



***Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. (Plantaginaceae): A new record to the Flora of Gujarat State, India**

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ABSTRACT: *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. (Synonyms: *Antirrhinum orontium* L.) is reported for the first time from Sabarkantha district of Gujarat State. It occurs as a weed in Vijaynagar taluka of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat. It is a herbaceous annual plant of the family Plantaginaceae (earlier Scrophulariaceae). It is a native of disturbed ground in Europe. This species is a new record in the area and also from the State. A taxonomic account of *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. also given for further taxonomic studies. An illustration of plant with photographs and herbarium sheet are also provided for further confirmation and identification of this species.

Key words: *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf., Plantaginaceae, New record, Gujarat, India.

INTRODUCTION

The district Sabarkantha is situated in the North-Eastern part of Gujarat State between 23.03°-24.30° N latitudes, and 72.43°-73.39° E longitudes. River Sabarmati flows North-South as a western boundary. Sabarkantha district is rich in floristic diversity and now well explored by various workers. It is one of the tribal districts of the Gujarat State. During one of our regular floristic surveys, few specimens of *Misopates* were collected from the cultivated field in Vijaynagar taluka of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat State. On the critical examination, these specimens were confirmed as *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. This species has not been reported from Gujarat State (Cook, 1901-1908; Saxton & Sedgwick, 1918; Saxton, 1922; Santapau, 1962; Yogi, 1970; Shah, 1978; BSI, 1981; Meena, 2012; Parmar, 2012) and therefore it forms a new distributional report to the State. Voucher specimens SKP-266 are deposited in Government Science College, Gandhinagar and BARO herbarium at The M. S. University, Baroda, Gujarat, India.

***Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf.: Fig. 1 & 2;** Annual herbs 20-50 cm tall; Stems erect, sparingly branched, glabrous to sparsely hirsute in lower parts, glandular pubescent in upper parts. Leaves linear to oblong-elliptic, 20-50 mm long, 2-7 mm wide, sessile. Flowers in lax, terminal racemes, pedicels very short in flower, elongating up to 4 mm long in fruit,

bracts similar to leaves but much smaller; calyx 10-17 mm long, the lobes linear, corolla pink, rarely white, 10-15 mm long, as long as or slightly shorter than calyx. Capsules ovoid, gibbous, glandular pubescent. Seeds somewhat flattened, one face smooth, keeled and prolonged into a narrow wing, the other face finely tuberculate, with a wide, raised, sinuate, papillose border.

Common names: Corn snapdragon, lesser-snapdragon, small snapdragon, weasel's-snout (The pink flowers resemble a miniature Snapdragon and are followed by a hairy green fruit which is said to resemble a weasel's snout.).

FLS & FRS: February - June

Exsiccata : SKP-266; Dt. 15/02/2014 (Vijaynagar, Dist. Sabarkantha)

Distribution: This plant is widespread in many areas around the world mainly in the continents of Africa, Europe and Asia. Madhyapradesh, Uttranchal, Rajasthan and now Gujarat in India

Field Notes: The field investigation revealed that this species found as a weed in cultivated field and the occurrence of the species is occasional. The population is confined to only two locality; Vijaynagar and Jessore Wildlife Sanctuary (Desai, 2013) with very few individuals. Explorations in the past two years could not locate the species from any other area.

