

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

M J KOTHARI, S MOORTHY and M P NAYAR*

Botanical Survey of India, Poona 411 001, India

* Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Botanic Garden, Howrah 711 103, India

MS received 26 March 1980; revised 25 October 1980

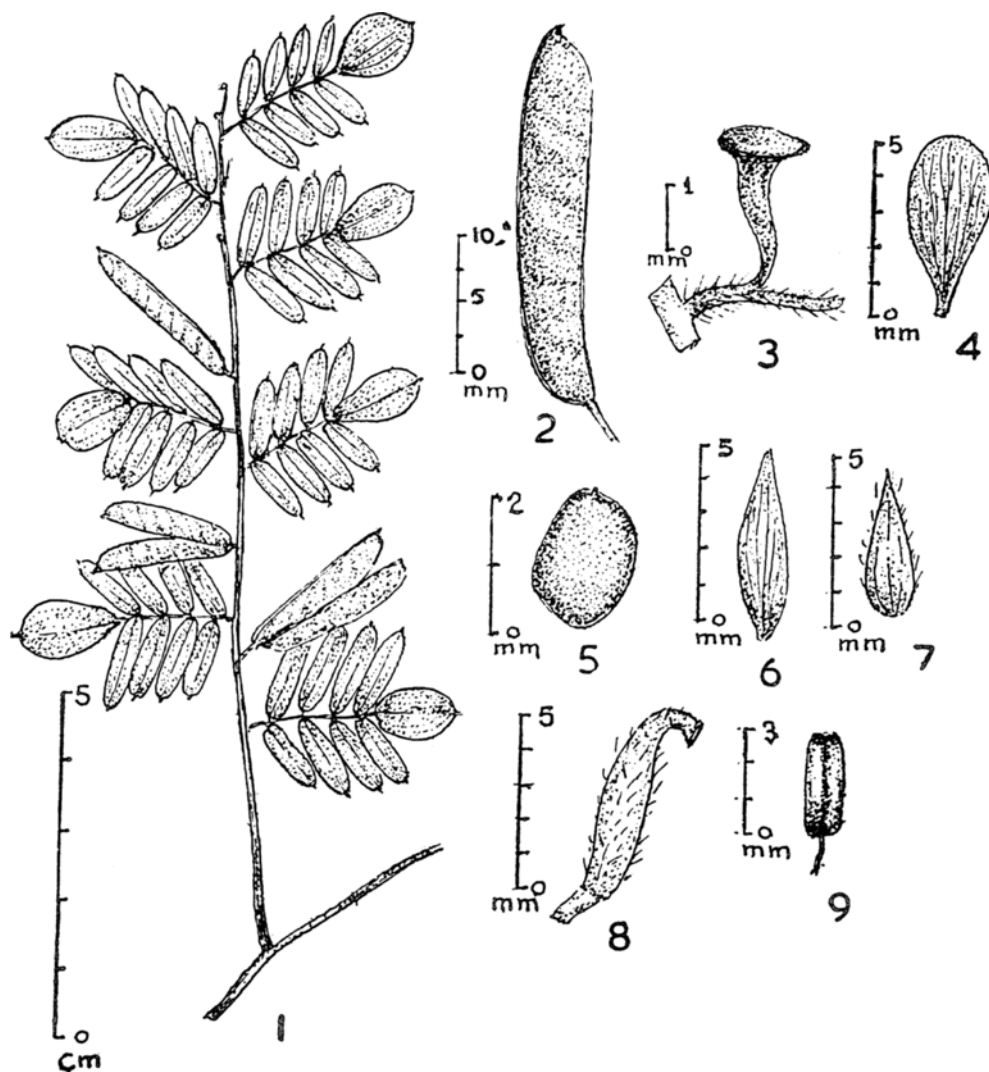
Abstract. A new species of *Cassia kolabensis* Kothari, Moorthy et Nayar is described with illustrations.

Keywords. *Cassia kolabensis*; new species.

On studying the flora Kolaba and Thaná 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. pumilae* 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 sessile; 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 2-2.5 mm long, sepals 5, 4-4.5 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



Figures 1-9. *Cassia kolabensis* Kothari, Moorthy et Nayar sp. nov. 1. A twig of the plant. 2. Pod. 3. A stalked peltate gland on petiole. 4. Petal. 5. Seed. 6. Sepal. 7. Bracteole. 8. Pistil. 9. Stamen.

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 flatly compressed, 2.8-3.2 cm long, 0.4-0.5 cm wide, pilose. Seeds 4-8, 4 mm diam, compressed, subrhomboid, black, smooth.

Distribution: Maharashtra: Kolaba Dist. Alibag Div., Pen to Kohopoli, 27th Sep. 1976, M. J. Kothari 147461A (Holotype CAL); *Ibid.*, Kothari 147461B (Isotype BSI); *Ibid.*, M. J. Kothari 147461C (Isotype, Wageningen);

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.