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## A new species of *Camptorrhiza* (Colchicaceae) from India

S. R. YADAV,\* N. P. SINGH\*\* & B. MATHEW\*\*

*Summary.* A new species of *Camptorrhiza*, *C. indica*, in the family Colchicaceae (*Liliaceae* s.l.), is described and illustrated from Maharashtra, India.

***Camptorrhiza indica*** Yadav, N. P. Singh & B. Mathew sp. nov. speciei austro-africanae *C. strumosae* stylo indiviso stigmatate parvo apicali similis sed cormo appendicula geniculata carente, lobis perianthii multo longioribus, filamentis linearibus nec in medio tumescentibus et capsulis minoribus differt. Typus: India, Maharashtra, Dharmshala, ca. 3 km from Ratnagiri on way to Pavas, on laterite soil, 20 June 1990, Yadav 1867 (holotypus CAL; isotypus BSI, K).

Erect, glabrous, perennial herb, 15–25 cm high. Corm 1–1.5 × 0.9–1.3 cm, ovate to subglobose, narrowed at the apex into a short neck; tunics membranous, dark brown. Stem solitary, slender, rigid, erect or slightly flexuose. Leaves 3–5, cauline, alternate, linear-lanceolate, 5–15 × 0.3–0.7 cm, the leaf base sheathing the stem, the lowest one sometimes consisting of a sheath only without a lamina. Inflorescence a corymbose raceme, 3–6-flowered. Flowers bright pink to pinkish-mauve, white in bud stage, pedicellate; pedicels 1–2.5 cm long, arcuate-ascending, sulcate, elongating to up to 4 cm in fruiting stage; bracts leaf-like, linear-lanceolate to linear-elliptic, 1–5 × 0.2–0.5 cm; perianth segments free, reflexed at anthesis, linear-elliptic, 5–7-nerved, 1–1.5 × 0.25–0.35 cm. Stamens 6, 4–6 mm long; filaments 2–4 mm, filiform, glabrous, pinkish; anthers latrorse, oblong, 1.5–2.5 × 1–1.3 mm, pollen yellow. Ovary obovoid, 2–4 × 1.5–2.2 mm, green; style 1, simple, filiform, 2–3 mm long, with an apical punctiform stigma. Capsule obovoid, 3-locular with 7–15 seeds, 0.6–1 × 0.5–0.7 cm; seeds subglobose or ovoid, 2.5–3 × 2.5–3 mm, brown with a filiform white raphe when fresh. 2n = 22. (Fig. 1).

Until this interesting new species was discovered in India, the genus *Camptorrhiza* was thought to be monotypic and confined to southern Africa in the form of *C. strumosa* (Baker) Obermeyer (Obermeyer 1961). *C. indica* differs from the latter in several ways: *C. indica* has a corm which appears to be replaced completely each year whereas that of *C. strumosa* possesses a horizontal knee-shaped attachment left over from the previous year; the perianth segments are 1–1.5 cm long in *C. indica* but only about 3.5 mm in *C. strumosa*, and the filaments of *C. indica*

