



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Note on distribution of *Alysicarpus longifolius* (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight & Arn. var. *major* Pokle in India.

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Alysicarpus* Desv. is concentrated in India and distributed mostly in the dry zones of the country. During the course of investigation, the authors came across the several specimens *Alysicarpus longifolius* (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight & Arn. var. *major* Pokle. *A. longifolius* (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight & Arn. var. *major* Pokle, an endemic taxa, was so far known only from single collection. In the recent survey, numbers of additional populations were found in Central India in addition to the type locality. Extended geographical distribution with illustration has been reported in the present article.

Keywords: *Alysicarpus longifolius* var. *major*, Illustration, Geographical distribution.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Alysicarpus* Desv. (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae) comprises 25-30 species distributed in Old World tropics (Mabberley, 2008). In India, the genus is represented by 26 taxa, especially in the dry zones of the Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu (Pokle, 1999 & 2002). About eight species and five varieties of *Alysicarpus* have been described from the Indian peninsula by Pramanik & Thothathri (1982), Almeida & Almeida (1988), Pokle (1999) and Chavan *et al.* (2013). During the course of the investigation since last few years the authors has collected several individuals of *A. longifolius* (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight & Arn. var. *major* Pokle.

A. longifolius (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight & Arn. var. *major* Pokle is an endemic taxa described in 1999 and until recently was only known from single collection from Bodhadi, Maharashtra. In the recent survey, numbers of additional populations were found in Central India in addition to the type locality.

Earlier, the variety was known only from type collection. Later on Chavan *et al.* (2013) has reported it from Marathwada region of Maharashtra. However, further survey in the field and specimens deposited in Botanical Survey of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune revealed that the taxon also occurs in Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat and Karnataka.

A. longifolius (Rottl. ex Spreng.) Wight. & Arn. var. *major* Pokle (Fig. 1.30)

Annual, erect, woody, branched, herbs, up to 10 feet tall, stem and branches glabrous, terete, striate. Leaves unifoliolate, petiolate, stipulate; petioles c. 5-15 mm long, glabrous; striate, grooved, trichomes are present in line on the edges of the groove, petiolules very short and densely pubescent, stipule scarious, obliquely ovate, acute tailed, slightly curved, c. 10 – 30 × 3 – 4 mm long striate, glabrous, stipels two, lateral ovate, obtuse, c. 2 – 3 × 1 – 2 mm, glabrous, striate. Leaflets ovate, elongate, tapering, c. 5 – 15 × 0.5 – 1.4 cm, obtuse or subacute, cuneate or subcordate at base, upper surface glabrous, lower surface pubescent especially on the nerves, reticulation conspicuous on both the surface.

Flowers numerous in pairs on erect, appressed to densely hairy rachis, in spicate terminal racemes, c. 15-30 cm long, pedicels c. 2-4 mm long, pubescent. Primary bract ovate very acuminate, long-tailed c. 5 – 15 × 4 – 5 mm, silky brownish purple outside, ciliate, concealing the buds, deciduous. Calyx c. 6-14 mm long, gamosepalous, pubescent, calyx tube c. 1-2 mm long, plicate, imbricate or quincuncial.

Corolla deep pink or purplish yellow-red, standard oblong, cordate at base, emarginate at apex, c. 8 – 10 × 7 – 9 mm, wings obovate, c. 6 – 8 × 3 – 4 mm, tapering at base, apex round, keel, c. 6 – 8 × 2 – 4 mm, boat-shaped. Stamens 9+1, diadelphous, with 5 long and 5 short filaments, ditheous, basifixed, c. 6-8 mm long, curved, standard stamens slightly shorter than others. Ovary c. 4-6 mm long, junction of the ovary and style pubescent, style curved c. 2-4 mm long, stigma capitate. Pods 3-5 articulated, terete, compressed, apiculate, slightly moniliform, 7-15 mm long, apiculate pubescent with shorter trichomes, faintly reticulately veined.

Flowering & fruiting: September to December.

Distribution: Common Bodeli, Rajkot, Mount Abu, and Occasional in Maharashtra, founds in cultivated fields in dark cotton soils.

