

Herbaceous shrubs, much branched, 17–30 cm high; stem green when young, base pinkish woody, hairy. Leaves green above and slightly paler, simple, alternate, clustered at apex, linear to lanceolate, obscurely crenate, mucronate at apex, attenuate at base, hairy, 25–35 X 3–5 mm; stipules linear - lanceolate, densely hairy, gland tipped, c 2 mm long. Flowers pinkish with darker patterns, solitary or in axillary inflorescences; peduncle slender, densely short pubescent, 8–10 mm long; pedicel short, slender, pubescent, 5–7 mm long; bracts triangular, densely pubescent, margins ciliate, c 1 mm long; sepals 5, unequal, ovate - lanceolate, pubescent, c 2 mm long; petals 5, unequal, upper pale pink, oblong, 4 – 5 mm long, lateral petals pale pink, oblong ending in a sharp acute apex, c 3 mm long; lower petals pinkish with darker patterns, enlarged, oblong-elliptic, shortly cuspidate, 10 x 6 – 7 mm along with a limb; stamens 5, filaments free, the anterior 2 filaments with hairy appendages, anthers villous, the posterior 3 filaments and stamens glabrous; pistil 3 mm long, style erect and stigma flat.

Capsules 3- angled, short pubescent c 6 mm long; seeds pale yellow, ellipsoid, ribbed, glabrous, c. 3 mm long.

Flowering and fruiting
July–October.

Distribution
Ethiopia (Sidamo region). In India Maruthamalai hills from Tamil Nadu and Mysore from Karnataka. New distribution for Thimbam forest (Dottapuram Hills, Thalimalai, Mutheyanur) and Dharmapuri in Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.

Uses
The attractive flower structure and fascinating pinkish colour can be recommended to grow as an ornamental plant in residents, park and also in rock gardens (Parthipan and Rajendran 2012).

Specimen examined
Thimbam forest (Dottapuram Hills, Thalimalai, Mutheyanur) 22 Jan. 2013. *Parthipan*. M 320 (BUH). Dharmapuri in Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu 25 Jan .2013. *Sasi, R.* 380 (BUH).

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