

## *Salvadora alii* (Salvadoraceae): A new record for India

Shaikh Mujaffar\*, C.M. Solanki<sup>1</sup> and S. Ray<sup>1</sup>

Opp. Urdu-Hindi School, Ghaspura, Khandwa – 450 001, Madhya Pradesh, India.

<sup>1</sup>P.M.B. Gujarati Science College, Indore – 452 001, Madhya Pradesh, India.

\*E-mail: shaikhmujaffar@gmail.com

### Abstract

*Salvadora alii* Rajput & Syeda, a species recently described from Pakistan, collected for the first time from the state of Madhya Pradesh forms an addition to the Salvadoraceae flora of India. A brief description with illustration and photograph is provided for easy identification.

**Keywords:** India, Madhya Pradesh, New Record, Salvadoraceae, *Salvadora alii*

### Introduction

Salvadoraceae are a small family comprising of 3 genera and c. 10 species distributed mainly in the warm and dry regions of Old World (Mabberley, 2008). Four species of *Salvadora* are distributed from warmer parts of Africa to tropical Asia (Mabberley, 2008). Two species, viz., *S. oleoides* Decne. and *S. persica* L. are reported from India (Hooker, 1882; Cooke, 1904; Bhandari, 1978; Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2001). *Salvadora persica* is the only species reported from Madhya Pradesh (Khanna *et al.*, 1997).

During floristic exploration in various parts of Madhya Pradesh, a few specimens of *Salvadora* were collected from Burhanpur district. On critical study of literature (Quereshi, 1972; Tahir *et al.*, 2010), the specimens were identified as *Salvadora alii* Rajput & Syeda, a species hitherto unrecorded from India. Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the flora of India. A brief description along with illustration and photographs is provided to facilitate easy identification of this species in field.

### Key to species of *Salvadora* in India

1. Leaves linear; berries pinkish red when ripe  
 ..... **S. oleoides**
1. Leaves ovate or lanceolate; berries white or reddish brown ..... **2**
2. Leaves lanceolate; pollen grains tricolporate; berries white ..... **S. alii**
2. Leaves ovate; pollen grains tricolpate; berries reddish brown ..... **S. persica**

*Salvadora alii* Rajput & Syeda, Pak. J. Bot. 42: 63. 2010. **Fig. 1**

Shrubs or small trees, scandent, evergreen; branches drooping. Stems erect, terete, glaucous. Leaves simple, opposite-decussate, lanceolate, 4 – 6 × 1 – 3 cm, cuneate at base, entire at margins, mucronate at apex, coriaceous, glabrous, 3-nerved; stipules ovate, 0.1 mm long, caducous; petioles 1 – 2.5 mm long, thick. Inflorescences a compound, lax panicle, axillary or terminal, 5 – 20 cm long. Flowers bisexual, actinomorphic, 0.2 – 0.3 mm long; pedicels slender, c. 0.2 mm long; bracts ovate, acute at apex, minute, green, caducous. Calyx 4-lobed; lobes rounded, c. 0.1 mm, thick, greenish. Corolla 4-lobed; lobes oblong, c. 0.2 mm long, obtuse, deeply cleft, inflexed, persistent. Stamens 4, free, exerted; anthers oblong, c. 0.1 mm long, green; pollen grains spheroidal, tricolporate; colpi elongated, broad, elliptical. Ovary globose, c. 0.1 mm, thick, glabrous, light green, 1-loculed; style absent; stigma capitate. Fruits a berry, globose, smooth, greenish, white when ripe; seed 1, globose, 4 – 4.5 × 0.1 – 0.3 mm, smooth, roughly brown.

*Local Names:* Mishwak, Pilu.

*Flowering & Fruiting:* January – April.

*Habitat:* On sandy soil and old forts.

*Distribution:* Pakistan and now in India from Madhya Pradesh (old forts near banks of Tapti river, Jainabad and Rajghat); rare.

*Specimens examined:* INDIA, **Madhya Pradesh**, Jainabad, Rajghat, 31.3.2011, Shaikh Mujaffar s.n. (BSIA).

