

REPORT

Stylosanthes mexicana Taub.(Fabaceae)-new to Indian flora

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ABSTRACT *Stylosanthes mexicana* Taub., (Fabaceae) is reported new to Indian flora.

(**Keywords:** India, *Stylosanthes mexicana* Taub)

INTRODUCTION

Three species of genus *Stylosanthes* Sw. enumerated [1], which are distributed in the peninsular regions of India. During the study of flora of protected area in West Bengal, India the authors came across specimens housed in Central National Herbarium

(CAL) annotated as *S. fruticosa* (Retz.) Alston, collected from wild areas of Kerala, which on critical study revealed it to *Stylosanthes mexicana* Taub., hitherto known from central Mexico, Venezuela, and Caracas [2] turned to be new to Indian flora. The detailed description along with illustration is provided.



Legends

Figure 1: *Stylosanthes mexicana* Taub.

- A. Habit
- B. Flower
- C. Standard
- D. Wings
- E. Keel
- F. Calyx
- G. Outer bract
- H. Inner bracteole
- I. Outer bracteole
- J. Stamens
- K. Loment

Figure 1: *Stylosanthes mexicana* Taub. in Verh. Bot. Brand. 32:21. 1890. Drawn by D.K. Sah.

Erect, ascending herbs, up to 15 cm tall, woody, appressed hairy with scattered bristles; branched at base. Leaves trifoliate, petiolate, stipulate; petiole 0.9-1.5 cm long, hairy; rachis 1-2 mm long; stipule adnate, sheath 4-6 mm long, hairy, 3-4 nerved, apices divided into two teeth; teeth 3-4 mm long. Leaflets elliptic, obovate, acute, aristate, pubescent beneath, glabrous above; the terminal 11-26 x 4-8mm, the lateral 8-15 x 2-4mm, margin sometime recurved, 5-6 pairs of nerves, prominent beneath. Flowers bracteate, pale-yellow, in many flowered spikes.

Spikes oblong, obovate, bristly, 6-12 mm long. Outer bract trifoliate; the terminal 4-8x1.5-5mm, elliptic, acuminate, densely hairy, 3-5 nerved with 1-1.5 mm long apically winged stalk; the lateral 4-5 x 0.8-1mm, broadly elliptic, piliferous, 3 nerved; outer bracteole 1, 5-6 x 1-1.5mm, lanceolate, long acuminate, pilose, 6 nerved. Inner bracteole 2, 5-6 x .5-.6 mm, oblong-lanceolate, membranous, hyaline up to upper half, ciliate.

Calyx-tube 4-5 mm long; lobes-5, obovate, obtuse, 2-3 mm long, hairy at upper half. Standard clawed, 3-6x 2-3mm, suborbicular, entire, slightly notched at apex; claw 1mm long; keel 3.5-4.5 x 2-2.5 mm, oblong, notched at base; wings 3.5-4 x 2-2.5 mm, falcate. Stamens-10, monodelphous, 5-basifixed, filament 6 mm long alternating with 5-versatile, filament 6.5 mm long. Ovary 1mm long, oblong;

style 5 mm long, filiform; stigma capitate. Loment 5-6 x 1.5-2 mm, reticulate, nerved, glabrous, bi-articulate, lower articulation cone shaped, .7-.9 mm long, sometime abortive; beak recurved, uncinat, glabrous.

Flowering & Fruiting: March- May

Habitat: grows at 1000-1500m.

Distribution: Central Mexico, Caracas, Venezuela, Bolivia, India (Kerala)

Specimens Examined: Kerala, Ponnudi, Trivandrum District, 1000 m, 8-3-1980 *M. Mohanan*, 66616 & 25-05-1979, *M. Mohanan* 1500 m, 63254 (CAL)

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