

A New Species of *Huernia* R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae) From Saudi Arabia

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Abstract. A new species *Huernia haddaica* Al-Hemaid **sp. nov.** from Al-Hadda, near Taif, Saudi Arabia is described and illustrated. A key to the species of *Huernia* of Saudi Arabia is presented

Key words: New species, *Huernia haddaica*, Asclepiadaceae, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

Huernia R. Br., belongs to the family Asclepiadaceae, is distributed to the tropical part of the world, South Africa and Saudi Arabia with 64 species (Mabberley 1997).

Survey of the relevant literature of NE Brown (1895), Schwrtz (1939), Lavranos (1963), Forsskal (1975), Field (1981), Collenette (1985), Heemstra and Minwer (1990), Miller and Cope (1996), Migahid (1996 ed.), Wood (1997), Collenette (1998, 1999), Chaudhary and Jawai (1999), showed that the genus *Huernia* is represented in the flora of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with 8 species of which only 3 are named, and these are *H. arabica*, *H. laevis* and *H. Saudi-arabica*. Collenette (1999) in her Willdflowers of Saudi Arabia includes another 5 un-named species of *Huernia* on the basis of her own

collections. A critical examination of the specimens of **Huernia** collected from the flora of Saudi Arabia available at the National Herbarium of Saudi Arabia (RIY) and the herbaria of the King Saud University, Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh (E) and Kew (K) resulted in the identification of a new species, **H. haddaica** (*sp. nov.*). The specimens of *H. haddaica* were collected from Al-Hadda, near Taif, and are very closer to the specimens of *H. Saudi-arabica* but differ for their white campanulate flowers with long narrow ascending corolla lobes, red and white banded hair-like papillae, and discoid outer corona with spreading lobes.

The new species *Huernia haddaica* Al-Hemaid is described here with illustration, and a key to the four species of *Huernia* in Saudi Arabia is provided.

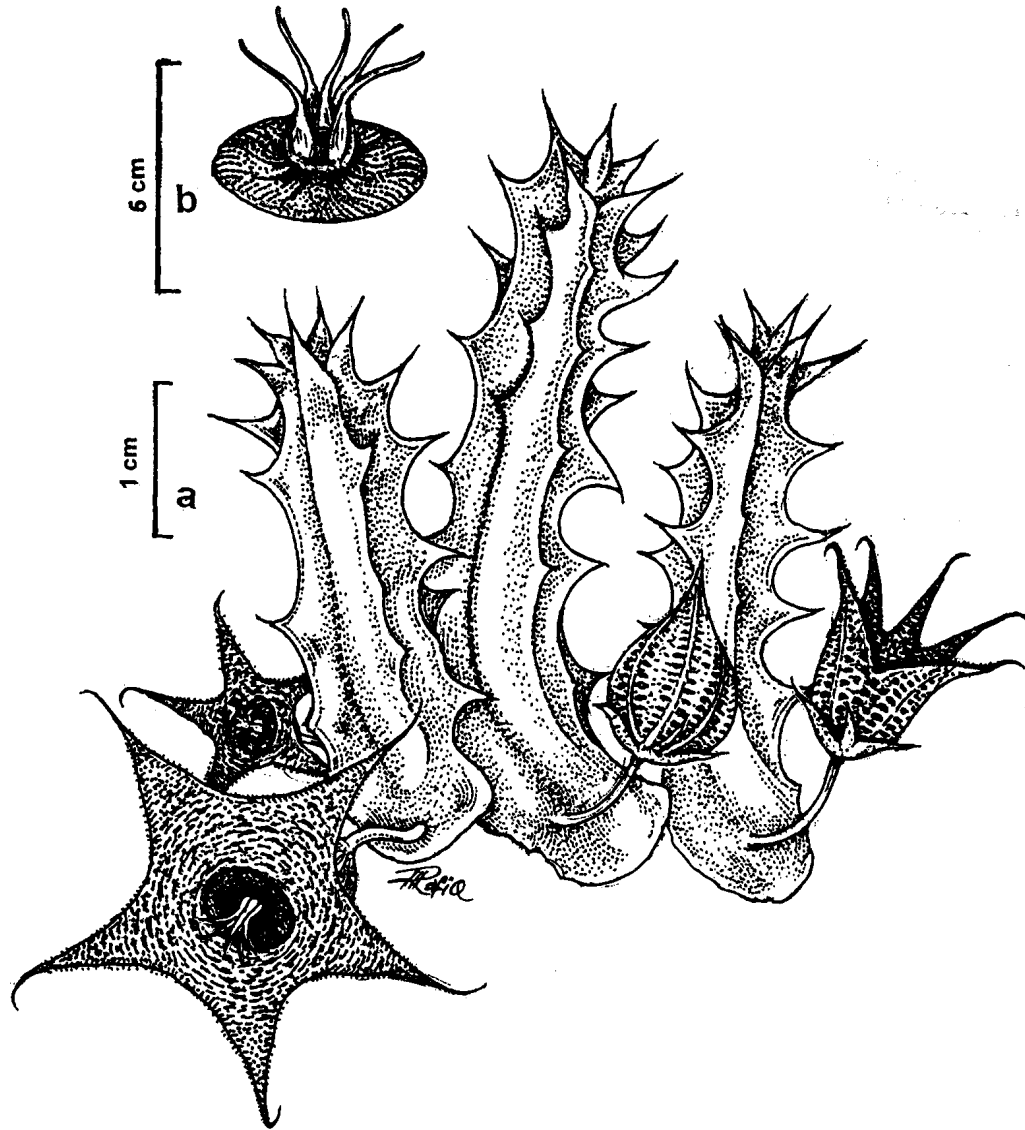


Fig. 1. *Huernia haddaica* Al-Hemaid **sp. nov.** a) habit sketch of flowering plant, b) corona with gynostegium

Key to the species

1. Corolla glabrous or only shortly papillose inside ----- 2
 - Corolla densely papillose inside ----- 3
2. Flowers deep purplish-black, corolla shallowly bowl-shaped, 15 mm wide, shortly papillose inside, lobes triangular with erect apices ----- **H. arabiaca**
 - Flowers flat shiny creamy-yellow corolla very shallowly campanulate, 30 mm wide, glabrous, lobes deltoid with slightly recurved apices ----- **H. lavis**
3. Flowers deep crimson, corolla shallowly campanulate with red and gold papillae inside, outer corona distinctly 5-lobed -----
 ----- **H. Saudi-arabica**
- Flowers white with splashed red, corolla deeply campanulate with red and white banded papillae inside, outer corona distinctly discoid ----- **H. haddaica**

Huernia haddaica Al-Hemaid **sp. nov.**
 Fig. 1.

Affinis Huernia Saudi-arabica per albus campanulatus flores cum longior angustus ascendens corollam lobis, internus rubris et albus fasciatus papillae similes pilis, et discoideus externus coronam cum lobis effuses differt.

Stems five-angled, erect, succulent, mottled red and green with soft prominent teeth, teeth 10 mm long. Flowers white, campanulate, 4.3 mm wide; pedicels 12 mm long; corolla tubes 15 mm long, splashed red out side, horizontal broken maroon lines inside with red and white

hair-like papillae; corolla lobes up to 17 mm long, 8 mm wide, steeply ascending with recurved apices, intermediate lobes

short and tooth-like; outer corona discoid, 8 mm diameter, lobes 4 mm long, spreading; faint bad smell.

Type: Saudi Arabia, Taif, Al-Hadda, Collenette 5944 (K; holo.)

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