

A NEW NAME FOR *ABUTILON LANATUM* HUS. AND BAQ., AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP WITH *A. PANNOSUM* (FORST. F.) SCHL.

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Abstract

A new name *Abutilon alii* S. Abedin is given for *Abutilon lanatum* Hus. & Baq. (1974) which is a later homonym (Miquel, 1849). Relationship with its allied species i.e. *A. pannosum* (Forst. f.) Schl. is also discussed.

Abutilon lanatum Hus. & Baq. (Phyton 15 (3-4): 223, 1974) is a later homonym and must be rejected according to rule of nomenclature. This name was first given to a Brazilian plant published by Miquel in *Linnaea* 22:553, 1849. A new name *Abutilon alii* S. Abedin (specific epithet is given in the honour of Prof. Dr. S.I. Ali, a leading taxonomist of Pakistan and legumes specialist) is given for *Abutilon lanatum* Hus. & Baq.

Abutilon alii S. Abedin is closely related to *Abutilon pannosum* (Forst. f.) Schl. It differs from the latter in various characters, such as the length of calyx in relation to fruit, length and thickness of the pedicel, density and length of indumentum on pedicel, calyx and fruit and presence or absence of ridges and furrows on the fruit. All these characters are shown graphically (Fig. 1). The graph clearly indicates 2 distinct taxa though some over-laping is present in the length of fruiting pedicel and calyx. If, however, the combination of characters given below in the form of key is taken into consideration both the species may be easily differentiated:

1. +Fruit stalk 1-8 cm long, articulate lower part (of the stalk below articulation) somewhat thinner, less hairy and 4-25 times longer than the upper. Fruiting calyx 12-17 mm long, usually larger than fruit, inner surface with short and long hairs. Fruit densely covered with short and long hairs, ridges and furrows less conspicuous.

A. alii

- Fruit stalk 1-3.5 cm long, articulate, uniformly hairy and thicker all over except the joint, lower part shorter to 4 times longer than the upper. Fruiting calyx 10-12 mm long, smaller than the mature fruit, inner surface with hairs of uniform length. Fruit hairs of uniform length, ridges and furrows conspicuous.

A. pannosum

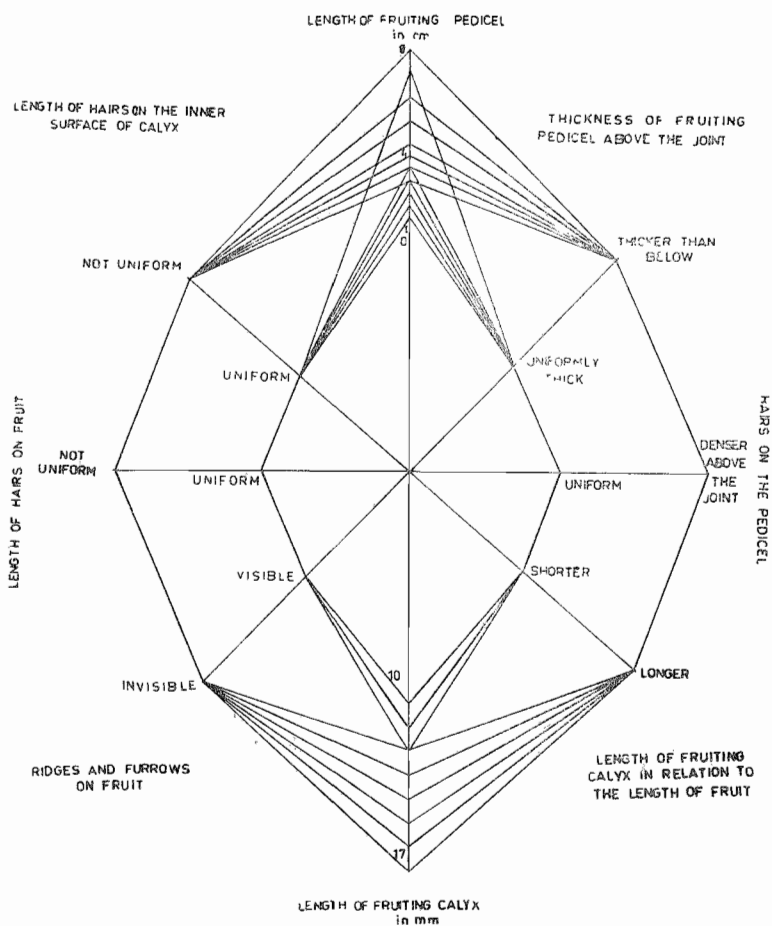


Fig. 1 Polygraph showing various characters of *Abutilon alii* S. Abedin and *Abutilon pannosum* (Forst. f.) Schl.

