

A NEW SPECIES OF *VIOLA* FROM PAKISTAN

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Abstract

A new species of *Viola* viz., *V. makranica* Omer & Qaiser from Pakistan is described.

While preparing an account of the family Violaceae for Flora of Pakistan, the authors came across with some specimens collected from Mand and its vicinity (Makran District, Pakistan), which at the first glance, appeared similar to *Viola stocksii* Boiss., however, a critical study of these specimens, revealed the existence of the following new species:

Viola makranica Omer & Qaiser sp. nov. Herba annua, corollae lobis et ovario exceptis omnino pubescens. Folia spathulato-ovata, 2.0–4.0 x 0.2–0.6 cm. Flores parvi, c. 5.0 mm diametro. Corollae segmenta c. 5.0 x 2.0 mm, quorum 4 aequalia, laterale longum; calcar brevis, 1–2 mm longus. Stylus glaber; stigma rostrate. Capsula elliptica, pubescens. Typus: 5.5 miles ab Mund, Mund-Turbat route, Abedin 960 (Holotypus KUH).

Annual herb, pubescent all over except the corolla lobes and the ovary, sub-prostrate to erect herb, up to 10 cm high. Stem simple or branched, branches spreading. Leaves spathulate-ovate, 2.0–4.0 x 0.2–0.6 cm, entire, apex obtuse or mucronulate; stipules free, linear-lanceolate, with fimbriate margin, 1.0–3.0 x 0.5–1.0 mm acute to acuminate. Flowers small, c. 5.0 mm in diameter, pedicels 3.0–4.0 mm long. Bracteoles 2, opposite, c. 4.0 mm long. Calyx segments lanceolate, aristate entire membranous 2.0–4.0 x 0.5–1.0 mm with cuneate base. Corolla segments c. 5.0 x 2.0 mm, 4 equal in size, lateral long; spur short, 1.2 mm long. Ovary glabrous, ovate 1–2 mm long, style 1–1.5 mm long, glabrous; stigma beaked. Capsule elliptic, c. 4.0–6.0 x c. 2.0 mm, acute, pubescent. Seeds obovoid, smooth and shiny (Fig. 1).

PAKISTAN. 5.5 miles from Mund, Mund-Turbat road, Abedin 960 (Holotype, KUH); 33 miles from Mund on way to Terrandezuk, Ali *et al.*, 1731 (KUH); 31 miles from Mund on way to Turbat, Ali & Faruqi, 1972 (KUH); 33 miles from Mund on way to Teerandezuk, Ali *et al.*, 1847 (KUH); 5 miles from Mund on way to Turbat, Ali *et al.*,

