



Research Article

***Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor* – Leguminosae, A new addition to flora of Andhra Pradesh, India.**

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Abstract: *Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor* (Wight & Arn.) F.W. Andrews belongs to the family Leguminosae and subfamily Faboideae reported as the new distributional record for the state of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Key words: Leguminosae, *Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor*, Andhra Pradesh.

Introduction

During our recent explorations in Near Talakona of Seshachalam Hills, Chittor District area, we could locate one interesting species which is identified as *Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor* (Wight & Arn.) F.W. Andrews representing subfamily Faboideae of the family Leguminosae. Perusal of literature (Gamble 1967; Pullaiah and Chennaiah, 1997; Pullaiah and Muralidhara Rao, 2002; Pullaiah and Karuppusamy, 2008; Sudhakar Reddy *et al.*, 2008; Madhava chetty *et al.*, 2018) has revealed that the present collections form new distributional records for the state of Andhra Pradesh. We here present the taxonomic treatment and ecological note on this taxon. Online Herbarium specimen examined are (Kew Herbarium: Image: K000393408, K000858946, K000858947; JSTOR Herbarium (Image: P02926180, M0233490) and New York Herbarium Image: NY1621570).

Taxonomic treatment:

Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor (Wight & Arn.) F.W. Andrews, Fl. Pl. Sudan. 2: 232. 1952. *Sesbania aegyptiaca* var. *bicolor* Wight & Arn., Prodr. fl. Ind. orient. 214. 1834. (Figure 1: A-C)

Deciduous trees, up to 6 m tall. Branches pubescent when young, glabrescent when mature. Stipules triangular-lanceolate, 2-3 mm, caducous, pubescent. Leaves 5-7-pairs; petiole and rachis appressed pubescent; rachis 3-5 cm; petiolules appressed pubescent; leaflets oblong, 0.3-0.6 × 0.3-0.5 mm, both surfaces sparsely appressed pubescent, base obliquely rounded, apex rounded to retuse and mucronate. Racemes inflorescence with 4-10-flowered; peduncle 4-5 cm, slender, pubescent, glabrescent; bracts linear-lanceolate, caducous, abaxially sparsely appressed pubescent. Pedicel ca. 2 cm, slender, pubescent; bracteoles smaller than bracts, caducous.

Calyx campanulate; teeth shortly triangular, inside appressed pubescent to glabrescent. Corolla purple red and yellow inner side, outer one thick black or calyx and standard purplish black and wings and keel partly purplish black or red; standard transversely elliptic, 0.8-1.2 cm, wider than long, with a 4-5 mm claw, basally decurrent to lamina, widened in middle, and distinct and acuminate to obtuse at apex, base sub cordate, apex emarginated; wings oblong, with a curved ca. 4 mm claw, base inconspicuously auriculate, apex rounded; keel nearly semicircular, lamina base narrower than apex and with a triangular short auricle, claw as long as calyx. Stamen tube 4-8 mm; anthers ellipsoid. Ovary glabrous; style ca. 5 mm, glabrous; stigma globose. Legumes straight or slightly curved at maturity, subterete, 15-30 cm × 3-5 mm between transverse septa, apex beaked. Seeds 15-26 per legume, slightly compressed; hilum rounded and concave.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Distribution: India: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. World: Australia, Malaya, Brazil, China.

GPS location: Lat: 13°40'12.47"; Long: 79° 3'8.18"; Elevation: 528 m.

Specimens examined: Collected on 18-12-2018 from Bommayagaripalle Village, Near Talakona, Chittor District. Voucher specimens MMN/SBR-Lg / SVUTY03896; MCN/SBR-Lg / SVUTY04021 were deposited in Herbarium, Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati for future reference.

Ecology: Rare but not threatened, found near canals and along road sides of villages near Talakona. Population if very few (6-8 individuals). Distribution is very particular to nearby villages of Talakona. Few saplings were cultivated in home gardens of the locals.