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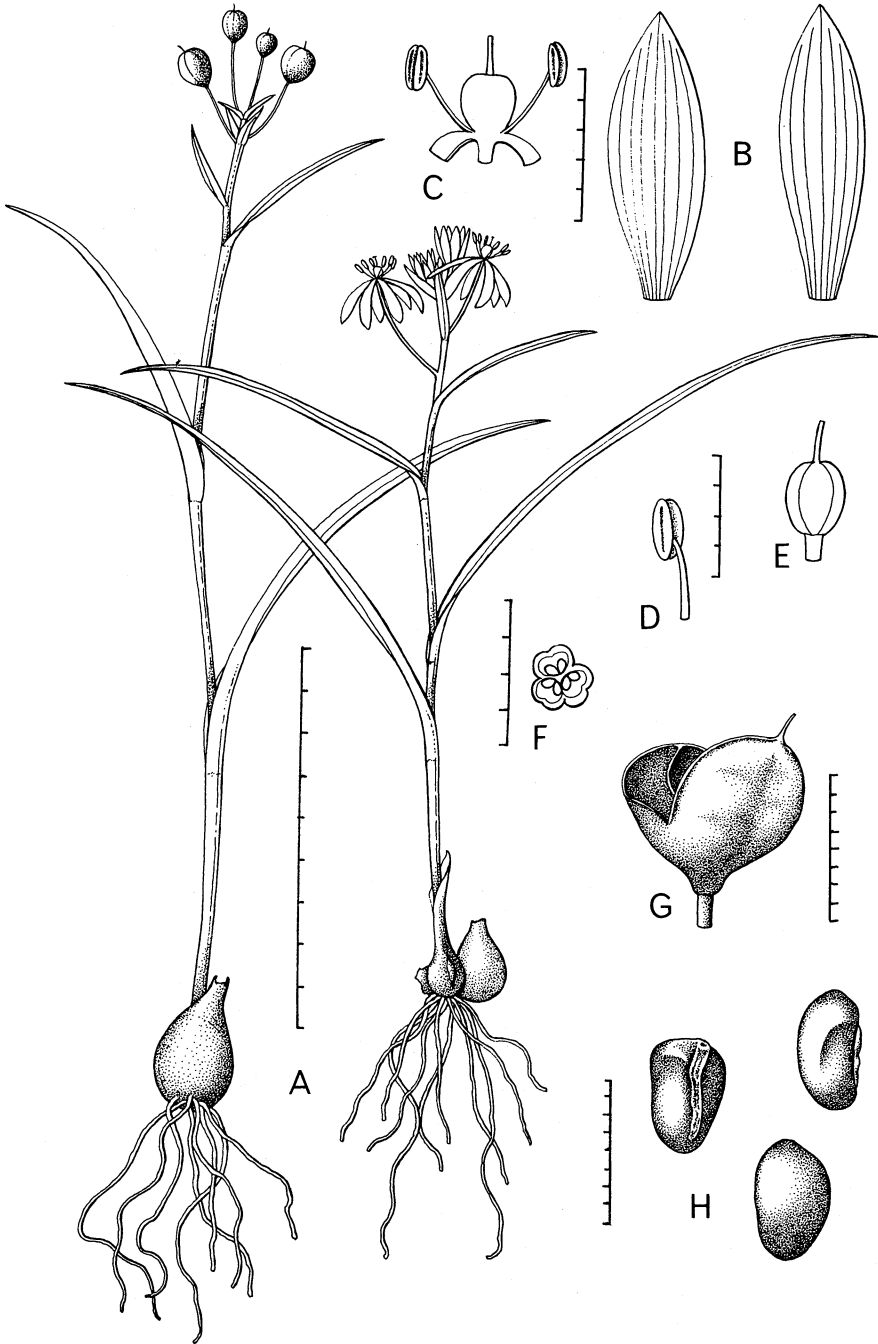


FIG. 1. *Camptorrhiza indica*. A habit (flowering and fruiting); B tepals; C ovary and stamens; D stamen; E pistil; F t/s ovary; G fruit; H seeds. Drawn from the type (Yadav 1867) (after S. R. Yadav) by A. Farrer.

are slender throughout, lacking the median swelling which is a characteristic feature in *C. strumosa*.

*C. indica* is restricted to a small area where it is rather rare, this undoubtedly being the reason why it was not discovered earlier. It is a plant of open grassland where it grows in ditches on a laterite substrate. Typical species in the same community are *Dipcadi concanense* (Dalz.) Baker, *Utricularia reticulata* Smith, *Drosera indica* L., *Glyphochloa* spp., *Eriocaulon* spp., *Wiesneria triandra* (Dalz.) Micheli and *Cryptocoryne spiralis* Fisch. ex Wydler. Growth commences soon after the first monsoon showers when the corms begin to sprout, and the vegetative and reproductive cycle is completed during June and July, which is somewhat earlier than the species of the related genus *Iphigenia*. The seeds have no period of dormancy and germinate soon after their dispersal.

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