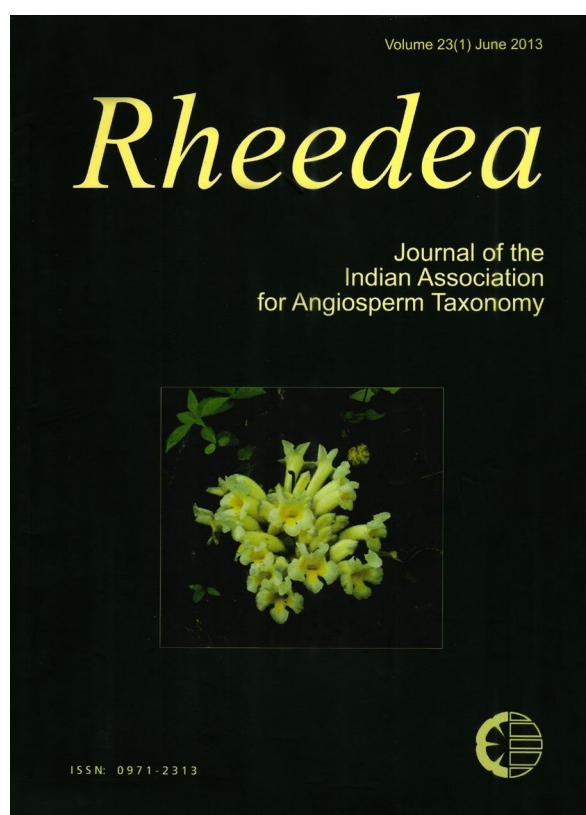




Senna holosericea (Leguminosae: Caesalpinioideae): a new distributional record for Southern Peninsular India

Raja Kullayi Swamy K., Sandhya Rani S. & T. Pullaiah



How to cite:

Swamy R.K.K., Sandhya Rani S. & T. Pullaiah 2013. *Senna holosericea* (Leguminosae: Caesalpinioideae): a new distributional record for Southern Peninsular India. *Rheedeia* 23(1): 55-58.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.2013.23.01.16>

Received: 21.03.2013

Revised and accepted: 15.06.2013

Published in print: 30.06.2013

Published Online: 30.06.2013



Senna holosericea (Leguminosae: Caesalpinioideae): a new distributional record for Southern Peninsular India

K. Raja Kullayi Swamy*, S. Sandhya Rani and T. Pullaiah

Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur 515 003, Andhra Pradesh, India.

*E-mail: raju.botany@gmail.com

Abstract

Senna holosericea is earlier known only from Gujarat, and is now recorded for the first time from Andhra Pradesh. A detailed description, illustration and photographs are provided here for easy identification.

Keywords: *Senna holosericea*; Caesalpinioideae; Andhra Pradesh

Introduction

During our floristic survey of Thummalapalle Uranium Mining Area in Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh, plant specimens have been collected which are turned out to be *Senna holosericea* (Fresen.) Greuter. It was earlier recorded only from Gujarat. The present collection is the first report from Southern Peninsular India. A detailed description, photographs and illustrations are given here for easy identification.

Senna holosericea (Fresen.) Greuter, Willdenowia 15: 429. 1986; Singh, Monogr. Cassiinae: 142. 2001. *Cassia holosericea* Fresen., Flora 22 (1): 54. 1839; Benth. in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 27: 553. 1871; T. Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 422. 1903; Sanjappa, Legum. India: 16. 1992. *Senna ovalifolia* Batka, Monogr. Senna 35, 50. t. 4. 1866; Oliver, Fl. Trop. Afr. 2: 278. 1868; Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 66: 476. 1898.

Fig. 1 & 2

Suffrutescent shrub or undershrub, 70–100 cm tall, branches subterete, pubescent, when young. Leaves 8–15 cm long, rachis densely pubescent, with 1 mm long bristle at apex between the terminal pair of leaflets; petioles 1.2–2 cm long; stipules 5–7 mm long, linear-lanceolate, acute with a small auricle at the base, rigid, densely pubescent; leaflets 5–8 pairs, 1.7–2.5 × 0.7–0.9 cm, ovate, oblong, obtuse or retuse, velvety pubescent, obliquely rounded or subacute at base, entire at margin, obtuse and mucronate at apex; petiolule to 1 mm long; thick brown velvety. Flowers light yellow in axillary racemes, shorter than the leaves, to 9 cm long, peduncle velvety; pedicels to 4 mm long, densely pubescent. Calyx 4–5 × 2–2.5 mm, divided to the

base, lobes oblong, obtuse, membranous, veined, cuneate at base, obtuse at apex, outer two sepals pubescent. Petals 4–5 × 3–3.5 mm, obovate-oblong or ovate-oblong, cuneate at base, obtuse at apex, shortly clawed, yellow, conspicuously reticulate with darker veins. Stamens 10, 3 upper are reduced to staminodes, to 1.5 mm long, the remaining 7 perfect, of which the 2 lower to 4 mm long, rest are to 3.5 mm long. Ovary densely pubescent, to 6.5 mm long. Pods 3.5–4 × 1.2–1.8 cm, subreniform, flat, thin and papery, recurved, rounded at both ends, not crested on valves, velvety-pubescent, slightly turgid and with persistent base of the style. Seeds 4–8, obovoid, 5–7 × 2–3 mm, retuse at apex, narrowed towards hilum, funicle 5 mm long, flattened, glabrous, areoles 6.2 × 4 mm, yellowish-brown.

