

***Taverniera cuneifolium* (Roth) Arnott [Fabaceae]: a new distributional record to the flora of Himachal Pradesh, India**

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Abstract:

Present paper deals with the new distributional record of *Taverniera cuneifolium* (Roth) Arnott (Fabaceae) in Himachal Pradesh, India.

Key words: *Taverniera cuneifolium*, Himachal Pradesh

INTRODUCTION

During our floristic survey in Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh (India), few specimens of an unusual and interesting angiosperm were collected. On further examination and consultation of Herbaria at Botanical Survey of India (BSD), Forest institute, Dehra Dun (DD) and Wildlife Institute of India Dehra Dun (WII), the species was identified as *Taverniera cuneifolium* (Roth) Arn. (Fabaceae). This species has not been recorded in the literature from Himachal Pradesh so far (Bennett 1875; Collett 1921; Parker 1956; Polunin & Stainton 1984a,b; Aswal & Mehrotra 1994; Chowdhery & Wadhwa 1984; Dhaliwal & Sharma 1999; Kaur & Sharma 2004; Murti & Uniyal 1985; Nair 1977; Sharma & Dhaliwal 1997; Singh *et al* 1993; Sharma & Singh 1996; Singh & Sharma 2006; Singh & Nath 1987; Singh & Rawat 2000; Lal & Rawat 2008; Pusalkar & Singh 2008; Lal *et al* 2012). Though widely distributed from north-western parts of India, Afganistan, Pakistan, Iran, Oman, and Somalia, this species is not fully known from Himachal Pradesh. Brief morphological features, information on phenology and habitat along with photographs are provided here to facilitate easy identification of the plant in the field.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION

Taverniera cuniefolium (Roth) Arnott, in Nov.Act.Nat.Cur.18(1):332.1836; Ali in Biologia 12(2): 74. 1966.

Taverniera stochsii Boissier, Fl. Or. 2: 509. 1872; Nasir & Rafiq, Wild Fls. Pak. 76. t.31. 1995.

Taverniera nummularia sensu Baker in Fl. Brit. India 2: 140. 1876 p.p.

Hedysarum cuneifolium Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 357. 1821.

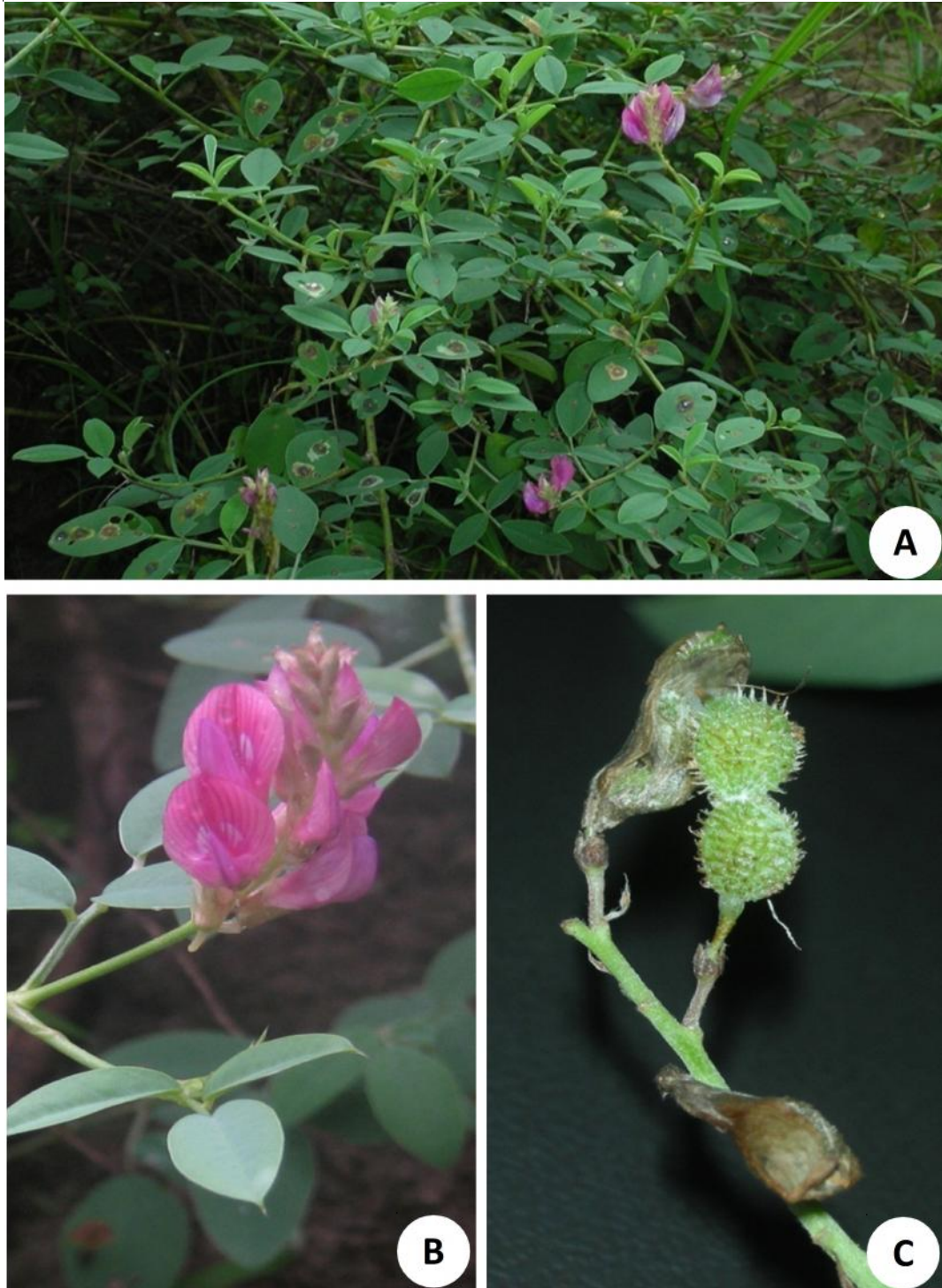


Fig. 1. *Taverniera cuneifolium* (Roth) J. Arnott: **A.** Habit, **B.** In florescence, **C.** Immature fruits.

Hedysarum gibsonii J. Graham, Cat. Bomb. Pl. 49. 1839.

Onobrychis cuneifolia DC., Prodr. 2. 348. 1825; *Onobrychis diffusa* Camb. In Jacqem. Voy. Bot. 41: t.49. 1843.

A shrub, 60 - 100 cm high. Twigs, striate, branches pubescent. Leaves trifoliate, leaflets oblanceolate or obovate, entire, mucronate, pubescent, becoming subglobose. Petiole channeled above, stipules connate, amplexicaule, 3 mm long. Flowers in axillary raceme, up to 10 cm long, pedicels 1-2.5 mm long, bracts 2.5 mm long. Calyx 4-5 mm long, silky, teeth deltoid, 2.5 mm long. Corolla purple, macrescent, vexillum 10-13 mm long; vexillum and keel longer than the wings. Pods jointed, 10-seeded, joints echinate and ovoid, pubescent. (Fig. 1).

Phenology: Flowering and Fruiting in this species can be seen throughout the year.

Habitat: Very rare, outskirts of Sivalik hills, on steep sandy slopes, up to 600 m, alt. 545m.

Distribution; India (Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat), Afganistan, Africa, Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia.

Exsiccatae: Himachal Pradesh, Sirmour district, Kandaiwala (Nahan), 16.09.2012, *Krishan Lal 1746*.

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