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.



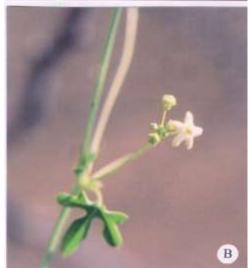




Fig. 1. Dactyliandra welwitschii: Close-ups of A. Female flower, B. Male flower, C. Fruit,

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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

Kirther 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 Kirther 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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