Distribution: India (Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat), tropical Africa, Arabia and Pakistan (Singh, 2001).

Flowering & fruiting: September–January.

Habitat: Scrub forests, rare.

Specimens examined: INDIA, **Andhra Pradesh**, Anantapur, near Namalagundu, 26. 09. 2010, K.R.K. Swamy 40183 (SKU, MH, BSID); Kadapa, near Rachakuntapalli, 24. 11. 2009, K. R. K. Swamy 39043 (SKU).

Notes: Resembles *S. italica* Mill. (a common species in Southern Peninsular India) in shape of the pod, but can be distinguished from it by erect habit, height of the plant (c. 1 m tall), lanceolate stipules, mucronate leaf tip and velvety pod with

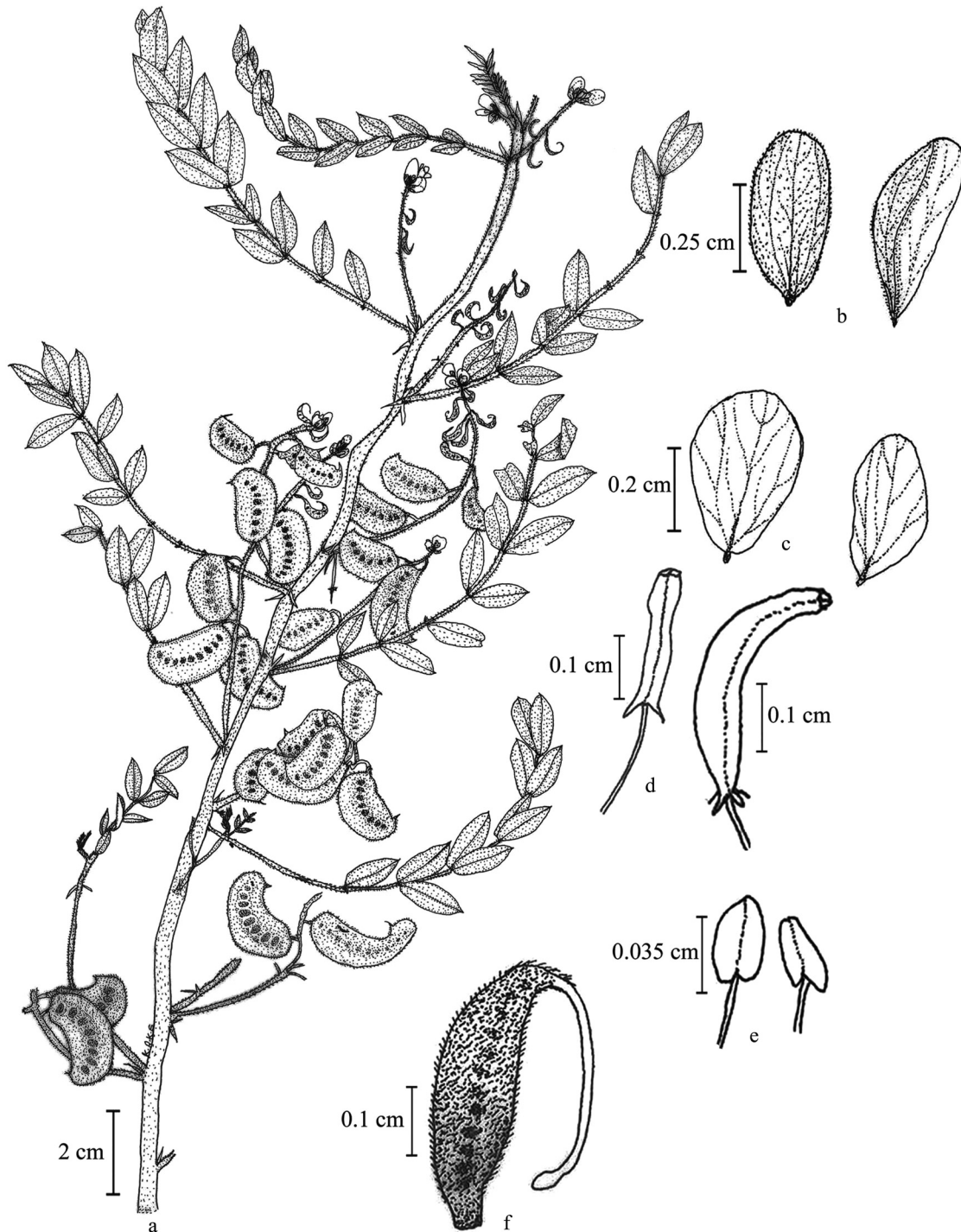


Fig. 1: *Senna holosericea* (Fresen.) Greuter: **a.** Flowering and fruiting twig; **b.** Calyx lobes; **c.** Corolla lobes; **d.** Fertile stamens; **e.** Staminodes; **f.** Pistil.



Fig. 2: *Senna holosericea* (Fresen.) Greuter: **a.** Habit; **b.** Inflorescence; **c.** A portion of pod enlarged; **d.** A portion of pod showing arrangement of seeds; **e.** Seeds.

inconspicuous reticulate venation and devoid of longitudinal crest on the valves over seeds.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to Dr. Vijendra Singh (BSI, Jodhpur) for confirmation of species and Board of Research in Nuclear Science (BRNS), Mumbai, Government of India for financial support.

Literature cited

Singh, V. 2001. *Monograph on Indian Subtribe Cassiinae (Caesalpinaceae)*. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur (India).

Received: 21.03.2013

Revised and Accepted: 15.06.2013