**Taxonomy**

***Momordica* *janarthanamii*** **Gosavi, Gholave, Madhav & Kambale, sp. nov.**

***Description***

Perennial, dioecious, tuberous, tendrillar climbers, up to 10m high. Tubers elongated or irregularly bulged at maturity. Stems pentangular, inter-nodes 5–15 cm long, minutely hirsute, nodes pilose to villous at either side of leaf base and base of branches. Tendrils simple, 5–17 cm long, basal 2–5 cm long part uncoiled, upper 3–12 cm long part coiled. Petioles 2–9 cm × 1.5–4 mm, villous at the apical region, channeled, channel ribs sparsely scaberulous to glabrous. Lamina ovate to broadly triangular in outline, rarely hastate, entire or 3–5 lobed, 6–13 × 5–15 cm, base cordate, apex acute or acuminate, margin undulate or crenulate to coarsely denticulate, scabrous, lateral veins 3 paired; lower vein pair inconspicuous, short, running near to basal margin, upper 2 pairs fused at base, secondary and tertiary veinlets form denticulate or mucronulate at the end of margin, bulbous based short hairs scattered on upper surface, cystoliths on lower surface, veins of lower surface sparsely hirsute to pilose. Male flower solitary to 5–8 in scorpioid cymes at axis, 5–9 × 4–6 cm; pedicel of solitary flower 4.5–8 cm × 1.5–2 mm long, thick, angled, articulated above the bract, hirsute to pilose. Nodal bracts on cyme, lower 0–3 sterile, margins glandular to eglandular, acute to acuminate at apex. Bracts at the tip of pedicel, orbicular, 4–5 × 5–6 mm, persistent, margins covered with glands, pilose at apical margin, apex dark green, thick, acute, ca. 10-nerved, lower surface pilose hairy. Receptacle tube funnel shaped, 0.8–l × 0.4–0.5 cm, purplish black, echinate to pilose or mixed. Sepals 5, free, 0.8–1 × 0.2–0.4 cm, elliptic-oblong, yellowish purple at base, greenish yellow at apex, margins ciliate to short pilose, sparsely 5-nerved, acute at apex, both surfaces sparsely hairy. Petals 5, free, obovate, 3–4 ×2.3–3 cm, bright yellow, veins prominent, villous to pubescent on outer surface. Stamens 3, two with a pair of anthers, one with a single anther; filaments whitish yellow 3–4 mm long, glabrous or sparsely hairy; anthers 2–3 × 1.5–2 mm, extrorse, thecae dull black, S-shaped. Female flowers solitary, 5–10 × 4–7.5 cm, in the leaf axils; pedicel 3.5–8 cm × 1.5–2 mm, angled, hirsute to pilose. Bracts at middle of pedicel, 1.0–2.0 × 0.8–1.5 mm, persistent, ovate, greenish white, few glands at margins, sparsely hairy, apex acute, dark green. Sepals 5, free, 10–12 × 1.5–2 mm, linear elliptic to ensiform, green, margin sparsely hairy, few glands on margin, sparsely 5-nerved, acute at apex, with dark green tip. Petals 5, free, ovate, 3–5× 2.2–4 cm, bright yellow, veins prominent, villous to pubescent on outer surface. Ovary ovoid, 1–1.5 × 0.4–0.6 cm, densely covered with ca. 1 mm long soft papillae. styles 3–5 mm long, whitish green, stigma 4 × 8 mm, 3 lobed, each lobe bifid. Fruits broadly ellipsoid to ovoid, or with round base and rostrate apex, 3.5–6 × 2–3 cm, dark green to whitish green, turning bright orange on ripening, densely covered with spines; spines soft, 2–3 mm long, terete or slightly compressed. Pulp sweet when ripe, carmine red. Seeds black, shining, losing its lustre on drying, hexagonal shaped, more turgid than compressed, sculptured on faces with irregular blotches of furrows and ridges, 7–9 × 5–6.5 mm, seed coat hard, brittle; endosperm oily, aromatic.

**Type:** India, Maharashtra, Nashik District, Karanjali Ghat (Kumbharbari), 20°15'37.04''N, 73°36'58.28''’E, 646 m a.s.l., 07 July 2020, K.V.C. Gosavi & A.R. Gholave5141 (holotype CAL!, isotypes BSI!, SUK!).

***Etymology:*** The specific epithet honors Prof. Malapati Kuppuswamy Janarthanam, Department of Botany, Goa University for his valuable and voluminous contributions in the field of angiosperm taxonomy and conservation of the rare and endemic species of Western Ghats.

***Phenology***

Flowering and fruiting from June to August.

***Local name***

Kartule (Marathi)