



Canscora shrirangiana (Gentianaceae), a new species from lateritic plateaus of Goa, India

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Summary. A new species, *Canscora shrirangiana* Kambale, Kolte & A. Deshp. is described and illustrated here. The new species is morphologically similar to *C. pauciflora*.

Key Words. Endemic, mining, rock outcrops.

Introduction

The genus *Canscora* Lam. is represented by nine species worldwide (Mabberley 2008) distributed in tropical Asia, Africa and Australia. In India it is represented by eight species (Shahina & Nampy 2014), and to date 44 binomials have been published in *Canscora* of which 11 are accepted (The Plant List 2013). Clarke (1885) treated 12 species of *Canscora* under three subgenera: *Canscora* subgen. *Eucanscora* C. B. Clarke, *Canscora* subgen. *Heterocanscora* Griseb., and *Canscora* subgen. *Phyllocyclus* C. B. Clarke from India. Shahina & Nampy (2014) revised this genus for south India and treated six species: *C. alata* (Roth) Wall., *C. diffusa* (Vahl) R. Br. ex Roem. & Schult., *C. heteroclita* (L.) Gilg, *C. pauciflora* Dalzell, *C. perfoliata* Lam. and *C. roxburghii* Arn. ex Miq. Rao (1986) reported four species of *Canscora* from Goa.

During floristic surveys along the lateritic plateaus of Goa, the authors collected some interesting specimens of *Canscora*. After perusing the relevant literature (Clarke 1885; Shahina & Nampy 2014) and consulting the types of all the species reported from India, it became apparent that they represent an undescribed species, which is described and illustrated below.

Materials and Methods

The plant specimens were collected and processed for the herbarium following the technique of Jain & Rao (1977) and flowers were preserved in 70% alcohol. GPS (Garmin 72H) coordinates of the type localities were recorded. Images of the flowers and their parts were taken using a Canon 700D. Microphotographs were taken using stereomicroscope (Leica WILD M3Z). Type specimens from CAL were examined and online type specimens available on the websites of BM, C, K, and P were also consulted.

Taxonomic Treatment

***Canscora shrirangiana* Kambale, Kolte & A. Deshp. sp. nov.** Type: India, Goa, North Goa Distr., Mopa, 171 m alt., 29 Nov. 2015, S. S. Kambale & R. R. Kolte 352 (holotype CAL!; isotypes BSI!, K!, SUK! Goa University Herbarium!).

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77178772-1>

Erect, annual, glabrous herb. *Stem* quadrangular, green when young, turns brown at maturity, 15 – 35 cm tall. *Leaves* simple, opposite, decussate, sessile; lamina 1 × 0.5 cm, linear to lanceolate, 3-veined, glabrous, margin entire. *Inflorescence* an axillary and terminal lax cyme, 1 – 3 flowered. Pedicels bluntly quadrangular, 0.2 – 0.6 cm long, glabrous; bracts green, linear-lanceolate, 2 – 3 mm long, glabrous. Calyx green, orange at maturity, persistent, with 3 striations per lobe, hyaline in between the striations, tubular, tube 0.7 – 1 cm long; lobes c. 1 mm long; sepals 4, linear-lanceolate. Corolla pale pink, tubular, funnel shaped; tube 0.8 – 1.1 cm long; petals 4, upper two petals equal, obovate, 0.7 – 1.3 × 0.6 – 1.2 cm; lower two petals half connate to form a deep slit in which one large stamen is lodged, 1.0 – 1.2 × 0.6 – 1.1 cm. Stamens 4, anisomorphic (1 large, 3 small); upper stamens: filaments 0.2 – 0.4 cm long, anther 0.1 – 0.2 cm long, orange, ovate; lower stamens: filaments 0.2 – 0.3 cm long, anther c. 1 mm long, pale yellow. Ovary green, 3 mm long; style 5 – 9 mm long, pink; stigma bifid, papillose. *Capsules* brown, sub-cylindric, c. 3 mm long. *Seeds* many; testa brown, reticulate. Figs. 1 & 2.

