

BORAGINACEAE

4. GASTROCOTYLE

(Bge.) Benth. & Hook., Gen. Pl. 2:1853.1876.

Anchusa L. Sect. *Gastrocotyle* Bge., Mem. Acad. Sci.

Sav. Etrang. Petersbg. 7:405.1851.

Hispid, diffused herbs, with alternate, oblong, sessile to spatulate or petioled leaves. Flowers in axillary racemes, small, shortly pedicelled, or solitary axillary. Calyx 5-partite, up to the base. Corolla subtubulose; tube erect, with 5 scales and with 5 obtuse spreading lobes. Stamens included; anthers ovate, obtuse. Ovary deeply 4-lobed; style gynobasic, filiform, stigma somewhat capitate. Nutlets 4, \pm ovoid, erect, incurved, tuberculate, reticulate-rugose apex with 4 ridges and distinct collar-like ventral ring (areola).

2 species, distributed from Mediterranean region to C. Asia and N.W. India; represented in Libya by the following species:

Gastrocotyle hispida (Forsk.) Bunge, Mem. Sav. Etr. Petersb. 7:405.1854; C.B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 4:168.1885; Riedl in Rech. f., Fl. Iran. 48:254.1967. (Fig. 3)

Anchusa hispida Forsk., Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 40.1775; Pamp., Pl. Trip. 192.1914; Prodr. Fl. Cir. 378.1931; Keith, Prelim. Check List Lib. Fl. 231.1965.

Annual herbs, with more or less diffused branches, 3-40 cm long, densely hispid all over. Leaves 15-70 x 3-10 mm with \pm undulate margin, sparsely ciliate between the tubercles. Pedicels very short, hardly elongated in fruit. Calyx c. 2 mm long; lobes obtuse with coarsely hispid spreading hairs. Corolla white or violet, c. 3 mm long, tube almost equal to the calyx, throat closed with scales, limb 1 x 0.5 mm. Anthers oblong, c. 0.5 mm long, filaments short. Nutlets somewhat transversely ovate or reniform, 3-4 mm, rugulose, more or less laterally incised with thick elevated dentate collar.

Type: In desertis Kahirinis, *Forsk.* (C).

A-2 Between Bir Shakshuk and Qaser Alhage, sandy ground, common, 29.3.1976, *S.M.H. Jafri* 6616; Wadi Elmaiet Project, soil clay to sandy, 28.5.1974, *B. Faris* 373; Wadi Kabau, steep valley slope, sandy soil, c. 30 cm, 5.5.1972, *S.I. Ali & M.M. Khalifa* 341; Bir Al Aiar, near the Wadi, in sandy ground, fls. pale pinkish, common, 29.3.1976, *S.M.H. Jafri* 6563; Wadi El-Hai Project, c. 40 km West of Al-Azezeiah on way to Bir El-Ghnem-Nalut, prostrate, small blue fls. 31.3.1978, *F.B. Rateeb* 199 & 200; **A-8** Timimi to Omm Rezem, 5-50 m, sandy wadis (flooded last autumn), annual, fls. pale blue, procumbent,

