

**COMMELINA ALISAGARENSIS KUMAR AND
DEODIKAR: A NEW SPECIES FROM HYDERABAD
DECCAN, INDIA**

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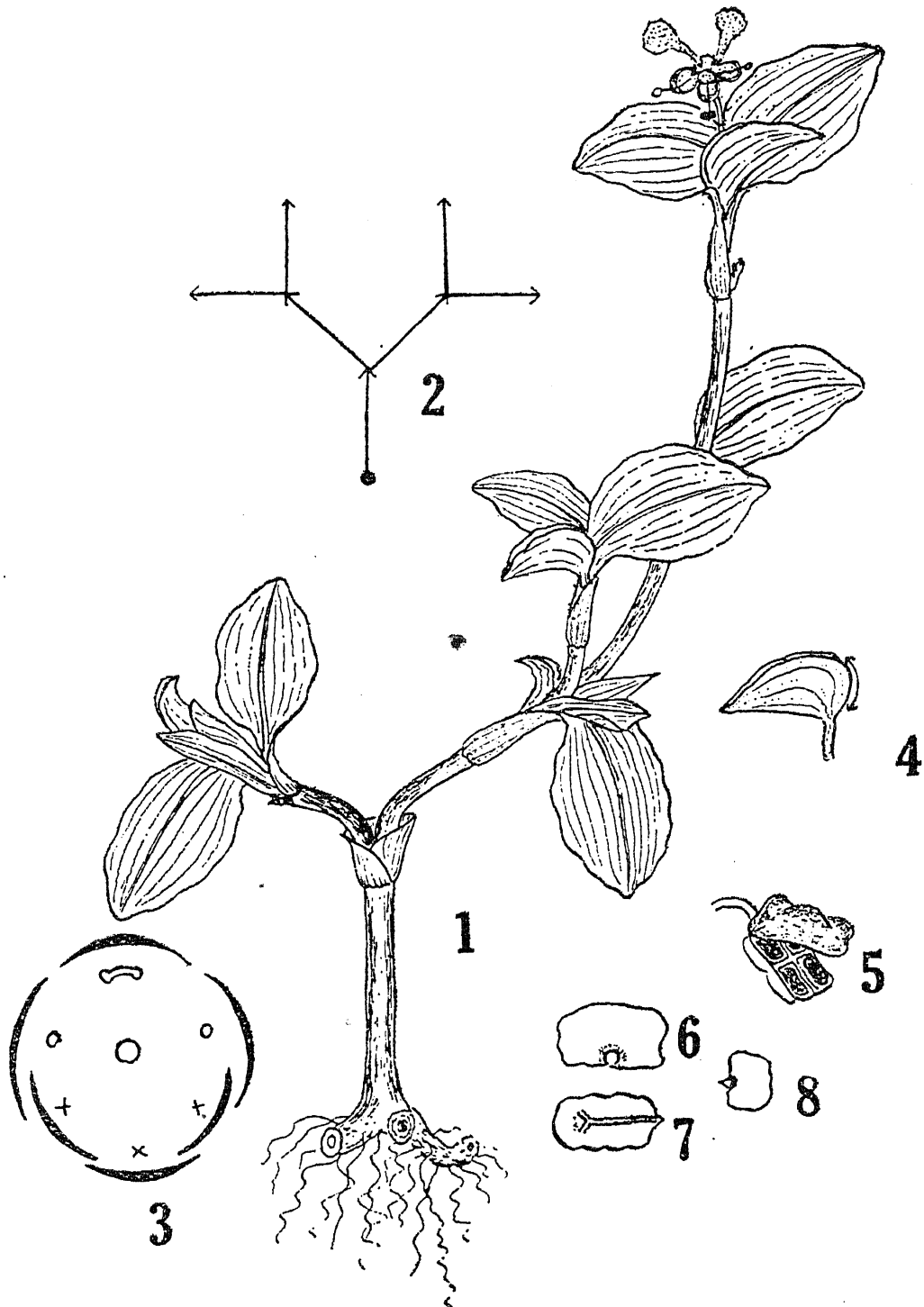
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THE senior author during his tour in Hyderabad State visited Alisagar, a small hill resort in the Nizambad district. The new species (*C. alisagarensis*, Kumar and Deodikar) was found growing at an altitude of about 2,000 feet. The distribution of the new species appears to be restricted since from several other places on the plains round about Alisagar only other species of *Commelina* were collected but not this particular one. The authors sent specimens to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for verification and the species is now confirmed to be new and not previously described.