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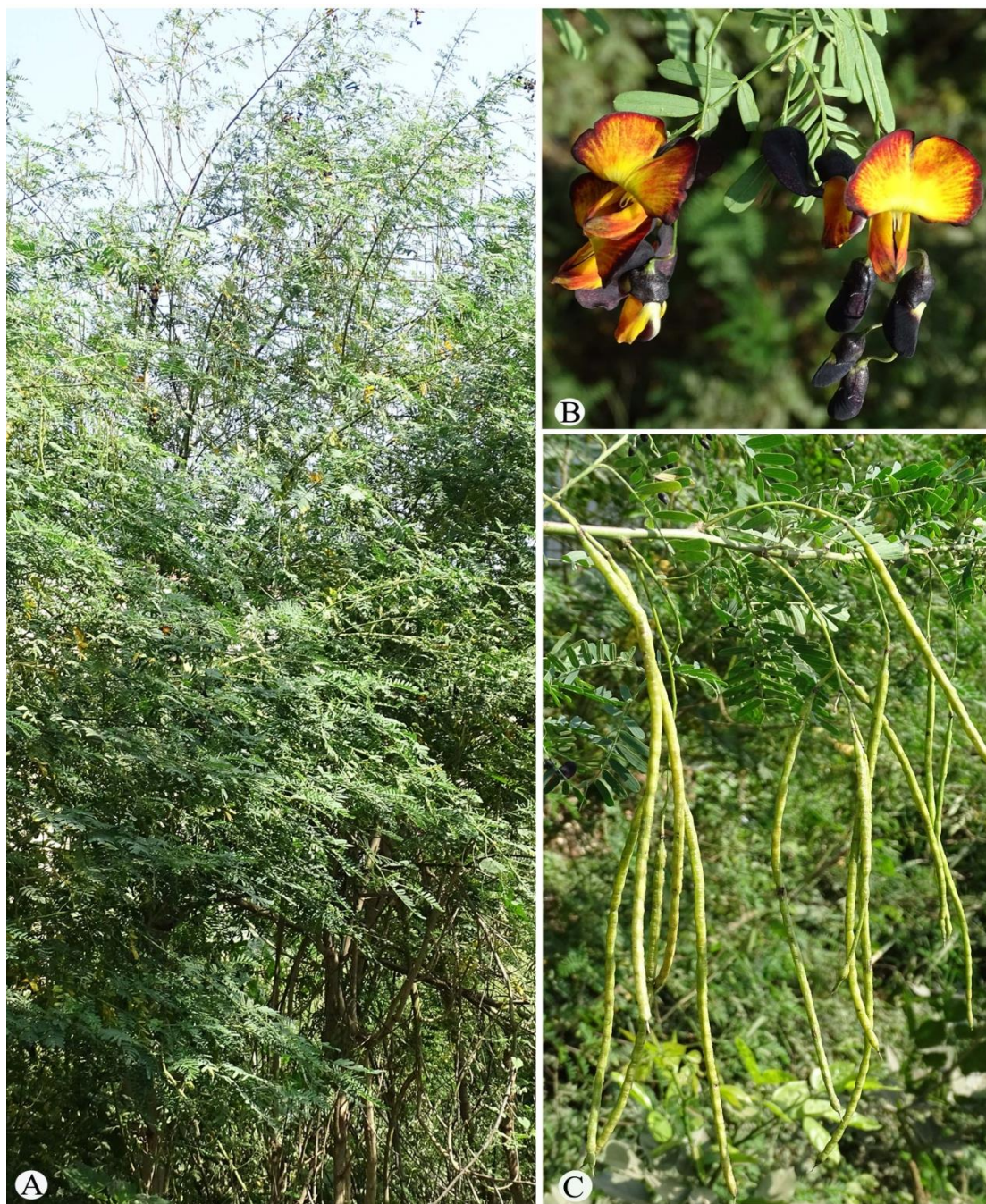


Figure 1: A. Habitat; B: Inflorescence; C: Pods.

Since the population is very scarce the Area of occupancy and Area of Occurrence is considered as negligible.

Ethnobotanical claim: Village locals are conserving this species for medical ailments and prescribe pods for aphrodisiac problem and leaves for gynecological problems.

Acknowledgements


The authors extend special thanks to Prof. Emerit. T. Pullaiah, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, India for his valuable inputs and Second Author acknowledges DST-SERB, Govt. of India for providing financial assistance (SERB/N-PDF/Fellowship /2018/001479).

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Cite this article as:

Mahendra Nath Mitta and Chennakesavulu Naik Mudavath. *Sesbania sesban* var. *bicolor*—Leguminosae, A new addition to flora of Andhra Pradesh, India. *Annals of Plant Sciences* 8.4 (2019) pp. 3546-3548.

 <http://dx.doi.org/10.21746/aps.2019.8.4.2>

Source of support: Nil; **Conflict of interest:** Nil.