Clerodendrum splendens G. Don., of Family Verbenaceae:
An addition to the flora of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT
In the Botanic Garden GC University, Lahore, as well as in parks and gardens throughout Punjab Province a woody climber introduced long ago was as Clerodendrum splendens G. Don (Bleeding Heart Vine) of family Verbenaceae. The plant voucher specimen was preserved in Dr. Sultan Ahmad Herbarium, GCU Lahore, Pakistan for reference. This climber has not been reported in Flora of Pakistan, therefore the present report is an addition into it.

Key words: Clerodendrum splendens, Flora of Pakistan, Bleeding Heart Vine

INTRODUCTION
The genus Clerodendrum of family Verbenaceae was first described by Linnaeus during 1953 in Genera Plantarum (Jafri & Ghafoor 1974). Clerodendrum splendens G. Don is the native to Western Africa and is widely distributed in west and central Africa from Senegal to Angola and Rep. Congo. It is cultivated as an ornamental climber elsewhere in tropics and sub-tropics and recorded as naturalized in Dem. Rep. Congo and Angola (Fernandes 2005).
Clerodendrum splendens G. Don commonly called Bleeding Heart Vine, Flaming Glorybower, Pagoda Flower) is found growing well in Lahore, the Capital of Punjab and the popular city of Pakistan, situated along the left bank of river Ravi and is greatly expanding due to profuse urbanization, high population growth rate and emigration.
Climatically Lahore falls in subtropical arid type in which summers are really hot and the winters are mild cold (Anonymous, 2009).
Clerodendrum splendens G. Don was introduced as an ornamental climber in Pakistan and it adapted well in this climate. This species has not been reported by Parker (1956), Chaudhary (1969), Stewart (1972) and Jafri & Ghafoor (1974) in Flora of Pakistan.

Description to the species after Fernandes (2005):
An evergreen densely branched climber or sarmentose vine or running shrub up to 5m high with minutely puberulous branchlets; main branches long and flexuose. Leaves upto 18cm long and 12 cm broad, ovate-oblong to broadly ovate to suborbicular or lanceolate, slightly acuminate, usually rounded at the base, entire with undulate margins, glabrous, glaucous, dark green above and paler or greyish-green below, nerves prominent; petiole upto 2.7 cm long. Flowers scarlet in many-flowered, axillary and terminal corymbose cymes; peduncles stout, upto 9 cm long; pedicels 0.3–1.3cm long; Calyx, sepal lobed, less than 1cm long, purplish; corolla tube upto 2cm long, ; stamens exerted upto 3cm; drupes, ovoid, black when mature, glabrous, 1.5 cm long (Pl. 1).


Ethnobotany: According to Jiofack et al. (2009) the plant is used to treat yellow fever and panacea of witchcraft.

Plate 1: Clerodendrum splendens G. Don in natural habitat

REFERENCES