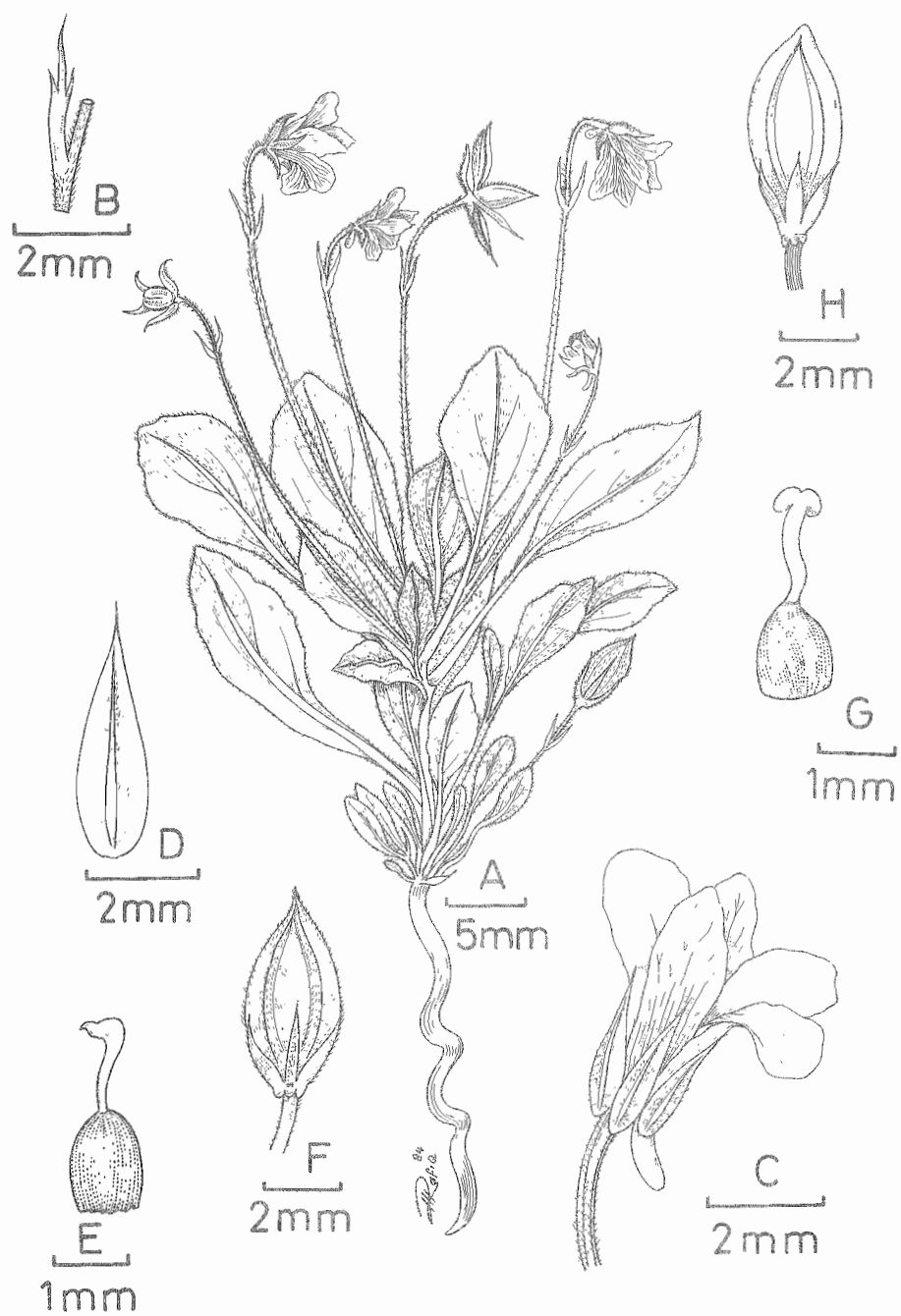


Fig. 1. *Viola makranica*: A. Habit; B. Stipule; C, Flower; D. Sepal; E. Carpel; F. Capsule; *Viola stock-sii*: G. Carpel; H. Capsule.

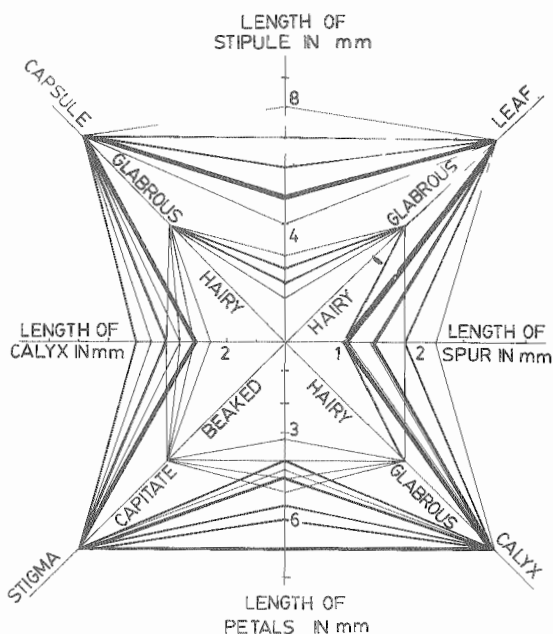


Fig. 2. Polygraph showing relationship between the two taxa.

1615 (KUH); about 5 miles from Mund on way to Suntsar, Ghafoor & Qaiser 267 (KUH); 10 miles from Turbat on way to Awaran, Ali *et al.*, 1550 (KUH); Turbat, Ali *et al.*, 785 (KUH).

DISTRIBUTION. Endemic to Makran (Pakistan).

Viola makranica Omer & Qaiser is closely related to *V. stocksii* Boiss., in habit, leaf size, flower colour, size and shape of calyx, corolla and spur. However, it is evident from the polygraph (Fig. 2) that it can readily be distinguished from *V. stocksii* Boiss., in having pubescence all over including the capsule, except corolla lobes and ovary, and beaked stigma (Figs. 1 & 2), while in *V. stocksii* Boiss., all the parts of the plants are totally glabrous and the stigma is capitate. The new species is also related to *V. cinerea* Boiss., in being pubescent all over and in having shorter (1.0–2.5 mm long) spur, but *V. makranica* Omer & Qaiser is annual with beaked stigma and with non-ashy white pubescence on plant parts.

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