



***Macroptilium atropurpureum* (Fabaceae), A New Record for Gujarat State**

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ABSTRACT: *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (Moç. & Sessé ex DC.) Urb., is earlier known only from Delhi, North India and Maharashtra in Western India is recorded for the first time from the Gujarat State. A detailed description and a photograph are provided.

Keywords: *Macroptilium atropurpureum*, New Record, Gujarat

INTRODUCTION

Macroptilium (Benth.) Urb. a tropical American genus, introduced and cultivated elsewhere; represented by c. 20 species, of which 2 species are so far reported from India (Sanjappa, 1992). During recent field visits in backyard of FES Campus, Anand district in Gujarat, India, the authors have collected specimens of a species of this genus. On critical examination and perusal of literature (Patel, 1971; Shah, 1978; Raghavan *et al.*, 1981; Shetty *et al.*, 1987; Singh *et al.*, 2000; Sanjappa, 1922), it was identified as *Macroptilium atropurpureum* (Moç. & Sessé ex DC.) Urb., hitherto known from Delhi and Maharashtra. Therefore, the present collection is a new distributional record for Gujarat State.

Macroptilium atropurpureum (Moç. & Sessé ex DC.) Urb. Symb. Antill. 9: 457 (1928); Sanjappa, Legumes of India 206 (1991). *Phaseolus atropurpureus* DC. Prodr. 2: 395 (1825).

Twining or creeping perennial, ± densely hairy herbs. Stems rooting at the nodes, densely covered with fine retrorse hairs. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate; leaflets 1.0–5.0 × 1.5–5.0 cm, broadly ovate or rhombic, the laterals often lobed on the outer side, pubescent above, silvery velvety beneath; petiole 0.5–5 cm long;

stipules 4–5 mm long, ovate-acuminate, strongly veined. Inflorescences lax, 10–30 cm long, long-pedunculate, erect; bracteoles 2–3 mm long, linear. Calyx 7–8 mm long, tubular; lower lobes 2–3 mm long, narrowly triangular. Corolla 17–20 mm long; wings blackish-purple. Pod 6–9 × 0.3–0.4 cm, linear, beaked, densely appressed-pubescent, c.12–15-seeded. Seeds marbled brown and black, 4 mm long, oblong-ellipsoid, pitted.

Flowering & Fruiting: February–May

Distribution: Widely naturalized in Anand district of Gujarat state in disturbed habitat, most often in cultivated fields.

Specimens examined: SLP 1826, 1827 (Jahangirpura), 1828, 1829 (Khambhat).

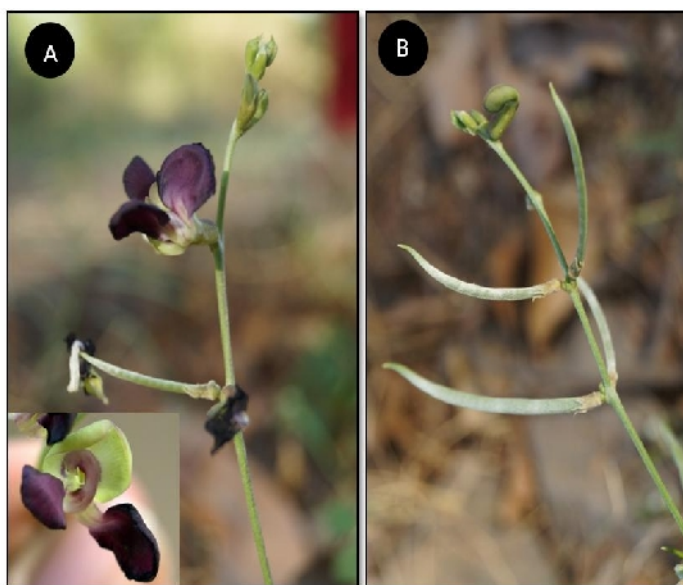
Note: In general appearance the species has grayish leaves, erect peduncles and looks generally like a very dark, almost black-flowered *Vigna*.

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Leaf Morphological Variation in *Macroptilium atropurpureum* Urb.



Flowering and Fruiting Twig of *Macroptilium atropurpureum* Urb : A) inflorescence (with inset flower) B) fruiting twig

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