

## A new *Brachystelma* (Asclepiadaceae) from Kolar, Karnataka

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MS received 14 August 1980; revised 7 April 1981

**Abstract.** *Brachystelma kolarenses* Arekal et Ramakrishna *sp. nov.*, (Asclepiadaceae) collected from Kolar district, Karnataka State, is described with illustrations.

**Keywords.** *Brachystelma kolarenses*; Asclepiadaceae.

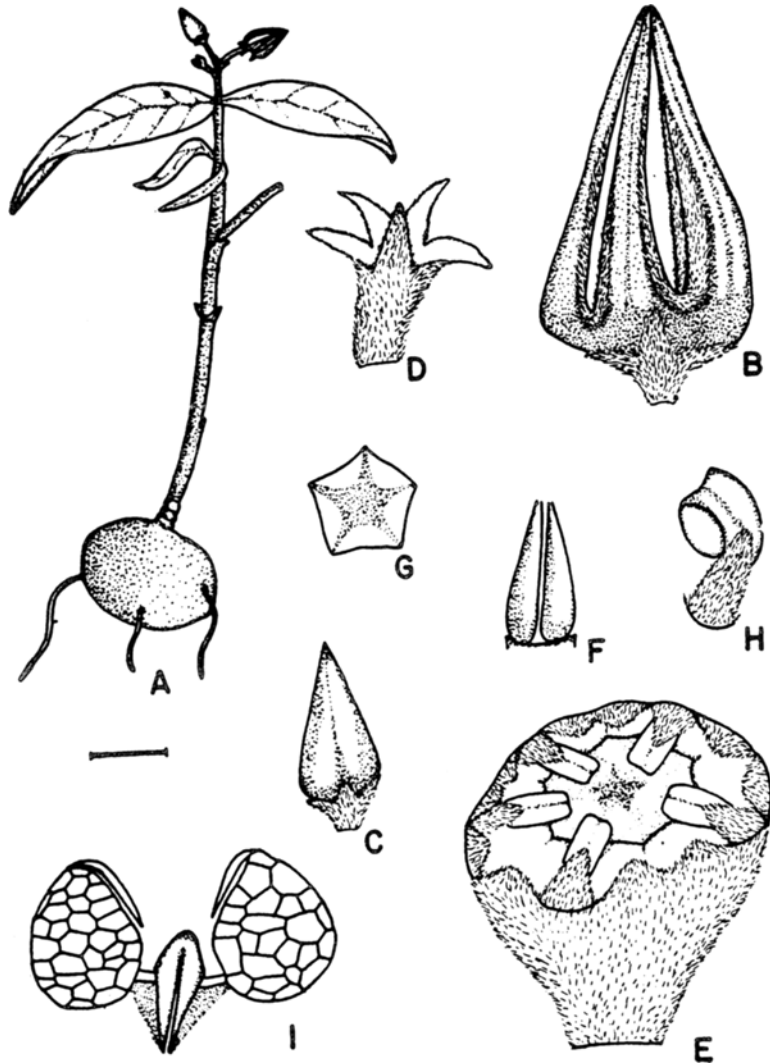
### 1. Introduction

*B. tenello* R A Dyer affinis sed caulibus 8-15 cm longis, foliis 1.8-4.5 × 0.8-1.5 cm ovato-oblongis vel ovato-lanceolatis, inflorescentiis axillaribus cymosis 2 floriferis, alabastris non rostratis, lobis corollae lanceolatis marginibus recurvatis differt. Typus : India *Ramakrishna* 1323 (Holotypus, CAL, isotypi, K).

Allied to *B. tenellum* R A Dyer, but differs from it in the following characters : stems 8-15 cm long; leaves 1.8-4.5 × 0.8-1.5 cm, ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate; flowers in axillary 2-flowered cymes; flower buds without a beak; corolla lobes lanceolate, margins recurved.

Holotype *Ramakrishna* 1323 A and isotype *Ramakrishna* 1323 B were collected from Sonnipally, Kolar District, Karnataka State at an altitude of 900 m on 29 June 1979. Holotype deposited in CAL and isotype in K.

Perennial erect tuberous herbs, 8-15 cm long; tubers flattened or ovate, fleshy, brownish 2.5-5 cm across; stems erect, branched or unbranched with watery sap, sparingly pubescent, hairs 2-3 celled, uniseriate; leaves subsessile, 2-3 paired; lamina 1.8-4.5 × 0.8-1.5 cm, ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate, apex acuminate, base cuneate, glabrous above, puberulous beneath, more so on the midrib. Flowers in axillary 2 flowered cymes; peduncles 4 mm long, puberulous; flowers purple spotted outside and purplish-black within; bracts linear 1-3 mm long, caducous; pedicels 2-4 mm long, puberulous; calyx 5-partite, divided up to two thirds way down, pubescent outside, glabrous within; corolla 5-lobed, lobes 4-5 mm long, narrow, acute, connate at apex; margins recurved at base so as to expose the corona; glabrous outside, puberulous within; corona 2-seriate, staminal, stipitate; outer corona lobes 5-bifid, 0.5 mm long, hairy; hairs uniseriate, multicellular; inner corona arising on the inner face of the outer corona partially covering



Figures A-I. A. Flowering plant (1 cm). B. Flower (1.7 mm). C. Flower bud (2 mm). D. Calyx (1.6 mm). E. Staminal corona (0.3 mm). F. Carpel (0.5 mm). G. Stigma top view (0.7 mm). H. Anther with inner corona (0.6 mm). I. Pollinia (0.17 mm). (Scale length in parenthesis).

the anthers; anthers flattened, incumbent over the stigmatic head, apex truncate, thecae lateral; pollinia erect, 270  $\mu$ m long, ovate-oblong, winged on inner face; corpusculum dark-brown; caudicles tubular; carpels free, glabrous, oblong; stylar apex pentangular, flat. Fruits not seen.

Chromosome number :  $2n = 22$ .

Field notes : Rare, growing in the crevices of rocks. Flowers purple spotted outside, purplish-black within. The connate tips of corolla with recurved margins at the base recalls the condition of the corolla of *Ceropegia*.

In Telugu it is called *Petta jougu nimatayalu*.

**Acknowledgements**

We thank Mr D V Field, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England and Dr R A Dyer, Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa for kind opinion on the specimen and Rev. Fr. C J Saldanha for latin diagnosis. One of us (TMR) is grateful to the University Grants Commission for a Teacher fellowship.