

Short Communication

## *Dipcadi krishnadevarayae* B.R.P. Rao (Aspragaceae), a new record for Tamil Nadu, India

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### ABSTRACT

*Dipcadi krishnadevarayae* B.R.P. Rao an endemic geophyte of Andhra Pradesh is reported for the first time from the plains of Tamil Nadu. A detailed description based on the recent collection, photographs and relevant notes are provided for easy identification.

**Key words:** Addition, Asparagaceae, Endemic, Geophyte

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dipcadi* Medikus, traditionally classified under family Liliaceae but recently under Asparagaceae, subfamily Scilloideae (APG, 2016). Globally, it is represented by 43 species, distributed in South Europe to Indian Subcontinent and Africa (POWO, 2021). According to the recent estimate, the genus *Dipcadi* is represented by 13 species and two varieties in India (modified after Chandore *et al.*, 2021) of which three taxa namely *D. coimbatorensis* V. Ravich., R. Kr. Singh & Murugan, *D. montanum* (Dalzell) Baker and *D. montanum* var. *madrasicum* (E. Barnes & C. E. C. Fisch.) Deb & S. Dasgupta are reported from the state of Tamil Nadu (Kumar *et al.*, 2013; Britto, 2019; Ravichandran *et al.*, 2020).

During a floristic survey in the plains of Tamil Nadu, we have collected some interesting geophyte from the plains of Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli District. Critical study with relevant literature (Rao *et al.*, 2016) revealed the identity as *D. krishnadevarayae* B.R.P. Rao, a geophyte so far not been reported from the state of Tamil Nadu. Hence a detailed taxonomic account and photoplate of the species is furnished below.

### TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT

*Dipcadi krishnadevarayae* B.R.P. Rao in J. Threat. Taxa 8(13): 9563. 2016. (Figure 1)

Erect, scapigerous herbs, up to 1m high (including scape); bulbs ovoid or ovoid-globose, 3.8–5.2 × 1.8–4.1 cm, white, glabrous. Leaves all basal, usually 3–4 per bulb with sheathing base, linear, 16–20-veined, 25–50 × 0.4–1.2 cm, apex acute, margin entire; sheaths broader and white, glabrous. Scapes erect, 30–90 cm long, slender, cylindrical. Racemes 20–40 cm long, 15–26 flowered. Flowers oblong or obovoid in bud, 10–13 × 7–9 mm, green when young, greenish-yellow at maturity, glossy, with dark green band on outside of the outer tepals. Pedicels 5–7 mm long. Bracts ovate, 6–12 × 2–6 mm, prominently 5–10 veined, usually longer than the pedicel rarely as long as the pedicel, membranous, scarious. Perianth in two whorls, 3+3, subequal. Outer tepals

longer than the inner tepals, 10–13 mm long; perianth-tube united, campanulate, up to 7 mm long; lobes narrowly oblong or oblong-obovate, 5–6 × 2–4 mm, acute and tubercled at apex. Inner tepals deltoid, 3.2 mm long, reflexed, acute and tubercled at apex. Stamens 6, inserted at throat of tube, epitepalous; anthers linear-oblong, 2.5–3 mm long. Ovary oblong-obovoid, 4–5 × 1.5–2 mm; style cylindrical, 4–5 mm long; stigma 3-lobed at maturity and each lobe further bilobed. Capsules sub-globose to obovoid, trigonous, deeply 3-lobed, 1–1.2 × 1 cm, narrowed at base, as broad as long, truncate at apex, stipitate, loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds 5–10 in each locule, uniseriate, horizontally stacked, sub-discoid or rarely ellipsoid, 5 mm across, brownish-black.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** July–August.

**Distribution:** INDIA (Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu [present report]), Endemic.

**Specimens examined:** Tamil Nadu: Pudukkottai Dist., Keeranur, 10° 37' 14'' N; 78° 45' 16'' E, 112 m, 24 July 2021, C. Rajasekar *et al.* 62 (Alagappa University Herbarium!); Tiruchirappalli Dist., Bharathidasan University campus, 10°40' 20'' N; 78°44' 12'' E, 24 July 2021, C. Rajasekar & R. Rajesh 100 (Bharathidasan University Herbarium!)

