaves, a unique character in the genus *Cassia*. This new taxon is allied to *Cassia pumila* Lamk., but differs in having imparipinnate leaves with 2 to 4 pairs of lateral leaflets (10-14 × 3-4 mm) and terminal elliptic-oblong or obovate-oblong leaflet (12-15 × 7-9 mm); whereas in *C. pumila* the leaves are paripinnate with 6 to 25 pairs of lateral leaflets (7-13 × 1.5-3 mm).

*Cassia kolabensis* Kothari, Moorthy et Nayar sp. nov. affinis *C. pumila* Lamk. sed foliis imparipinnatis, foliolis terminalibus elliptico-oblongis vel obovato-oblongis, foliolis lateralibus 2-4 paribus differt.

Herb. 30-50 cm tall, stem reddish brown, whitish tomentose, leaves imparipinnate, 2.5-3.5 cm long; stipules 6-7 mm long, lanceolate, margin ciliate, conspicuously veined; petiole 3-4 mm long, tomentose; petiolar gland 2.5 mm long, peltate, stalked; leaflets 5-9, lateral leaflets 2-4 pairs, 10-14 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, linear-oblong, unequal and obliquely truncate at the base, apex obliquely rotundate, apiculate or aristate, margin entire or sparsely minutely ciliate, upper surface glabrous, under surface along the nerves sparsely ciliate, in between the nerves glabrous, reddish brown when dry, petiolule subsessile; terminal leaflet 12-15 mm long, 7-9 mm wide elliptic-oblong vel obovate-oblong, apex apiculate, upper surface glabrous, under surface along the nerves sparsely ciliate, between the nerves glabrous. Inflorescence supra axillary, flowers 2 to 3 rarely solitary; pedicel 2.2-2.5 mm long, sepals 5, 4.4-5.5 mm long 1.5-2 mm wide, elliptic-lanceolate, outer surface pubescent. Petals 5, unequal, 4.5 mm long, 2.5-3 mm wide obovate, narrowed, glabrous, distinctly veined. Stamens 5, almost equal, filament

slender, 1-1.5 mm long, glabrous; anther 3 mm long, straight, initially 2-porose, usually pore slit to the base. Ovary 4-5 mm long, densely whitish tomentose; style short, 1 mm long, glabrous, recurved; stigma truncate, peltate. Pod flabellary compressed, 2.8-3.2 cm long, 0.4-0.5 cm wide, pilose. Seeds 4-8, 4 mm diam, compressed, subrhomboid, black, smooth.

New species of Cassia Linn.

Roha Division, Pali Range, reserve forest near Sarsgarh fort, 8th Oct. 1976, M. J. Kothari 147910A (Paratype CAL); Ibid., M. J. Kothari 147910B (Paratype BSI); Alibag Division, Pejari forest near Bundhan village 1st Oct. 1976, Kothari 147643A, (Paratype K); Ibid., Kothari 147643B (Paratype MH); Thana District: Thana, Yeur forest, 25-9-1968. Billore 115377 (BSI).

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank Dr S K Jain, Botanical Survey of India for all facilities.