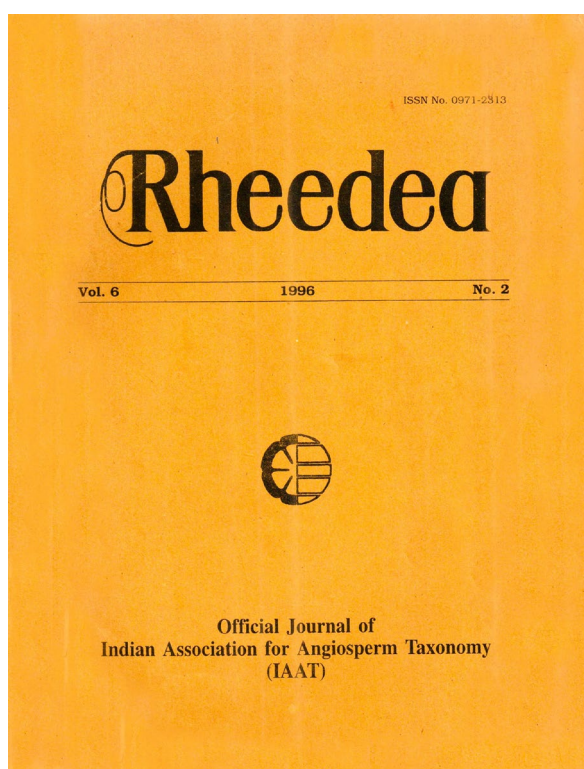




Desmodium uncinatum (Jacq.) DC. (Fabaceae): A new record for India

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***Desmodium uncinatum* (Jacq.) DC. (Fabaceae): A new record for India**

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Abstract

The occurrence of *Desmodium uncinatum* (Jacq.) DC. (Fabaceae) in India is reported. A brief description, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

INTRODUCTION

Desmodium uncinatum (Jacq.) DC., was originally described from Brazil and later recorded from neighbouring countries in tropical America. The species has now established in several African (Thulin, 1983; Lock, 1989) and Asian (Backer & Bakhuizen, 1963) countries, either through introduction as a fodder plant or by accidental entry.

Recently the species was collected from Munnar in Kerala, where it was found growing in the grasslands, often in moist localities. It is very likely that the plant entered along with the fodder grasses introduced by the Regional Livestock Development Board, Munnar. The plant has now become well established in the neighbouring places like Kanthalloor, Vattavada and Devikulam. Since the species has not been recorded from India, a brief description and illustration are provided to facilitate easy identification.

***Desmodium uncinatum* (Jacq.) DC.**, Prodr. 2: 331. 1825; Backer & Bakhuizen, Fl. Java 1: 606. 1963; Thulin, Opera Botanica 68: 114. 1983. *Hedysarum uncinatum* Jacq., Hort. Schoenb. 3: 27: 1798. (Fig. 1)

Herbs; branches from base with ascending flowering stems; stems densely covered with hooked hairs. Leaves trifoliate; leaflets narrowly ovate, pubescent or pilose on both surfaces, usually with a pale silvery marking along the midrib above, to 8x3 cm (terminal one); petiole to 7 cm long. Recemes lax; bracts ovate, to 1 cm long. Calyx minutely hooked hairy. Petals pink; standard ca. 1 cm long. Vexillary stamen free or easily separating from the base. Pods 2-3.5 x 0.4 cm; deeply indented along lower margin; joints 3-10, covered with hooked hairs; pedicels 1-1.5 cm long, pubescent, erect or pendulous

Specimen examined: Kerala, Idduki District, Munnar, N.Sasidharan 873 (KFRI).

Notes: The local people are using the plant as a green manure. Often insects are seen trapped by the hooked hairs of the plant.

