



COMPREHENSIVE ANATOMICAL ANALYSIS OF *ALYSICARPUS GAMBLEI* SCHINDL.: AN ENDEMIC SPECIES OF KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT: *Alysicarpus gamblei* Schindl., is an endemic species found on the Badami Plateau in Karnataka. This investigation presents a comprehensive study of the morphology, anatomy, dermatology, and vessels of *Alysicarpus gamblei* Schindl. This study marks the first thorough examination of these aspects for this species. The findings contribute valuable insights into the structural characteristics and biological features of *Alysicarpus gamblei* Schindl., enhancing our understanding of its uniqueness and ecological significance.

Keywords: *Alysicarpus gamblei*, Anatomy, Dermatology, Vessels.

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Alysicarpus* Necker ex Desvaux (1813: 120) belongs to the subfamily Papilionoideae, tribe Desmodieae of Leguminosae. This genus comprises approximately 34 species and 20 infraspecific taxa, widely distributed across the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Australia, with the highest diversity found in India (Pedley 2001, Adema 2003, Lewis 2005, Huang and Ohashi 2010, Hassemer et al. 2017, Leeratiwong et al. 2017, Pokle 2017). In India alone, about 17 species and 9 infraspecific taxa of *Alysicarpus* are present, of which seven species

and eight infraspecific taxa are endemic (Sanjappa 1992, Pokle 2002, Dhabe 2013, Singh et al. 2015, Gholami et al. 2017, Pokle 2017, Chavan 2013).

The first collection of *Alysicarpus gamblei* Schindl. was made by J. S. Gamble in August 1889 from Cuddapah District, Tamil Nadu (specimen number 21223). Initially, Gamble identified the specimen as *Alysicarpus tetragonolobus* Edgew. [Family Leguminosae-Papilionoideae]. Subsequently, Baker re-examined the specimen and identified it as *Alysicarpus bupleurifolius* (L.) DC. var. *gracilis* Baker [Family Leguminosae-