



EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION PRIORITY OF SENNA ALATA (L.) ROXB. (CAESALPINIACEAE) IN RAJASTHAN, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Senna alata (L.) Roxb. Belonging to the family Caesalpinaceae has been recorded for the first time from village Arjiya, of Mandal tehsil, district Bhilwara, Rajasthan. Morphological features, time of flowering-fruiting, ecological notes and photographs of the species have been reported in the present paper.

KEYWORDS: *Senna alata*, New record, Rajasthan

INTRODUCTION

Cassia (L.) is a large tropical genus with about 600 species of herbs, shrubs & trees (Singh, 2001). Botanical explorations were undertaken and significant plant collections were acquired from the Mandaltehsil, district Bhilwara, Rajasthan. Geographically the Bhilwara district lies between 25° 1' - 25°58' N latitude 74°1' - 75°28' E longitude.

After a thorough survey of literature, critical examination of collected material and with expert advice from scientists of Botanical Survey of India and members of Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy the specimen was determined as *Senna alata*, which had not been previously recorded from this State (Sharma and Tiagi; 1979, Shetty and Singh; 1987, Sharma; 2002, Tiagi and Arey; 2007, Yadav and Meena; 2011).

Senna alata native to Mexico is widely distributed in the tropical countries. It is found growing in open waste lands near wet places. In tropical Africa, it has become naturalized and is often considered as weed.

ENUMERATION

Senna alata (L.) Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 349. 1824; Irwin & Barneby in Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 35 (2): 460. 1982; Randell in J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 13: 12. 1990; Larsen & Hou in Hou et al. Fl. Malesiana 12(2): 675. 1996; Singh in Mono. Indian subtribe cass. 2001. *Cassia alata* L. Sp. Pl. 378. 1753; Collad. Hist. Cass. 91. 1816; Benth. in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 27: 550. 1871; Baker in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 264. 1878; De Wit in Webbia 11: 231. 1955; Symon in Trans. Royal Soc. S. Austr. 90: 94. 1966. *C. herpetica* Jacq. Obs. 2: 24. t. 45. f. 2. 1767. *C. Bracteata* (L.) f. Suppl. 232. 1781. *C. alata* (L.) var. *rumphiana* DC. Prodr. 2: 492. 1825, *Herpetica alata* (L.) Rafinesque, Sylva Tell. 123. 1838. *Cassia alata* (L.) var. *perennis* Pampanini Nuovo Giorn. Bot. Ital. n. ser. 14: 595. 1907.

Shrubs, 0.5 to 1 m high; stem marked with leaf scars; branchlets finely pubescent. Leaf-rachis 18-60 cm long, terete, eglandular, with two adaxial parallel ribs and transverse ridges bearing spindle-shaped glanduliferous hairs between the petiolules; leaflets 5-12 pairs, 2.5-14 x 1-9 cm, oblong or upper most obovate-oblong to penduriform, chartaceous, retuse-mucronate or subacute at the apex, obliquely

truncate at the base, sparsely pubescent on both surfaces or glabrous above. Stipules 6-9 mm long, triangular-deltoid, auriculate, acuminate, persistent, pubescent, Racemes 20-60 cm long, puberulous, Bracts 2-3 x 1-1.2 cm, ovate or boat-shaped, obtuse or acute, pubescent outside, deltoid-rhombic, flattened at right angle to the axis of pod, with a longitudinal rim along each face; areole absent or rarely 2-3 mm long displaced on the edge near the hilum; albumen copious; funicle straight; embryo placed transversely to the width of seed.

Fl. & Fr.: December-June.

ECOLOGICAL NOTES

Rare among wet and swampy habitats, in association with *Xanthium strumarium*(L.), and *Senna oxidantalisis* (L.). The flowers produce a pleasant scent like peaches.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED

M-1790-MLVGCB Herbarium

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Senna alata