

1949: 172-175. 1949). Henry's duplicate collections are available at the Central National Herbarium and it is proposed to designate Henry 11625 (CAL) as the Lectotype of *Maesa castaneifolia* Mez. On critical study of several unidentified herbarium specimens at the Central National Herbarium, it is seen that this species occurs in Sikkim and Assam in Eastern India and incidentally is being reported for the first time in the Flora of India. The nomenclature and distribution of the species

is given below. An illustration of the species is given for the purpose of ready identification as Mez (l.c.) did not provide any diagram of this species.

Maesa castaneifolia Mez in Pflanzenr. 9 (iv. 238): 44. 1902. [Lectotype Henry 11625 Collector (CAL).]

Distribution: INDIA: Assam, Golaghat, Feb. 1891, G. Mann. s.n. (CAL); Ibid. Dr. King's Collector s.n. (CAL); SIKKIM: Mungpoo, Sine Collector (CAL).

CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM,
BOTANIC GARDEN P.O.,
HOWRAH-711103,
December 24, 1976.

M. P. NAYAR
G. S. GIRI

33. *ALYSICARPUS OVALIFOLIUS* (SCHUMACH.) J. LEONARD— A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

(With a text-figure)

Alysicarpus ovalifolius was collected while surveying different areas of Gujarat state, for species of *Alysicarpus* for cytological studies. The species is not recorded in floristic works of India. In this note we report the occurrence of this interesting species for the first time.

Alysicarpus ovalifolius (Schumach.) J. Leonard in Bull. Jard. Bot. Brux. 24:88, fig. 11 (1954)—Verdc., Fl. Zam., Kirkia 9 (Part II):7547, (1974).

= *Hedysarum ovalifolium* Schumach., Beskr. Guin. pl. 1359, (1827).

Erect or spreading herb reaching 20-50 cm in height, branches rooting at nodes with longer internodes, pubescent, later almost glabrous. Leaves unifoliolate, leaflets elliptic to oblong, 1-6 cm long, 0.9-1.0 cm broad, acute and mucronulate at the apex, base subcordate, finely puberulous on the nerves beneath; Petioles

0.5-1.5 cm long, channelled on the upper side; Stipules lanceolate, 0.6-1.2 cm long, striate and acuminate. Inflorescence terminal or leaf opposed lax racemes with usually seven pairs of flowers; peduncles 2.5-3.5 cm long; pedicels 1.0-2.0 mm long; bracts ovate to lanceolate 4.0-5.0 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm broad, acuminate deciduous. Calyx puberulous, tube 0.8-1.2 mm long, teeth narrow 3.5-4.5 mm long; 0.5-1.0 mm broad. Corolla excluded, standard pink to orange buff, 4.0-5.0 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, wings purplish, keels pale pink. Stamens diadelphus. Ovary pubescent, style (1/3 from its base) bearded with long hairs. Pods 1.0-3.0 cm long, exerted, joints 5-7, flattened, 2.0-3.0 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide with raised reticulate ridges, puberulous. Seeds brown, ellipsoid, slightly compressed with reddish black patches.

The plant was found growing in the University Campus and Laxmi Vilas Palace compound at Baroda.

Flowering time: August—September.

Fruiting time: September—October.

Herbarium specimens Nos.: S-112, 113, 114, 115, 116.

Critical notes: *Alysicarpus ovalifolius* (Schumach.) J. Leon. is widespread in tropical Africa, Madagascar and Asia (See Verdcourt, *Kirkia* 9 (Part II): 548 (1974). It resembles *A. vaganalis*, but differs from it in being an annual, having laxer inflorescences with longer distance between the pairs of flowers.

We are grateful to Dr. R. M. Polhill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, for confirming the identification of the plant.

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February 2, 1977.

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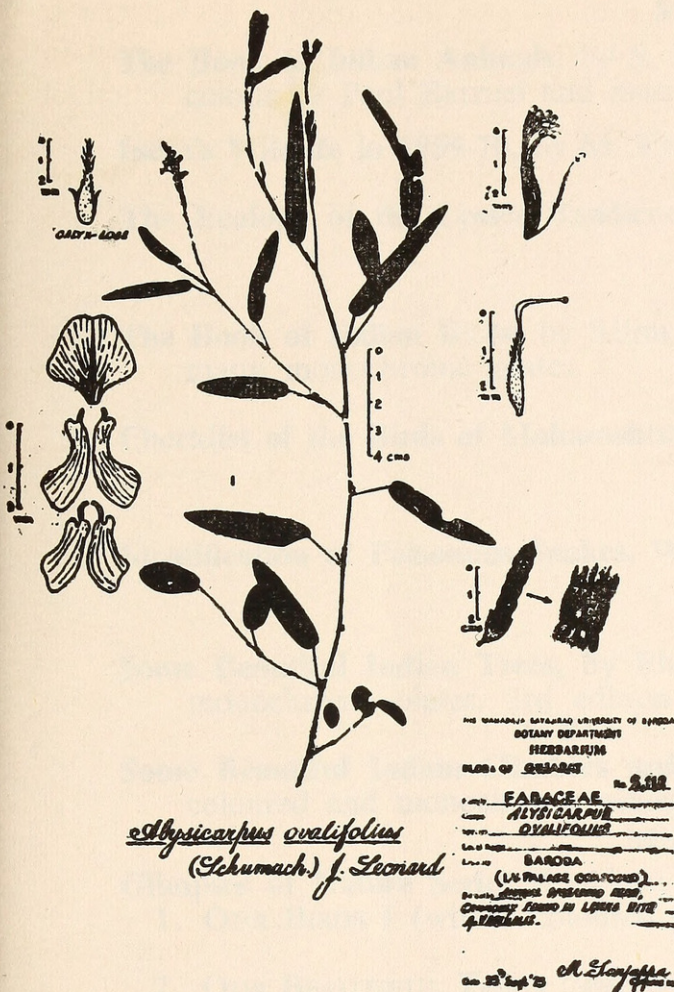


Fig. 1. *Alysicarpus ovalifolius* (Schumach.)
J. Leonard.



Sanjappa, M. and Bhatt, R. P. 1978. "Alysicarpus Ovalifolius (Schumach.) J. Leonard - a new Record for India." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 75, 254–255.

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