

FLORA OF NEPAL NOTULAE III: *ISODON LOPHANTHOIDES* VAR. *SESSILIS* PENDRY (LAMIACEAE), A NEW VARIETY FROM NEPAL

C. A. Pendry

A new variety of *Isodon lophanthoides* (Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don) H.Hara is described and a key to the varieties of this species in Nepal is presented.

Keywords. *Isodon*, *Isodon lophanthoides* var. *sessilis*, Nepal, new variety.

Received 9 July 2018 Accepted 25 February 2020 Published 2 June 2021

Introduction

In 1980, D. G. Long annotated *Hara* et al. 6306482 (BM) and 6306483 (BM), with their sessile, coarsely toothed leaves, as a possible new species of *Plectranthus*, most species of which have since been transferred to *Isodon* (Hara, 1985; Li, 1988). These collections were made in Sunsari District in eastern Nepal. In 1990, I. C. Hedge annotated *Williams & Stainton* 8514 (BM), an immature specimen from Jhapa District, also in eastern Nepal, and noted that although it was probably a new species of *Plectranthus*, flowers were needed to confirm this.

Hedge had apparently not seen the specimens annotated by Long, nor the duplicate of *Hara* et al. 6306483 at E, which has good flowers. Examination of these flowers showed that with their narrow corolla tubes and exerted stamens, they are indistinguishable from those of *Isodon lophanthoides* (Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don) H.Hara. The sessile leaves on these specimens are quite unlike those of other collections from either of the currently recognised varieties of *Isodon lophanthoides* var. *lophanoides* and var. *graciliflorus* (Suddee et al., 2004). Therefore, the specimens are described here as a new variety: *Isodon lophanthoides* var. *sessilis* Pendry.

Taxonomic description

Isodon lophanthoides var. *sessilis* Pendry

Variety of *Isodon lophanthoides* (Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don) H.Hara distinguished from the other varieties by its sessile rather than petiolate leaves. – Type: Nepal. Sunsari: Sanguri Bhanjang – Dhara Pani, 1000 m, 16 x 1963, *H. Hara* et al. 6306483 (holotype E; isotypes BM, TI).

Herb to 80 cm. *Stem* subglabrous to shortly, evenly pubescent. *Leaves* opposite, sessile, or rarely basal leaves petiolate to 7 mm, ovate, 4–10 × 2–6 cm, base cordate, apex acuminate,

rather coarsely serrate, shortly, evenly hairy above, hairy only on veins below, gland-spotted below. *Inflorescence* a lax terminal panicle of pedunculate cymes, to 50 × 20 cm. *Inflorescence bracts* leaf-like below, elliptic, entire, 3–12 mm above. *Peduncles* 5–12 mm, longer below. *Calyx* 1.5 mm, slightly 2-lipped, minutely pubescent on ribs or subglabrous, gland-spotted, teeth rounded, 0.5 mm. *Fruiting calyx* to 3 mm, teeth to 1 mm, slightly curving upwards. *Corolla* white with purple spots, 6 mm, straight at base, tube 4–4.5 mm, upper lip 1.5–2 mm, lobes 1–1.5 mm, lower lip 2 mm. *Stamens* exerted by 1.5–2 mm. Style 6–8 mm. *Nutlets* oblong, smooth, 0.8–1 mm.

Altitudinal range. 700–1300 m.

Ecology. Within forests and on forest margins.

Phenology. Flowering September to October, fruiting October to November.

Distribution. Endemic to Nepal.

Additional specimens examined. NEPAL. **Jhapa:** North of Chulachuli, 2500 ft, 15 ix 1967, L.H.J. Williams & J.D.A. Stainton 8514 (BM). **Ramechhap:** Near Ramechhap, 4000 ft, 8 x 1964, M.L. Banerji, T.B. Shrestha & A.V. Upadhyay 3038 (BM). **Sunsari:** Phusre, 16 x 1963, H. Hara et al. 6306482 (BM).

Key to the varieties of *Isodon lophanthoides* in Nepal

- 1a. Leaves sessile with cordate bases _____ var. *sessilis*
- 1b. Leaves petiolate with truncate or cuneate to attenuate, sometimes oblique bases ___ 2
- 2a. Herbs to 1(–1.5) m. Leaves 3–15 × 2–7 cm, base cuneate to attenuate, sometimes oblique _____ var. *graciliflorus*
- 2b. Herbs to 0.6 m. Leaves 2–5.5 × 1.5–4 cm, base cuneate to truncate, slightly attenuate _____ var. *lophanthoides*

Acknowledgements

The curators of BM and E are thanked for access to their specimens.

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is supported by the Scottish Government's Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division. RBGE is also grateful for the support of players of People's Postcode Lottery towards our scientific research.

References

- Hara H. 1985. Comments on the Asiatic plants (17). *Journal of Japanese Botany*. 60(8):230–239.
- Li HW. 1988. Taxonomic review of *Isodon* (Labiatae). *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum*. 69(4):289–400.
- Suddee S, Paton AJ, Parnell JAN. 2004. A taxonomic revision of tribe Ocimeae Dumort. (Lamiaceae) in Continental South East Asia I. Introduction, Hyptidinae & Hanceolinae. *Kew Bulletin*. 59(3):337–378.