Exsiccata: Devaliya Bodeli, ASD 651A; Alakh Rajkot, ASD 602; Mount Abu road, ASD 678A; Aurangabad, Vaijapur, SYC 044; Mirzapur, Deglur, SYC 196; Devaliya Bodeli, ASD 651B; Mount Abu road, ASD 678B; Jalna, Badnapur, SYC 050; Aurangabad, Vaijapur, SYC 196.

Note: It grows amidst grasses along the roadside as well as on plateaus and hill slopes and cultivated fields.

Specimens Examined:

Gujarat, Avadhan Village, Near Surat, A.S. Rao, 3.12.1990 79007 [20°57'7.09"N 73° 3'44.89"E] (BSI).

Maharashtra: Amravati, Sant Gadage Maharaj Amravati University Campus, S.Y. Chavan, III [20°56'23.80"N 77°47'49.58"E] (BAMU); Bidkin, S.Y. Chavan, 084 [19°40'12.94"N 75°19'43.18"E] (BAMU); Nashik, on the way of Surgana, S.Y. Chavan, 165 [18°55'18.25"N 73°57'3.17"E] (BAMU); Vaijapur, S.Y. Chavan, 095 [19°58'7.27"N 74°45'38.68"E] (BAMU).

Karnataka, Gulbarga, Tewangi, N.P. Singh, 17.01.1976 142652 [17°27'46.65"N 76°54'9.88"E (BSI)], Gulbarga, Yadgir, N.P. Singh, 17.01.1975 141772 [16°47'47.67"N 77°8'40.09"E (BSI)].

Diu & Daman: Nagao, R.D. Pataskar, 17.09.1964 102438 [20°19'49.29"N 72°54'26.48"E] (BSI); Cathea, Hemadri, 8.09.1964 102502 [20°26'1.10"N 72°55'28.80"E] (BSI).

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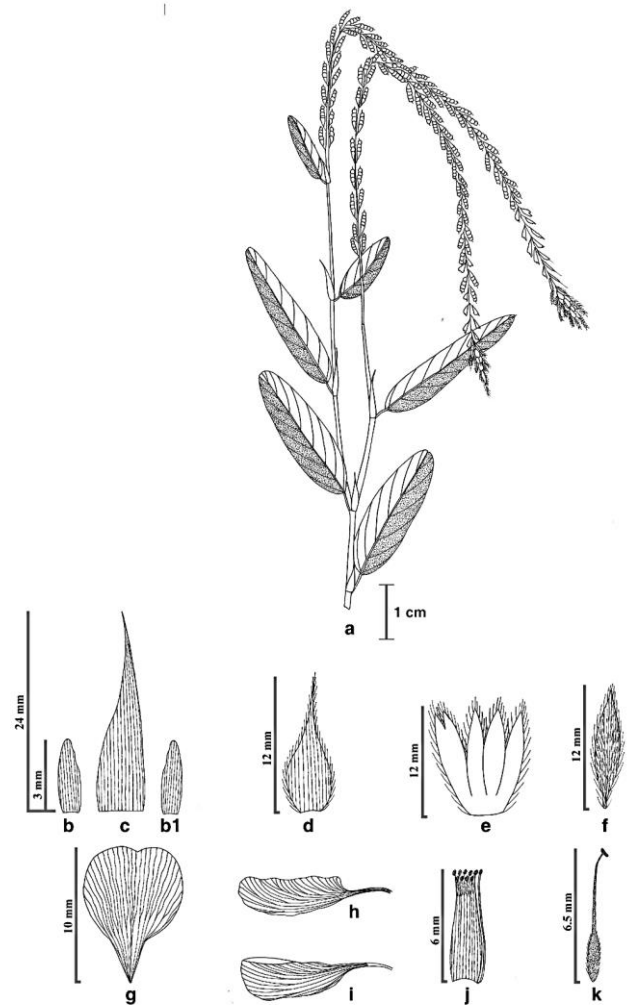


Fig. 1.30 *A. longifolius* (Rottl.ex Spreng.) Wight. & Arn. var. *major* Pokle

a.Habit; b&b1.Stipule; c.Stipule; d.Primary bract;
e.Calyx; f.Sepal, g.Standard; h.Wing; i.Keel; j.Stamens; k.Pistil.