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Commelina alisagarensis, Kumar and Deodikar, sp. nov.

Herb erect, 6" to 12" height. *Roots* fibrous, not bearing any cleistogamous flowers. *Stems* slender, glabrous, dichotomous-like branching. *Leaves* pubescent, elliptic with rounded apex, 1" to 1½" by ¾" to 1". *Sheaths* about ½" long with margins ciliated and free. *Spathes* axillary, clustered, funnel shaped or cucullate, pubescent, apex acute, base auricled on both sides and loosely articulated along the lower portions of the margins, about ¾" long and ½" broad. *Peduncles* ¼" to ⅛" long. *Pedicels* 3 to 4 in number, included in spathes. *Sepals*, 3 in number, greenish blue, membranous, two internal and round, one external and ovate acute. *Petals* blue, 3 in number, 2 broad with long claw, one small with short claw. *Stamens* 3, two anthers small and round, one anther large and crescent shaped. *Staminodes*, 3 in number. *Ovary* trilocular. *Capsule* pubescent, thin walled, five seeded, two anterior cells each two seeded with seeds free, dehiscence loculicidal. *Posterior cell* one seeded, indehiscent with seed imperfectly formed, infertile and smaller than the seeds in the anterior cell of the capsule. *Seeds* deep black, smooth, oval, truncate on both sides with a white linear appendage, micropyle prominent.



Commelina alisagarensis, Kumar and Deodikar

1. Sketch of the whole plant, $\frac{1}{4}$ natural size. (2) Schematic representation of the mode of branching. (3) Floral diagram. (4) Spathe. (5) Capsule. (6) Seed, dorsal side with micropyle. (7) Ventral side with the white linear appendage. (8) Lateral view of seed. ($5 \times \frac{1}{2}$; 6, 7 and 8×4).

Herba erecta, 15–30 cm. alta. *Radices* fibrosæ, flores cleistogamos haud gerentes. *Caulis* gracilis, glaber, dichotome ramosus. *Folia* elliptica, apice rotundata, 2.5–3.75 cm. longa, 1.9–2.5 cm. lata, pubescentia. *Vaginae* circiter 1.25 cm. longa, marginibus ciliatis liberis. *Spathæ* axillares, fasciculatæ, infundibuliformes vel cucullatæ, pubescentes, apice acutæ, basi utrinque auriculatæ atque secundum partem marginum inferiorem laxè articulatæ. 1.9 cm. longæ, 1.25 cm. latæ. *Pedunculi* 3–4, in spathis inclusæ. *Sepals* 3, virescenti-cærulea, membranacea, duobus interioribus rotundatis, tertio exteriore ovato acuto. *Petala* 3, cærulea, duobus latis ungue longo, tertio parvo ungue brevi. *Stamina* 3, antheris duobus parvis rotundatis, tertio magno crescentiformi. *Staminodia* 3. *Ovarium* triculare. *Capsule* pubescens, pariete tenui, pentasperma, loculis 2 anticis loculicide dehiscentibus utrisque 2-spermis seminibus liberis, loculo posticio indehiscente 1-spermo, semine imperfecto sterili quam semina in loculis anticis minore. *Semen* saturate nigrum, læve, ellipsodeum, utroque latere truncatum ac appendice alba lineari præditum, micropyle prominente.

Alisagar, Nizambad District, Hyderabad State, Plains of Godavari River, South India. Collected on 12th August 1939.