

DACTYLIANDRA (HOOK.F.) HOOK.F. (CUCURBITACEAE) --- A NEW GENERIC RECORD FROM PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Dactyliandra welwitschii Hook.f. (Cucurbitaceae) is collected and identified, in the Hub river vicinity in Kirther Range, Pakistan. This constitutes the first record of the genus *Dactyliandra* from Pakistan.

Key-words: Cucurbitaceae, *Dactyliandra*, New record,

Dactyliandra (Hook.f.) Hook.f. (family Cucurbitaceae) is a small genus of two species, one distributed in Kenya and the other (*D. welwitschii* Hook.f.) with a disjunct distribution hitherto known from Namib (S.W. Africa) and Rajasthan in India (Mabberly, 2005). However, in a recent survey of the Hub river vicinity upstream the Hub Dam, specimens of *D. welwitschii* (Fig.1A, B, C) have been collected from the part of Kirther Range lying along Hub river. This constitutes the first record of the genus *Dactyliandra* from Pakistan.



Fig. 1. *Dactyliandra welwitschii*: Close-ups of A. Female flower, B. Male flower, C. Fruit,

Dactyliandra resembles *Ctenolepis* Hook.f. in having a stipule like leaf at the base of petiole, but differs from the latter in having corolla lobes 2 – 3 mm long, duplicate anther thecae and greater number (9 – 14) of angular seeds per fruit; while in *Ctenolepis*, corolla lobes are up to 1 mm long, anther thecae are short, linear, and only two large plano-convex or concavo-convex ovoid seeds with smooth outline, per fruit (Jeffrey, 1967). *Dactyliandra welwitschii* particularly resembles *Ctenolepis cerasiformis* (Stocks) Hook.f. in the general outlook, and correct differentiation may be difficult in the absence of flowers and mature fruit.

According to Bhandari (1990), *D. welwitschii* occurs in the Rajasthan and Gujarat states in India. Jafri (1966) had expressed the likelihood of the occurrence of *D. welwitschii* in the Flora of Karachi area, though he actually did not find it.

Specimens examined

Kirthar National Park, about 13 km from Hub Dam – KNP turning, 25° 18.055 N, 67° 10.98 E, Sept. 15, 2006, S. Khatoon, Q. M. Ali, & M. Imran 1535; On way to Kirthar National Park 3 km from Hub Dam – KNP turning, on stony plateau catchment area along a seasonal rivulet, Sept. 22, 2006, S. Khatoon & Arshad 1629, 1639; *Ibidem*, Oct. 8, 2006, Zaheer Abbas & S. Khatoon s.n.

All these specimens are housed in the Karachi University Herbarium (KUH).

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