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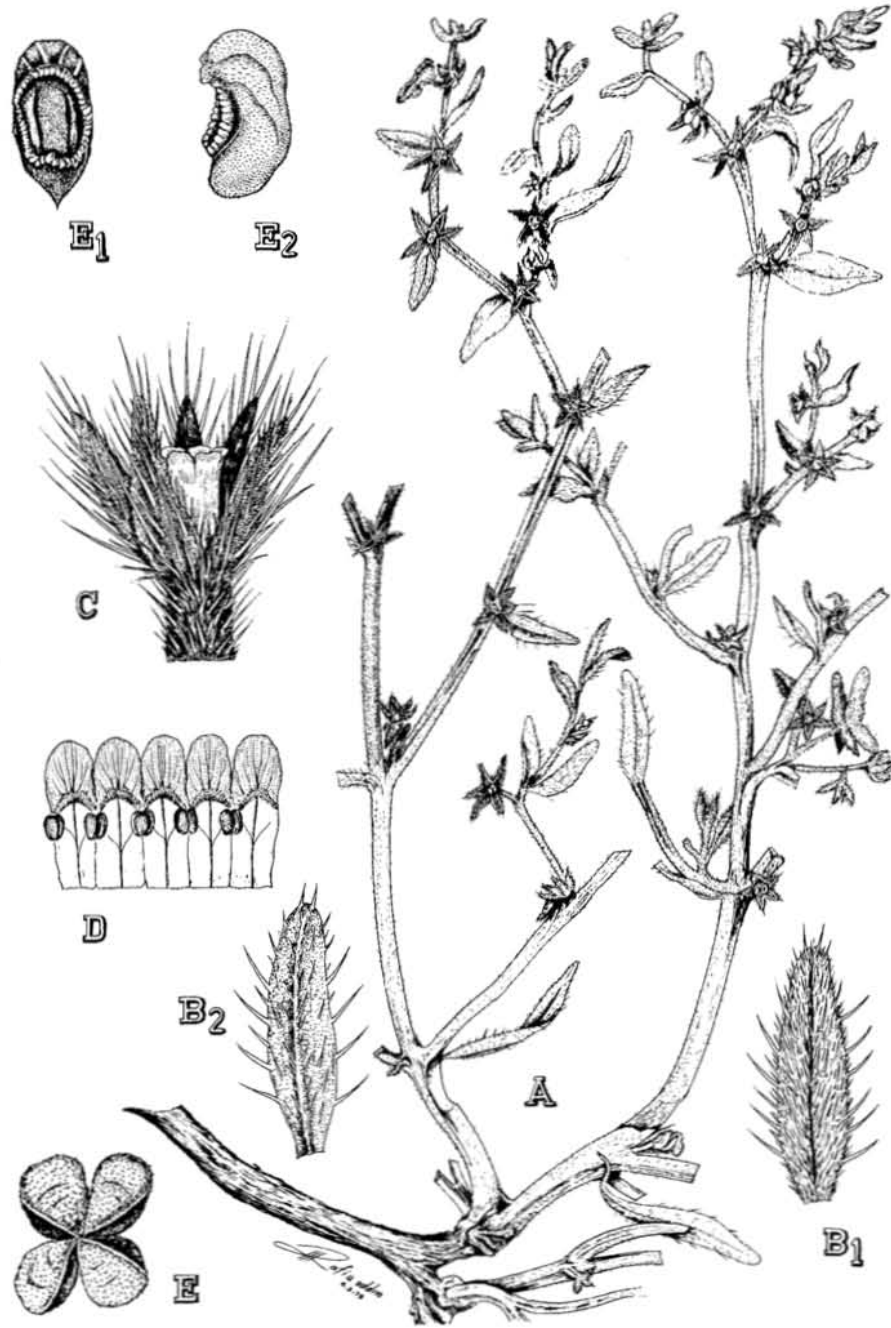


Fig. 3. **Gastrocotyle hispida**: A. habit x 1; B₁, B₂. leaf (dorsal and ventral views respectively) x 2; C. flower x 10; D. dissected corolla x 10; E. nutlets x 2; E₁, nutlet (ventral view), E₂, the same (lateral view) x 5.

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30.3.1970, *P.H. Davis* 50301; 5 km from Al Tamimi on way to Darna, annual herb. fls. blue, 20.4.1978, *Ramadan* et al. 694; **B-6** 79 km from Ajdabia on way to Benghazi, 3.5.1978, *A. El-Gadi, Jafri & others* 1335; **B-8** c. 195 km from Tobruk on way to Al-Jaghbug, purple fls., 19.4.1978, *Ramadan, Fathi & Siddiqi* 612.

Distribution: N. Africa, Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Fl. Feb.-April