

Short Communication

A New Record of Yellow Flowered *Capparis decidua* (Forsk.) Edgew. from Jaisalmer

R.S. Mertia

Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jaisalmer 345 001, India.

The first scientific investigation on floristic composition of Jaisalmer district was conducted by Mertia (1976). The author recently observed and has collected the specimen of yellow flowered *Capparis decidua* plants for the first time in the Indian desert. The flowers with yellow colour do not differ in morphological characters with those of brick-red coloured flowers, which is the common colour of the flowers in this species. Another interesting feature is the time of flowering. It has been observed that besides its two flowering seasons (March-April and August-October) the plants with brick-red flowers produce profuse flowers with the onset of summer, whereas yellow flowered plants produce profuse flowering in the post-monsoon period (October-December). However, the fruits collected from plants of brick-red and yellow colour flowers do not differ in their seed characters.

Taxonomic description

Capparis decidua (Forsk.) Edgew. In Journal of Linnean Society 6: 184. 1862; Pax in E. & P., Pflanzenf. 3(2): 231. F. 139. 189; BH. 26(1): 22. 1918; *Sodada decidua* Forsk. Fl. Aegypt. Arab. 81. 1775;

Capparis aphylla Roth. Nov. Pl. Sp. 238. 1821; Hook. F. & Thomas in FBI. 1 : 174, 1872.

A much branched, leafless (except in young plants), small tree or a glabrous shrub. Leaves simple, caducous; stipular thorns 4-5 mm long. Flowers 2.4 cm in diameter, bright yellow in terminal fascicles or corymbose cymes. Sepals petaloid, anterior saccate. Petals 4. Stamens 10-18, filaments unequal. Ovary glabrous, gynophores 11-14 mm long. Fruit berry, ovoid to subglobose, 0.6-1.4 mm in diameter, many-seeded, beaked. Fl. : Mar. - Apr. and also October - November. Fr.: May - Nov or Dec. The plant flowers twice a year, but profusely in the post-monsoon period.

Specimens examined: JAISALMER, KANOD; 104, 105 and THAIYAT, 150, 151.

References

- Adams, A. 1899. *The Western Rajputana States*. London. Taylor and Francis.
Bhandari, M.M. 1978. *Flora of the Indian Desert*. Scientific Publisher Jodhpur. India.
Blatter, E.J. and Hallberg, F. 1918-1921. The flora of the Indian desert (Jodhpur and Jaisalmer).



Fig. 1. Yellow flower of *Capparis decidua*.

Journal of Bombay Natural History Society 26: 218-246.

Jain, S.K. and Kotwal, N.N. 1960. A note on some little known plants from Rajasthan. *Science and Culture* 26: 191-192.

Sarup, S. 1951. A list of some common plants of Jodhpur and its neighbourhood. *University of Rajputana Studies (Bioscience)* 1: 29-35.