*Note:* *Salvadora alii* can be easily distinguished from *S. persica* by its ovate leaves with cuneate base and

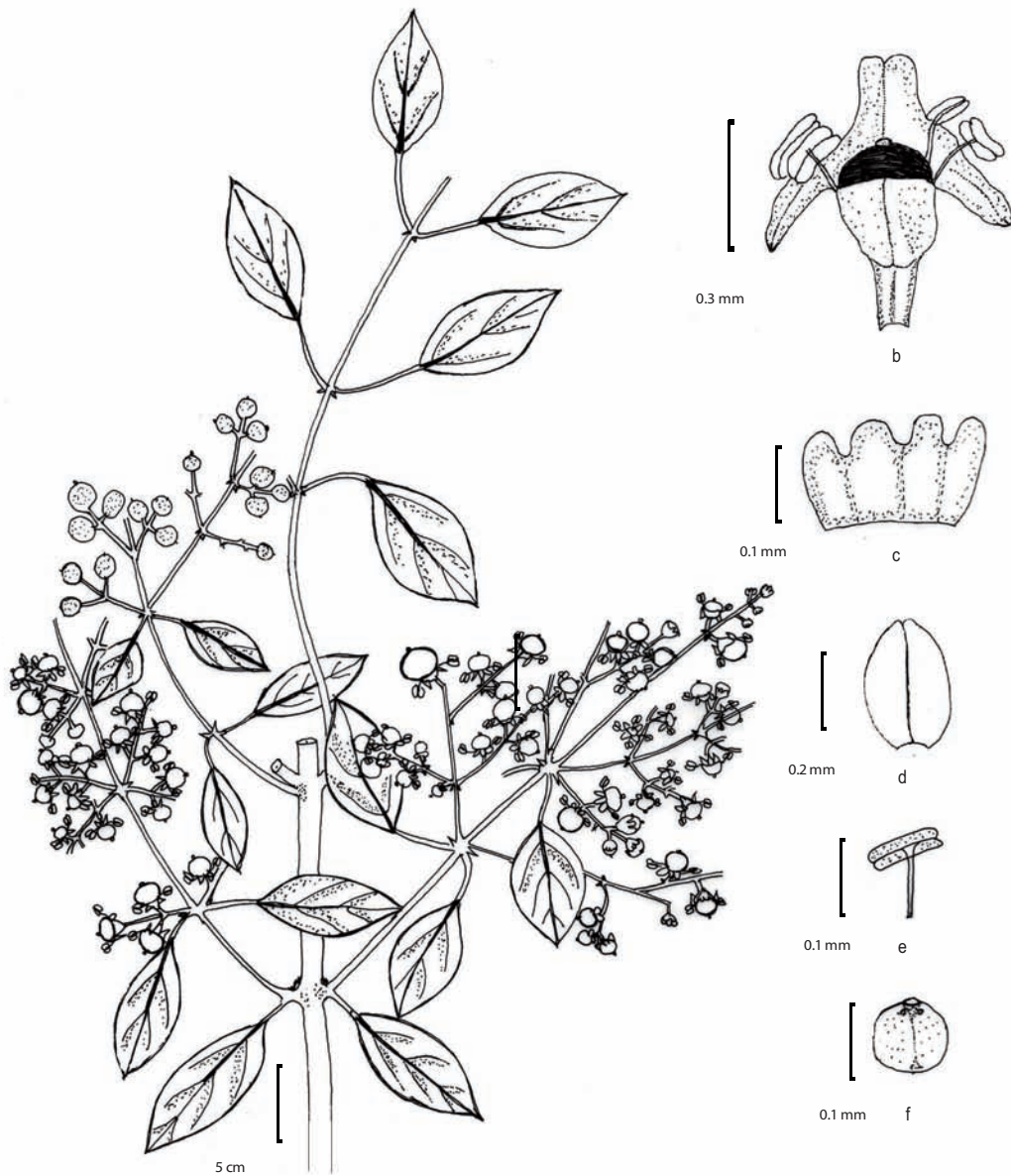


Fig. 1. *Salvadora alii* Rajput & Syeda: a. A twig; b. Flower; c. Calyx; d. Corolla; e. Stamen; f. Seed.

white berries, where as, in *S. persica*, the leaves are lanceolate with rounded base and berries are red-dish brown on ripening.

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