

CLEOME PAKISTANICA (CAPPARIDACEAE) - A NEW ENDEMIC SPECIES FROM PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The subsp. *pakistanica* of *Cleome heratensis* Bunge et Bien. Ex Boiss., is raised to species level as *Cleome pakistanica* (Jafri) S. Khatoon & A. Perveen.

Introduction

Jafri (1973) in the Flora of Pakistan described a new subspecies of *Cleome heratensis* Bunge et Bien. ex Boiss., and named it as subsp. *pakistanica* Jafri. On careful comparison of the original descriptions of *C. heratensis* and *C. heratensis* subsp. *pakistanica*, the latter is found to deserve the rank of a distinct species. Therefore we are giving here the following combination:

Cleome pakistanica (Jafri) S. Khatoon & A. Perveen status novum.

Basionym: *Cleome heratensis* Bunge et Bien. ex Boiss., subsp. *pakistanica* Jafri, Fl. W. Pak. 34: 25, 1973 (Fig. 6, B-D).

Taxonomical note: *Cleome pakistanica* differs from *Cleome heratensis* by being an undershrub, short or absent style, frequently unifoliolate leaves which are too small and scanty, giving the plant a leafless look, and linear-oblong obtuse petals. On the other hand, *C. heratensis* is an annual herb with trifoliolate leaves, with oblong-lanceolate and acute petals; confined to Afghanistan and Iran.

Conservation status: *Cleome pakistanica* has not been collected after the type specimen. In fact this species is known only from the type specimen (V.P. Dutta 5-RAW) collected from Nuskhi (Balochistan) in 1934. It is therefore a narrow and rare endemic species (Fig. 1).

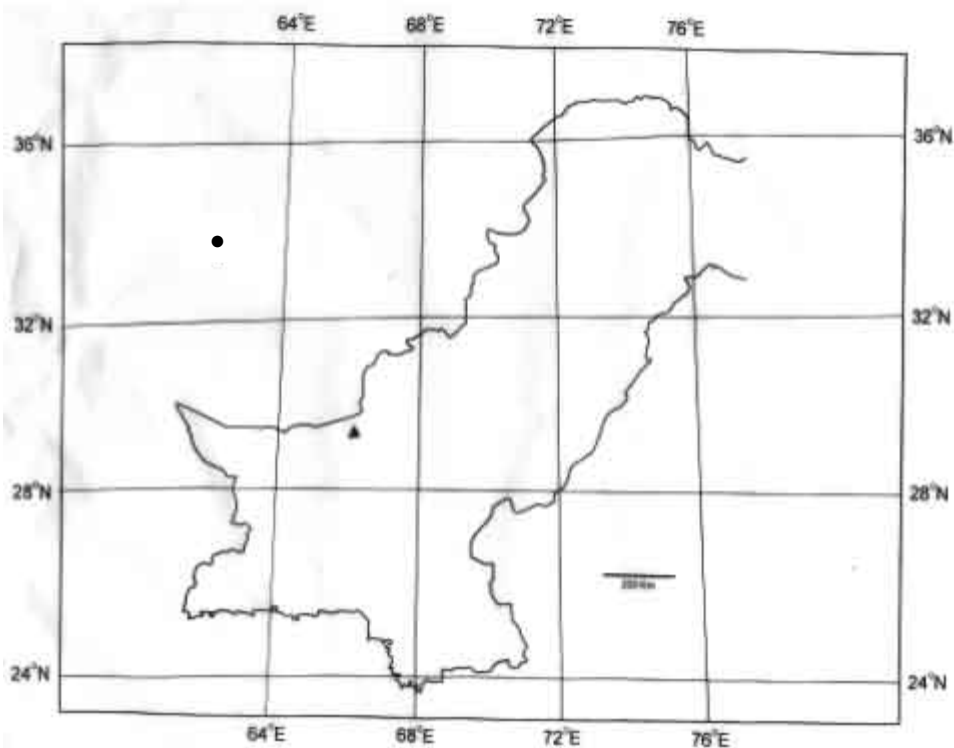


Fig. 1. Distribution map of *Cleome pakistanica* (▲) and *Cleome heratensis* (●).

Fig. 1. Distribution map of *Cleome pakistanica* (▲) and *Cleome heratensis* (●).

Reference

Jafri, S.M. 1973. Capparidaceae. In: Nasir, E. & Ali, S.I. (eds.). *Flora of Pakistan*, 34: 1-6.

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