RECOGNITION. *Canscora shrirangiana* resembles *C. pauciflora* in having lax cymes, pedicellate flowers and striated calyx but differs in having linear to lanceolate leaves, uniformly thick pedicel,

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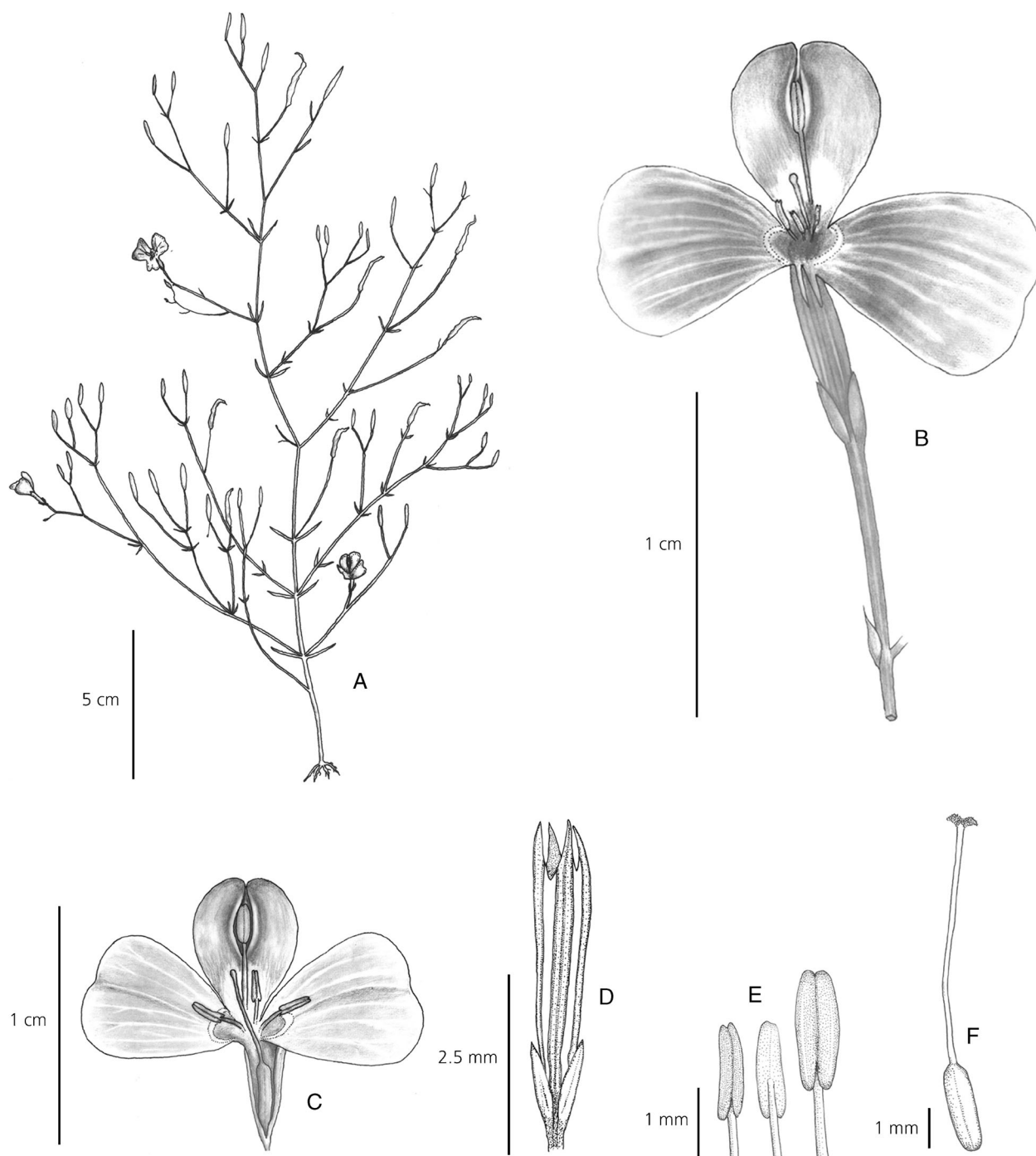


