

CONVOLVULUS STOCKSII BOISS. (CONVOLVULACEAE) REDISCOVERED IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Convolvulus stocksii Boiss. (Convolvulaceae) is collected after a gap of more than 180 years in Pakistan.

Key-word: Convolvulaceae, *Convolvulus*, Extinct species,

Convolvulus stocksii Boiss. (Convolvulaceae) is a rare species, distributed in Turkestan, Pakistan, and Rajasthan state of India (Austin and Ghazanfar, 1979, Bhandari, 1990). According to the records of the Flora of Pakistan (Austin and Ghazanfar, 1979), only the following two specimens have ever been collected from Pakistan:

- Baluchistan, Shah Bilawal, *Stocks* s.n. (K)
- Scinde, *Stocks* 598 (K)

Both these specimens were collected by Stocks in 1820s, the first one being the type specimen, and both are housed in Kew Herbarium. Since then, this species has not been collected from Pakistan by any other collector. This much gap is more than enough to consider a species as locally extinct. However, during a recent survey of the areas lying along Hub river, quite a few specimens of this species (Fig. 1) have been collected from two localities, one just downstream the Hub Dam, and the other upstream the Hub Dam in the Kirther Range, close to the Kirther National Park (KNP). This rediscovery may owe to this year's good rainfall after several years' drought. Besides this, these very localities may not have been thoroughly explored before.



Fig. 1. *Convolvulus stocksii*: Close-up of the flower.

Specimens examined

On way to Hub Dam, 16 km from Hamdard University, on calcareous foothills and hillsides along the road, Oct. 8, 2006, S. Khatoon and M. Sc. students 1675, 1677, 1678; *Ibidem*, on calcareous hills, Oct. 8, 2006, Zaheer Abbas & S. Khatoon s.n.; On way to Kirther National Park, 3 km from Hub Dam – KNP turning, on raised ground along a seasonal rivulet, Sept. 22. 2006, S. Khatoon & Arshad 1630; *Ibidem*, in the dry bed of rivulet, Oct. 8, 2006, S. Khatoon and M. Sc. Students 1699.

All the above mentioned specimens are deposited in the Karachi University Herbarium (KUH).

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