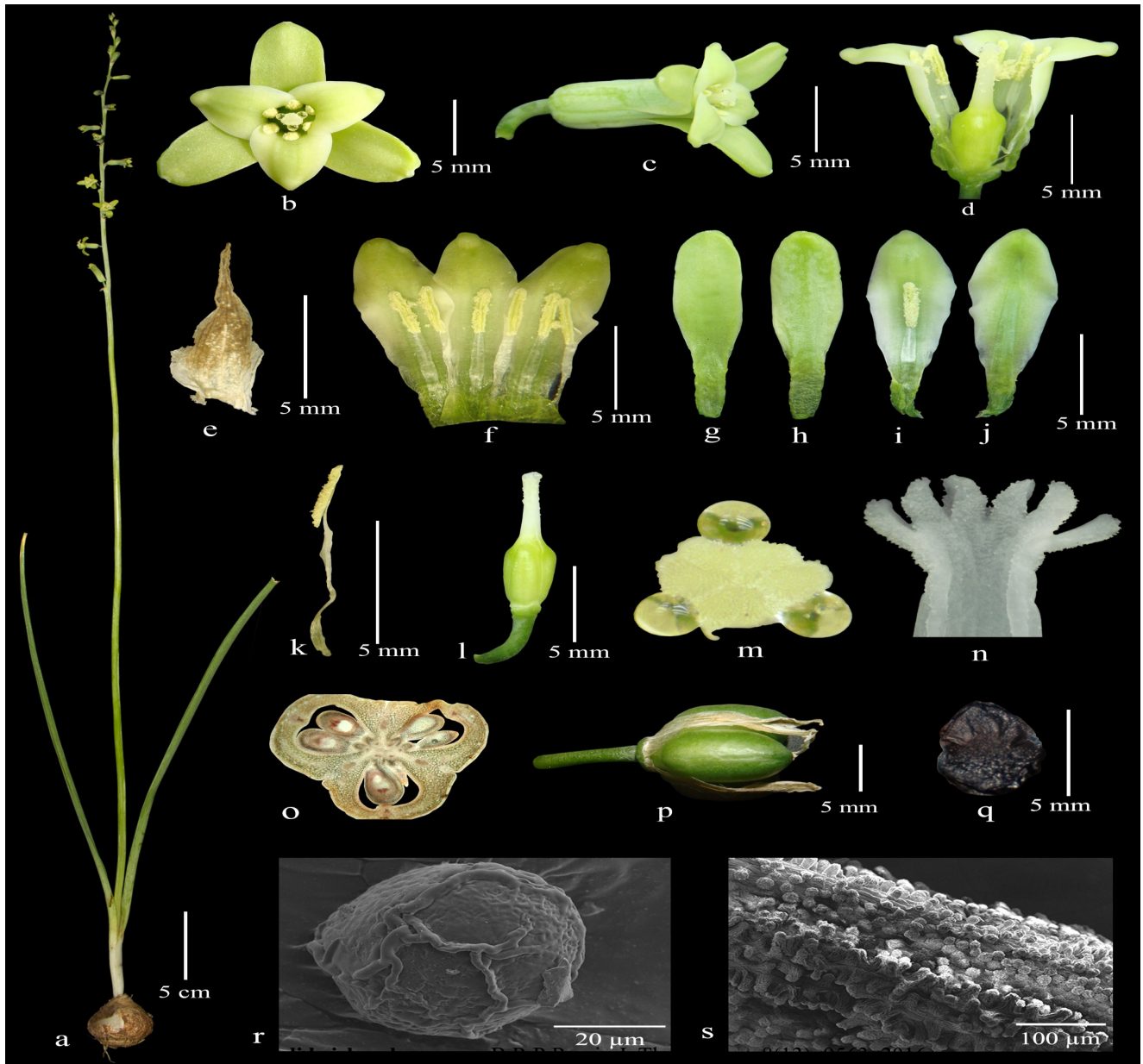
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