Vigna sathishiana (Fabaceae): A New Species from Southern Western Ghats, India

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(Accepted on February 24, 2017)

Vigna sathishiana A. P. Balan & S. V. Predeep, a new species of the genus Vigna Savi of the sect. Ceratotropis (Fabaceae) is described and illustrated from the southern Western Ghats of India. The diagnostic morphological characters, detailed description, illustration and images are presented with notes on habitat, ecology and conservation status.

**Key words:** Fabaceae, India, new species, Vigna, Western Ghats.

Vigna Savi (Fabaceae) is a large pantropical genus with 104 species (Lewis et al. 2005) in seven subgenera viz. Ceratotropis, Haydonia, Lasiospron, Macrorhynchus, Plectotropis, Sigmoidotropis and Vigna (Marechal et al. 1978). The subgenus Ceratotropis (Piper) Verdc., also known as Asian Vigna, has its centre of diversity in Asia with 21 species (Tomooka et al. 2002). The genus has commercial potential as sources of pulses and forage crops and has a complex taxonomy because of its complex floral characters and close relationship with the genus Phaseolus L. Floral characteristics like size of keel petal pocket, twisting of beak, nature of style and stigma, nature of pod trichomes, number, size, shape and surface nature of seeds, etc. are significant characters in determination of the species. Babu et al. (1987) revised the tribe Phaseoleae for India and recognized 23 species of Vigna in the country. Recently, Vigna trilobata (L.) Verdc. var. pusilla Naik & Pokle was elevated to the rank of species and named Vigna indica (Dixit et al. 2011). Similarly, Aitawade et al. (2012) elevated Vigna mungo var. sylvestris Lukoki, Marechal & Octoual to the rank of species. They also added a new species to the genus, Vigna sahyadriana Aitawade, K. V. Bhat & S. R. Yadav from the northern Western Ghats. Vigna yadavii Gaikwad, Gore, Randive & Garad (Gaikwad et al. 2014) and Vigna pandeyana Gore, S. P. Gaikwad & Randive (Gaikwad et al. 2015) are two other species recently discovered from northern Western Ghats. Latha et al. (2014) described a new species, Vigna konkanensis Latha, K. V. Bhat, I. S. Bisht, Scariah, Joseph John & Krishnaraj, from the west coast of India. While exploring the legume flora of Western Ghats, the first author collected some interesting Vigna specimens from the Kallar dam site of Idukki district in Kerala state. Critical study with the literature (Baker 1876, Gamble 1918, Verdcourt 1970, Marechal et al. 1978, Babu et al.
A. P. Balan*, S. V. Predeepb, P. S. Udayanc：インド・西ガーツ山脈南部からの1新種, Vigna sathishiana（マメ科）


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