

Typification of *Dipcadi saxorum* and *D. ursulae* (Asparagaceae: Scilloideae)

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Abstract: The present publication deals with the typification of names of two endemic species of *Dipcadi* Medik. from Maharashtra, namely, *Dipcadi saxorum* Blatt. and *D. ursulae* Blatt.

Keywords: Blatter herbarium, Endemic, Lectotype, Neotype.

Introduction

Dipcadi Medik. is a bulbous scapous herb found in Africa, South Europe to Indian subcontinent (POWO, 2023). There are 13 species and 2 varieties in India, of which, 8 species and 1 variety are found in Maharashtra (Chandore et al., 2021). *Dipcadi saxorum* Blatt. and *D. ursulae* Blatt. are endemic to India. The former is distributed in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh (Deb & Dasgupta, 1981; Maurya et al., 2017; Meena, 2017; Kulloli et al., 2020; Khan & Patil, 2020) while *D. ursulae* is found only in Maharashtra (Deb & Dasgupta, 1978). A detailed study of the protologue, literature and original materials revealed that there are problems in the typification of these two names, which are typified here.

Typification

***Dipcadi saxorum* Blatt.** J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 32: 736. 1928. *Neotype* (designated here): INDIA, Maharashtra, Mumbai, National Park, Borivli, 09.08.1953, R.R. Fernandez R1398 (BLAT Acc. No. 75925!).

Fig. 1a

Notes: Blatter (1928) in the protologue of *Dipcadi saxorum* Blatt. cited Blatter and Hallberg No. S1

as the type and gave the locality as: “Rocky places above the Kanheri Caves, in Salsette about 1,000 ft., Bombay Presidency. Flowered in August 1917”. The said locality is now a part of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli, Mumbai. According to Stafleu and Cowan (1976) the herbarium and types of Ethelbert Blatter (1877–1934) are at BLAT and other material at B, BM and K. The authors could not locate the original material from BLAT, B, BM and K. Deb and Dasgupta (1978) stated that the type is missing while Mishra and Singh (2001) observed the type at BLAT. During our visit to BLAT we too could not locate the type specimen. In the absence of the original material of *D. saxorum*, a neotype is selected from the type locality.

***Dipcadi ursulae* Blatt., J.** Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 32: 735. 1928. *Lectotype* (designated here): INDIA, Maharashtra, Tableland of Panchgani, Satara district, August 1925, Blatter P74 (BLAT Acc. No. 89500!).

Fig. 1b

Notes: Blatter (1928) in the protologue of *Dipcadi ursulae* cited Blatter No. P74 as the type and gave the locality as “In grass on Tableland of Panchgani, W. Ghats of Bombay Presidency, 4,400 ft. Flowered about middle of August 1925”. Three relevant sheets of Blatter P74 could be located at BLAT (BLAT89498!, BLAT89499! and BLAT89500!). In addition, herbarium labels are attached to these sheets in the bottom right corner which are cross labelled as P74A (BLAT89500), P74B (BLAT89499) and P74C (BLAT89498). However, a detailed examination of the hand writing revealed that these labels were not written by Blatter, but by Dr. M.R. Almeida at a later date. All these sheets bear field tickets in the bottom left corner in the handwriting of Father E. Blatter. The field ticket



Fig. 1.a. Neotype of *D. saxorum* Blatt. (BLAT75925); b. Lectotype (if not holotype) of *D. ursulae* Blatt. (BLAT89500) © Blatter Herbarium, Mumbai. Reproduced with permission.

on sheet BLAT89498 is labelled “*Dipcadi* sp. nov., Panchgani, Aug 25” in the handwriting of Blatter but without a collection number. The field ticket on sheet BLAT89499 is labelled “*Dipcadi* sp. nov., P74” but without the collection locality. The field ticket on sheet BLAT89500 is labelled “*Dipcadi* sp. nov., P74, Panchgani, Tableland” in the handwriting of Blatter. These sheets cannot be considered to be part of the same gathering because Blatter’s original information varied from one sheet to the next, hence necessitates the selection of a lectotype. However, only two sheets (BLAT89499 and BLAT89500) have the original collection numbers cited by Blatter in the protologue and are therefore deemed to be syntypes (Art.9.6 and 40 of ICN, Turland *et al.*, 2018).

Each of these two sheets bears more than one specimen, either with flowering plants alone or only flowering or fruiting scapes. Apparently, all

these specimens are from the same type locality (as mentioned above), collected during August 1925. No specific date is mentioned in any of these herbarium sheets. Among the two sheets, BLAT89500 is designated here as the lectotype (if not holotype) of *D. ursulae*.

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