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NOTE

***HYPECOUM PENDULUM* L. (PAPAVERACEAE: RANUNCULALES): A NEW RECORD FOR THE FLORA OF HARYANA, INDIA**

Naina Palria, Nidhan Singh & Bhoo Dev Vashistha

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Hypecoum pendulum L. (Papaveraceae: Ranunculales): a new record for the flora of Haryana, India

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Genus *Hypecoum* Tourn. ex L. is the only member of subfamily Hypecooideae Prantl & Kundig belonging to the family Papaveraceae Juss. (Stevens 2001). It is represented by 15–20 species all over the world, with its distribution range from southern France, the Mediterranean region, northern Africa to southwestern Asia (Mabberley 2017; POWO 2019). In India, the genus is represented by three taxa within two species: *Hypecoum leptocarpum* Hook.f. & Thomson, *H. pendulum* L. var. *pendulum* and *H. pendulum* var. *parviflorum* (Kar. & Kir.) Cullen (Debnath & Nayar 1984; Ellis & Balakrishnan 1993; Kundu 2008). Debnath & Nayar (1984, p.46) have mentioned two varieties of *H. pendulum* as closely allied with overlapping characters. Currently, *H. pendulum* var. *pendulum* and *H. pendulum* var. *parviflorum* are considered synonyms of *H. pendulum* in POWO (2019), WFO (2020). Two known species in India (*H. leptocarpum* and *H. pendulum*) can be easily differentiated based on distinctly yellow flowers, mid lobe of inner petal being fimbriate, fruits larger, 30–75 mm long, and drooping on curved pedicel in *H. pendulum* in comparison to pinkish-violet to white flowers, mid lobe of inner petal

being non-fimbriate, fruits smaller, 12–30 mm long, and erect at maturity in *H. leptocarpum* (Ellis & Balakrishnan 1993).

During a botanical exploration, the first author came across an interesting wild herb growing around the cultivated fields, near Satrod Kalan Village of Hisar District, Haryana State. The number of individuals were very few and scattered, thus only three specimens were collected for reference and photographs were recorded in the field. After a detailed study of the relevant literature (Debnath & Nayar 1984; Ellis & Balakrishnan 1993), and studying the available herbarium records, these specimens were identified as *Hypecoum pendulum* L. This species was recorded for the first time in India from Kashmir (Singh 1975) and later from Rajasthan (Sharma 1976). As there is no previous record of *H. pendulum* L. in the published botanical literature for Haryana State (Jain et al. 2000; Kumar 2001), it is hereby being reported as the first authentic distribution record from the state. The collected voucher specimens (Image 2), have been deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana.

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***Hypocoum pendulum* L.,**

Sp. Pl. 124, 1753; Singh in Geobios 2: 91. 1975; H.S. Debnath & M.P. Nayar, Fasc. Fl. India 17: 45. 1984; J.L. Ellis & N.P. Balakr. in B.D. Sharma & N.P. Balakr., Fl. India 2: 87. 1993. *H. procumbens* auct non. L.; Hook. f. & Thomson in Fl. Ind. 275, 1855 and in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1: 120, 1872; Sharma in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 73: 422–423, 1976.

Annual, procumbent, glaucous herb, about 5–30 cm tall, tap root well developed. Radical leaves many, forming a rosette at base, 3–10 cm long, petiole flat; lamina 2–3 pinnatisect, segments linear to setaceous, 2–6 mm long, apex acute; cauline leaves sub-opposite, palmatisect. Flowering stems many, dichotomously branched; inflorescence terminal, few-flowered cyme. Flowers small, ca. 5 mm across, yellow, pedicellate; pedicel 5–12 mm long, nutant after flowering; bracts narrowly lobed; sepals two, 1.5–2 mm, broadly obovate, deciduous; petals four, yellow, two-whorled; outer one rhomboid, inner one tripartite; middle lobe fimbriate, spatulate, longer than the lateral two; lateral lobes elliptic-oblong, partially divergent, spotted with maroon-black dots. Stamens four, opposite to petals, filaments

black-spotted, two glands at the base of each filament, anthers yellow, linear; ovary cylindrical, stigmas two, recurved. Fruits 3–7 cm long, pendulous, lomentaceous; seeds very small, brown in colour (Image 1).

