

Short Communication

Genus *Clitoria* L. (fabaceae) in India

V.P. SINGH

Department of Botany, R.S.K.D.P.G. College, JAUNPUR (U.P.) INDIA

(Accepted :August, 2006)

Genus *Clitoria* is represented in India by five species and on variety *Clitoria ternata* var. *pilosula* is endemic to Gujarat while *Clitoria beflora* is endemic to Gujarat, Maharastra, and Rajasthan states of India. Brief taxonomic account of there is presented in this paper.

Genus *Clitoria* was established by Sir Carl. von Linnaeus in 1753 in his book *Species Plantarum*. *Clitoria ternata* L. has been selected as Lectotype of the genus. The species of this genus are quite ornamental and deeply associated with Indian culture since remote epoch. A perusal of the literature on the status of genes within political boundaries of present India revealed the occurrence of five species and one variety of which one species viz. *Clitoria biflora* is endemic to Gujarat, Maharastra and Rajasthan region of India and *Clitoria turnata* var. *pilosula* Wall ex, Baker is restricted to Gujarat only. A beif taxonomic account of these species along with known uses is given in this paper. The accepted names are in bold roman letters. Two species viz. *Clitoria arborescens* R. Br. and *Clitoria fairchildiana* Howard are exotic species introduced in India. *Clitoria arboresens* is so for recorded from Meghalaya only (cf. Bhaumik & Das 1983) and *Clitoria fairchildiana* is represented by only one tree in India Botanic Garden, Howarh.

Key to the species :

- 1a. Plants erect or trailing has.2
- 1b. Plants should or arboreal (tress) blue.3
- 2a. Flowers usvally in pairs blue Pods up to 5 cm long, 4-6 seeded.....C. biflore
- 2b. Flowers usually solitary axillary blue, whut visit pods upto 10 cm long, 6-10 seeded.....C. Ternata.
- 3a. Shrubs, ex 3cm more high, restricted to Meghalaya.....C arborescan.
- 3b. Trees, ex 10 more high, restricted to I.B.G Howarah. C. fairchildiana.

Clitoria arborescens. R. Br. in Ait. Hort, Kew. ed. 2, 4 : 302. 1812; Bhaumic & Das, *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 4: 607.1983.

Shrub, ca 3m or more high; stem erect, very woody;

* Author for corresponsence.

branches spreading and ascending or somewhat twining. Leaves large, long stalked, 3-foliolate, upper ones similar but gradually smaller upwards, leaflets 12-18 x 5-8.5cm, broadly elliptic, ovate-elliptic or elliptic-oblong, shortly uncinat pubescens and occasional scattered hairs conspicuous on main nerves, strigose to sparsely strigose hairly below; veins weakly impressed above, conspicuously raised below. Petioles 6-13 cm long, weakly striate. Infloresence an axillary few-flowered panicle. Bracts 5-6 mm long, linear-lanceclate, striate, puberulous; bracteoles ca 8cm long, same as the bracts, inserted 1-2 mm below the calyx; peduncles 3-5 mm long. Calyx-tube 1.8-2 cm long, ca 2 mm wide near the base, 6-9 mm near the mouth, persistent, strigose hairy, striate, the lobes ca 4 mm long, broadly ovate, abruptly narrowed into a long acumen. Petals 3-4 cm long, standard light violet, densely strigose hairy outside and very small uncinat pubescens on the inner surface near the base. Ovary stipitate (stipe 2-3mm long) ca 7 mm long, tomentose. Pods 3.5-6.5 cm long, valves convex, ecostate, uncinat pubescent to glabrate. Seeds orbicular, ca 6 mm in diam. dark brown, smooth.

Fl./Fr.: Aug.-Sept.

Voucher *Specimen*: Mehalaya Tropical, Sonapahar, 5 km point towards Hahim, Khasi Hills Distt., on hill slope, *Bhaumik* 60481, 27.8.1976 (ASSAM, CAL).

Distrib.: Northern S. America. Planted in Meghalaya (India) Rare.

Clitoria fairchildiana Howard, *Baileya* 15:16. 1867, Sanjappa, Leg. India: 1989. Trees, up to 20m high; trunk and branches trusted like lianas. Leaves dark green pinnate, terminal leaf large, Leaves ovate peticles and leaf margined pubesant; leaf appear pointed, threat like. In flora escena 18-56 flowers drooping, consisting of two small, 5-10 flower branches. Standard petal violet with pink lies inside keet and side peals viotipurple. Mature fruits 16-22 x 3-3.5cm, flat, narrow at extremities, pubs net shortly staked, 5-7 seeded. Seeds, 1.4-1.5 x 1.2-1.3cm, flat sub spherical, brown, shipping, wrinkled but not hairy.

Fl.: April-Sept. Fr.: Oct.-Dec.

Distrib.: A native of North America. Planted in India