Abutilon alii S. Abedin **nom. nov.** (Fig. 2)
Abutilon lanatum Hus. & Baq. in *Phyton* 15 (3-4): 223. 1974.
 non Miquel 1849.

Holotype:* University Campus, Karachi. 5.11.1970 S.A. Husain S.N. (KUH)

Representative specimens: Bela Dist.: Sonminai Beach. 27-8-1968 (CLH);
 Karachi Dist.: University Campus, Karachi 28-9-1970, 21-10-1970. S.A. Husain

*Type specimens of various species described by Husain & Baquar (1974) which were present in CLH are now kept in KUH.

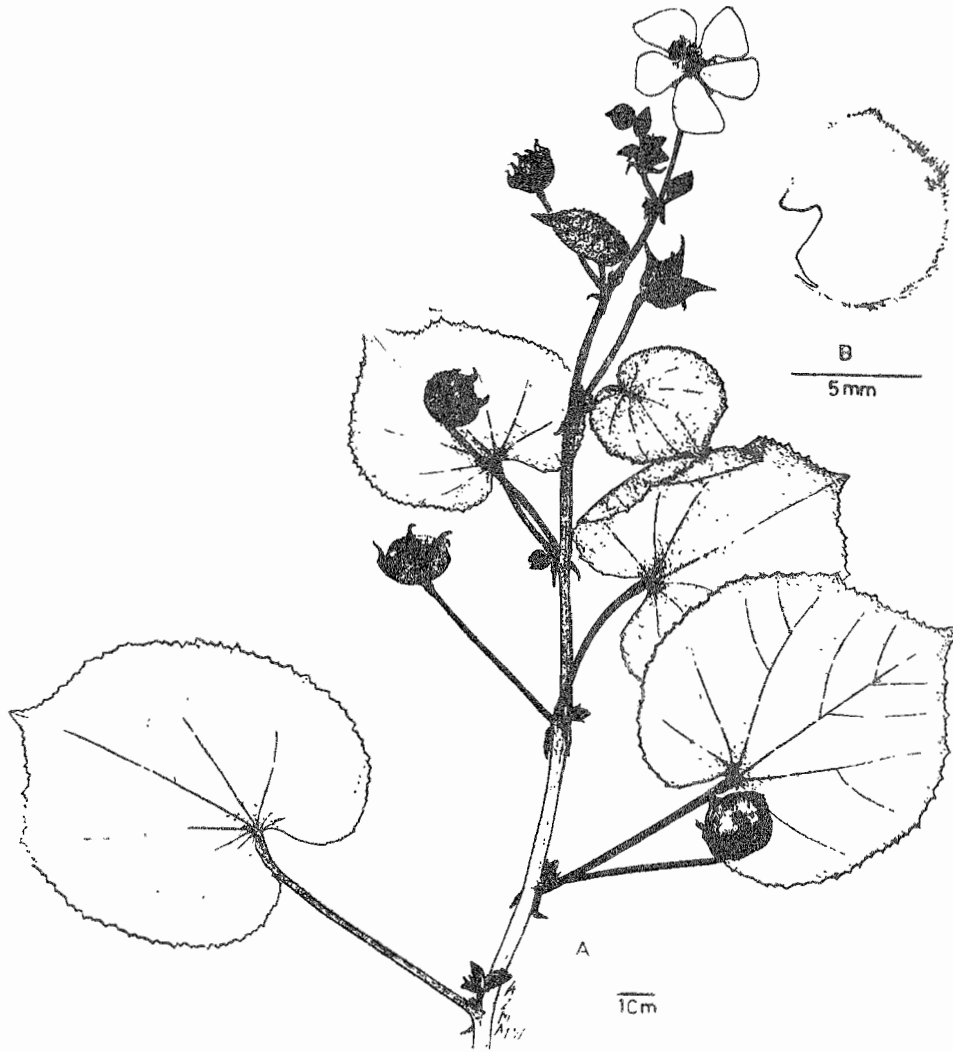


Fig. 2 *Abutilon allii* S. Abedin—A. Flowering and fruiting twig; B. Mericarp.

s.n. (CLH); *ibid.*, *S. Abedin* 5372, 5375-6, 5381, 5383-5, 5387, 5394-6, 5398-5400 5729-30, 9373 (KUH); M. Mongote, *S. Abedin* 5482-3 (KUH); Police Station, near Hub river. *S. Abedin* 5557-8 (KUH).

Distribution: Endemic to Pakistan (Sind and Baluchistan).

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