Specimens examined: KUK- NP 127, 19.iii.2017, 29.107°N & 75.815°E, 210m, Satrod Kalan, Hisar, Haryana, coll. Naina; KUK- NP 151, 20.iv.2020, 29.084°N & 75.795°E, 210m, Tibba, Ladwa, Hisar, Haryana, coll. Naina; K000283528!; K000283530! (Digital images at Kew Herbarium); E00392708! (Digital image at Edinburgh Herbarium).

H. pendulum L. naturally grows in dry and sandy soils along with some other herbs like *Arnebia hispidissima* (Lehm.) A. DC., *Heliotropium curassavicum* L., *Asphodelus tenuifolius* Cav. etc. The plant is rare in the area, and may usually remain unnoticed due to dissected, grass-like foliage and small, dull yellow flowers. In the vegetative phase, it can easily be overlooked for being any monocot. Besides, the fragmented or patchy distribution, the very short flowering-fruiting period also forms the cause behind this being unnoticed. During a recent visit in April, 2020 to a surrounding area, 50–60 individuals were found growing on sandy cliffs, locally

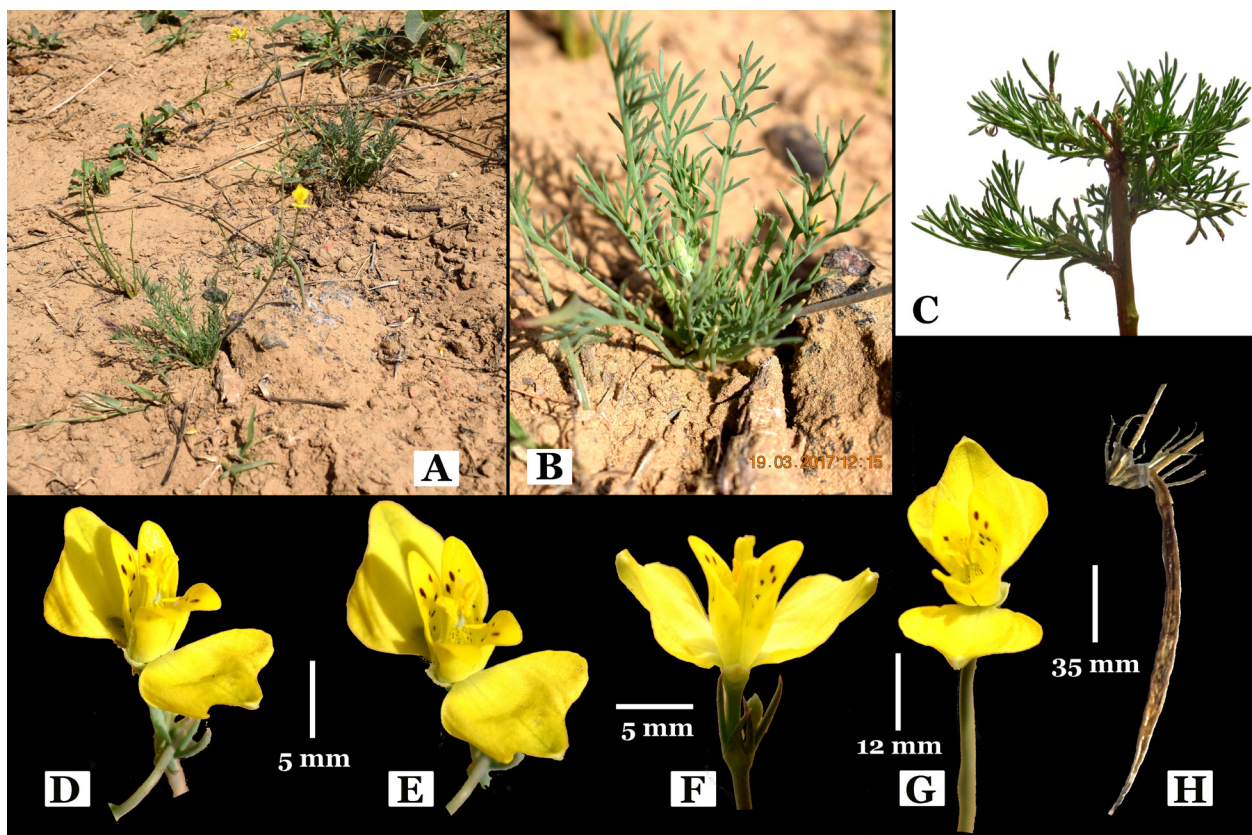


Image 1. A–H—*Hypocoum pendulum* L.: A—habitat | B & C—habit & leaves | D & E—flower-anterior-posterior view | F—flower-lateral view | G—pedicel-bearing flower | H—fruit (dried, image recorded from collection). © Naina Palria.