N.Sasidharan

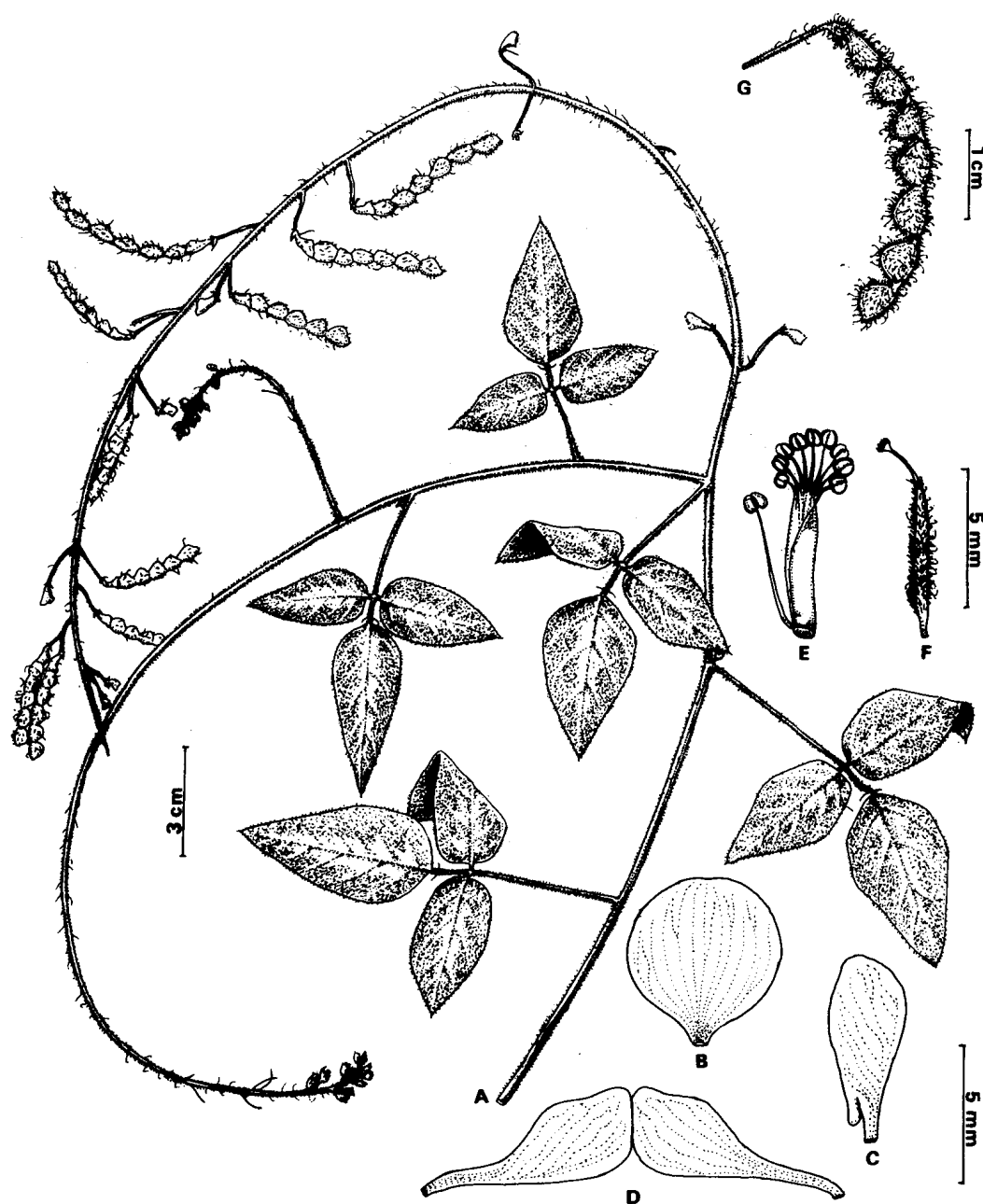


Fig.1. *Desmodium uncinatum* (Jacq.) DC. A. Flowering and fruiting branch; B. Standard petal; C. Wing petal; D. Keel petals; E. Androecium; F. Pistil; G. Fruit.

***Desmodium uncinatum* (Jacq.) DC.(Fabaceae): A new record**

Acknowledgement

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