Fig. 1. *Canscora shrirangiana*. A habit; B & C flower; D calyx; E stamens; F carpel. From S. S. Kambale & R. R. Kolte 352 and A. S. Deshpande 322. DRAWN BY ANUP DESHPANDE.

obovate petals with white veins, filaments attached to the base of corolla lobes, and style 3 times longer than ovary (vs ovate to lanceolate leaves, pedicel thickened below the calyx, orbicular petals without white veins, filaments attached at the mouth of corolla tube, style as long as ovary or slightly longer than ovary as in *C. pauciflora*). See Table 1.

DISTRIBUTION. India, Goa. *Canscora shrirangiana* is so far known from only three localities.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. INDIA. Goa, Mopa, 171 m alt., 29 Nov. 2015, S. S. Kambale & R. R. Kolte 352 (holotype CAL; isotypes BSI, Goa University Herbarium, K, SUK); Taleigaon, Goa University Campus, 56 m alt., 30 Nov. 2015, A. S. Deshpande 322 (Goa University,



Fig. 2. *Canscora shirangiana*. A habit; B flower; C inflorescence; D calyx; E L.S. of flower; F carpel. PHOTOS: ANUP DESHPANDE.

Herbarium); Amona, 12 Dec. 2015, S. S. Kambale & R. R. Kolte 220 (SUK).

HABITAT & ASSOCIATES. The new species grows on exposed lateritic plateaus at an elevation from 56 – 171 m in

association with *Celosia argentea* L. (Amaranthaceae), *Dimeria woodrowii* Stapf. (Poaceae), *Glyphochloa henryi* Janarth., V. C. Joshi, S. Rajkumar (Poaceae) and *Lepidagathis lutea* Dalzell (Acanthaceae).

Table 1. Comparison of morphological attributes of *Canscora pauciflora* and *C. shrirangiana*.

Attributes	<i>Canscora pauciflora</i>	<i>Canscora shrirangiana</i>
Leaves	ovate to lanceolate	linear to lanceolate
Pediceal	sharply quadrangular	cylindrical to bluntly quadrangular
Petals	orbicular, without white veins	obovate, with white veins
Filament attachment	at the mouth of corolla tube	at the base of corolla lobes,
Style	as long as ovary or slightly longer than ovary	3 times longer than ovary

CONSERVATION STATUS. Extent of occurrence of *Canscora shrirangiana* is estimated to be less than 100 km². It can be considered as Critically Endangered: CR B1ab (i-v) (IUCN 2012). The type locality, Mopa, is a proposed airport site. Hence, the populations therein are under threat. However, other than that authors have collected the species from 3 – 4 different localities in Goa. Habitat modification due to Bauxite mining is also one of the threats to the species, because it will affect the area, extent and/or quality of habitat.

PHENOLOGY. Flowering from October to December; fruiting in December.

ETYMOLOGY. The specific epithet honours Prof. Shrirang Ramchandra Yadav, Retd. Professor and UGC-BSR Faculty Fellow, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his tremendous contributions in the field of Angiosperm Taxonomy and Conservation of Rare plants from the Western Ghats.

NOTES. Usually *Canscora* species prefer to grow in shady places but in contrast to this habitat type, *C. shrirangiana* grows on exposed rocky plateaus. This species seems to have been considered as *C. pauciflora* by earlier researchers (Shahina & Nampy 2014; Rao 1986); however, *C. pauciflora* and *C. shrirangiana* occur sympatrically on exposed rocky plateaus. Therefore, we prefer to treat these readily distinguished taxa as different species.

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