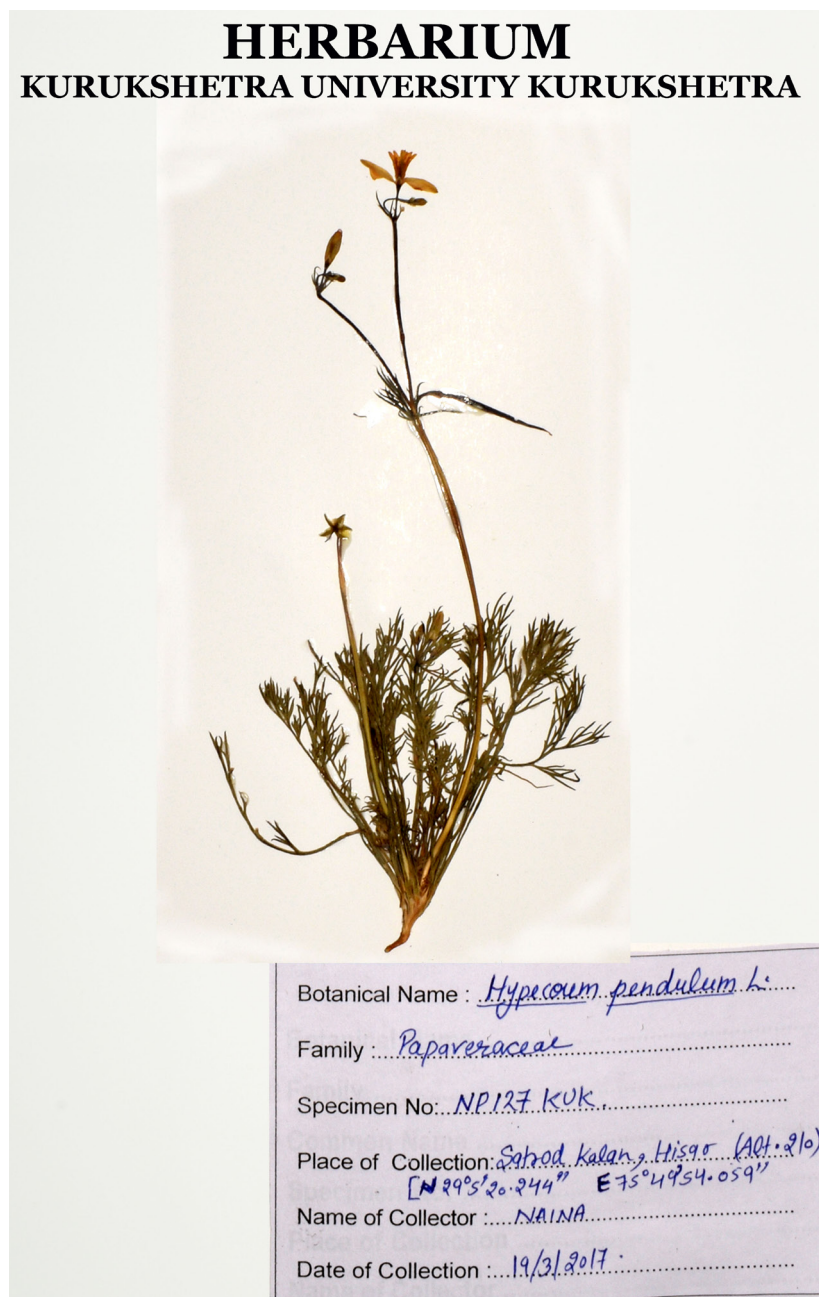


Image 2. Voucher specimen of *Hypecoum pendulum* L. from the locality of study. Photo by Naina Palria.

named as "Tibba", in Ladwa Village, Hisar District.

Flowering: April–May; Fruiting: May–August.

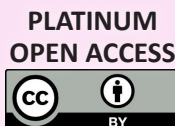
Distribution in India: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan.

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