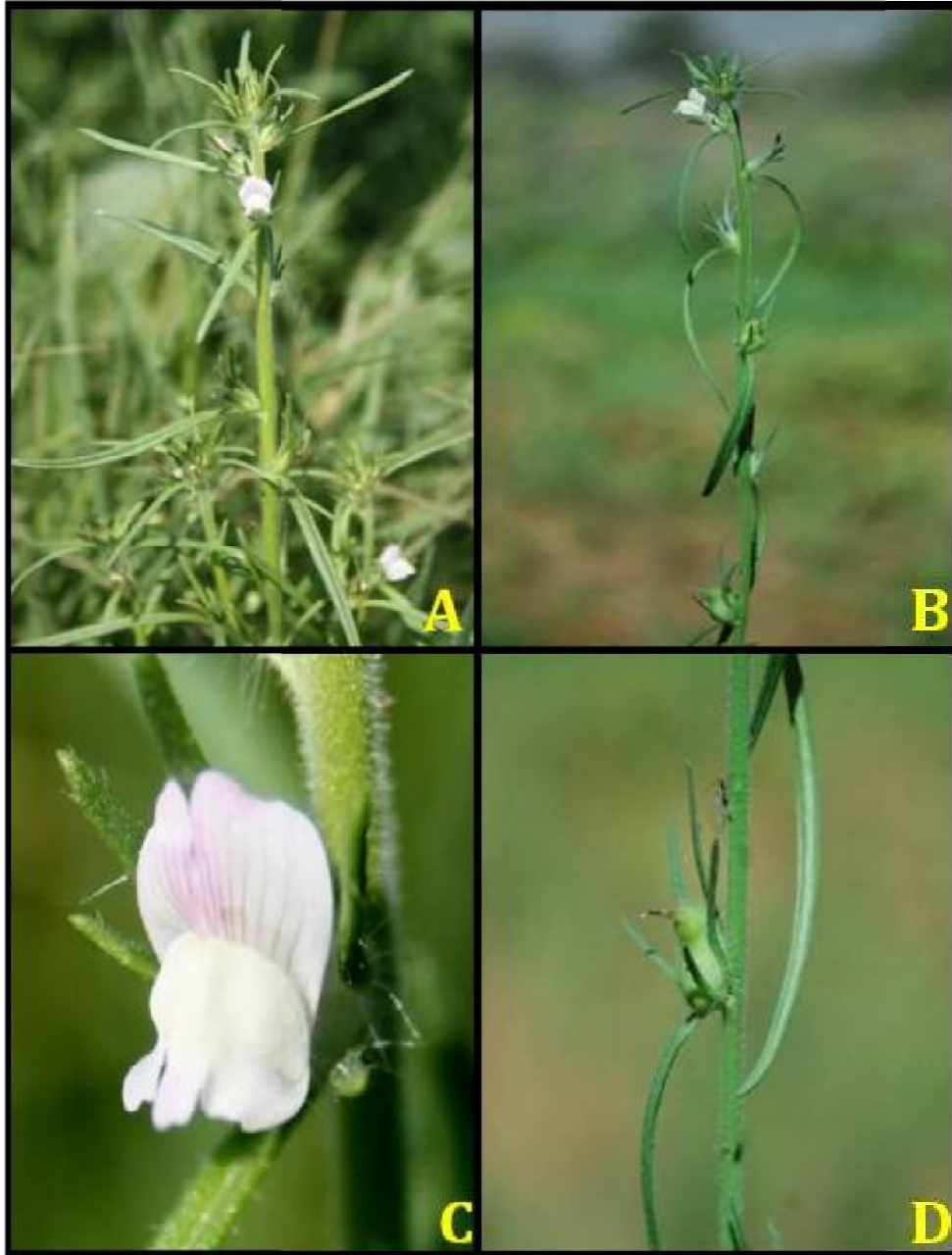


Fig. 1. *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf. A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C. Flower; D. Capsule.

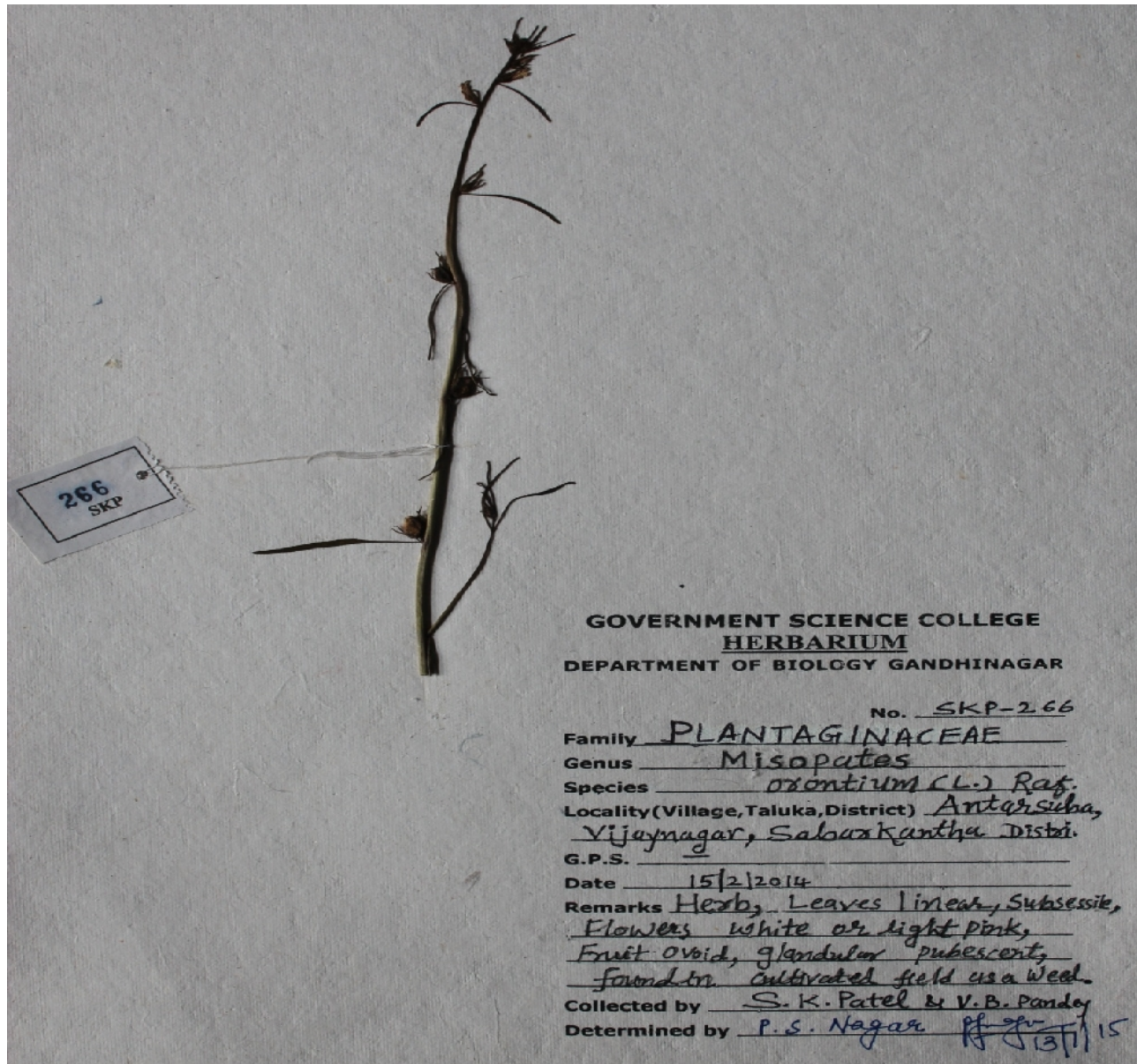


Fig. 2. *Misopates orontium* (L.) Raf.; Herbarium specimen.

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