



Full Length Article

Some New Reports for the Flora of Yavatmal District (M.S.), India

Bhogaonkar P Y, V N Chavhan¹ and P A Dhole²

Taxonomy Research Lab.,
P.G. Dept. of Botany; Govt. Vidarbha Institute of Science and Humanities,
Amravati 444 604.(M.S.)

¹Department of Botany, Arts, Commerce and Science College, Maregaon Dist. Yavatmal 445303 (M.S.)
Email: chavhanvinod8@gmail.com

²Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah 711103
taxonpankaj@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the addition of 09 new plant species belonging to 09 families to the flora of Yavatmal District viz. *Blepharis integrifolia* (L.f.) E.Mey. & Drege ex Schinz. (Acanthaceae), *Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC. (Asteraceae), *Allmania nodiflora* (L.) R. Br. (Amaranthaceae), *Iphigenia pallida* Baker (Colchicaceae), *Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Br. (Lamiaceae), *Pavonia zeylanica* (L.) Cav. (Malvaceae), *Cissampelos pareira* L. var. *hirsuta* (Buch.–Ham. ex DC.) Forman (Menispermaceae), *Flueggea virosa* (Roxb. ex Willd.) Royle. (Phyllanthaceae), and *Canthium coromandelicum* (N. Burm.) Alston (Rubiaceae). Correct and updated citation, local name, a short description, along with distribution, is provided for future work.

Key Words: Flora, New Reports, Yavatmal District

INTRODUCTION

The Yavatmal district is situated in the western part of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state between latitudes 19° 23' and 20° 48' and longitudes 77° 19' and 79° 07'. It occupies an area of 13,582 Sq.Km. Several new distributional reports have been published from Vidarbha region (Kamble *et al* 2013, Bhogaonkar and Dhole, 2014). Earlier documentation on the floristic exploration of the area – in the form of 'Flora of Yavatmal District', done by Karthikeyan and Kumar (1993) – describes 577 species belonging to 98 families. During our field surveys, in the period 2009-2013, many taxa were collected from the region. After proper identification, with the help of regional and standard floras, it is found that some plant species are not reported in the aforementioned works. So, these species found are new report to the flora of Yavatmal District.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plants were collected, identified with the help of standard floras (Hooker, 1897; Cooke, 1967; Sharma *et al.*, 1996; Naik, 1998; Singh and Karthikeyan, 2000; Singh *et al.*, 2001; Yadav and Sardesai, 2002) and herbarium specimens made are deposited in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Pune.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1) ACANTHACEAE

Blepharis integrifolia (L.f.) E.Mey.&Drège ex Schinz. *B. repens* (Vahl) Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 321. 1821. *Acanthus repens* Vahl, Symb. 2: 76. 1791. *Blepharis molluginifolia* Pers. Syn. Pl. 2: 180. 1806; C.B.Cl. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 479. 1884; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 425. 1958 (Repr.); Sant in Univ. Bombay Bot. Mem. 2: 16. 1952. 'Hadsan'.

Herbs, prostrate, slender, wiry, more or less hispid. Leaves 0.8.2.5 x 0.4.0.8 cm, oblong.

obovate, minutely scabrous, usually obtuse, mucronate, entire. Flowers blue, sessile, solitary, axillary. Capsules c 0.6cm long, ellipsoid, compressed, enclosed in persistent sepals. Seeds 2, c 0.4 cm long, broadly ellipsoid, compressed, hygroscopically long hairy than nucleus.

Fls. & Frts. : October - March.

Distrib. : Ner Parsopant

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 223

2) ASTERACEAE

Blumea laciniata (Roxb.) DC. Prodr. 5:436. 1836; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3:264. 1881; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2:80. 1958 (Repr.); Randeria in Blumea 10:258. 1960; Rao et al. Fl. Ind. Enum. Aster. 16. 1988. *Conyza laciniata* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3: 428. 1832. *Blumea sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc. 24: 388. 1935.

Herbs, annual c 1 m tall, stout, covered with dense, glandular pubescence. Leaves lyrate lobed. Heads in corymbs. Achenes 8.10.ribbed.

Fls. & Frts. : November - April.

Distrib. : Umari

Occurance: Not common, along banks of streams, nallahs

Specimen examined: VNC 144

3) AMARANTHACEAE

Allmania nodiflora (L.) R. Br. ex Wight in Hook. J. Bot. 1: 226. 1834; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 716. 1885; Naik, Fl. Marathwada 2: 740. 1998. *Celosia nodiflora* L. Sp. Pl. 205. 1753. *Allmania nodiflora* var. *aspera* (Roth) Hook. f. op. cit. 717; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 571. 1958 (Repr.). *A. nodiflora* var. *dichotoma* (Heyne ex Roth) Hook. f. op. cit.

Erect or ascending, annual herbs, 15.50 cm high; stems branched from base. Leaves variable, elliptic to linear.lanceolate, oblanceolate or ovate, 2.0.6.4 x 0.5.2.2 cm, acute, obtuse or rounded and mucronate at apex. Flowers in 0.5.2.0 cm long spikes; tepals with green or purple midrib and shining margins. Capsules 1.5.3.5 mm long, subglobose or ovoid, membranous, circumscissile. Seed orbicular, c 1 mm across, shining, black, with pale brown aril at base.

Fls. & Frts. : August - October.

Distrib. : Shembalpimpari

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 136

4) COLCHICACEAE

Iphigenia pallida Baker in J. Linn. Soc. Bot. 17:451. 1879; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 6:357. 1892; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 3:257.1958 (Repr.ed.)

Herb, 9-10cm high, erect; corms c1.3x0.7cm ovoid, tunicate. Leaves 7-10 x 0.2cm., linear upper smaller. Flower 1-4, corymbose. Capsule 1.2 – 1.8 x 0.5 – 0.7 cm. obovoid green seed 0.1x0.1cm, subglobose.

Fls. & Frts. : July- September.

Distrib. : Belgavhan

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 114

5) LAMIACEAE

Leucas biflora (Vahl) R. Br. Ex Sm. Prodr. 504. 1810; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 683. 1885; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 553. 1958 (Repr.); Mukerjee in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 14(1): 180. 1940. *Phlomis biflora* Vahl, Symb. Bot.3: 77. 1794.

Herbs with a perennial root stock; stems often procumbent, much branched, with long internodes. Leaves 1.5.3.5 x 1.0.2.2 cm, ovate to elliptic, hairy on both sides, apex obtuse to subacute, base truncate or rounded, margins coarsely serrate or crenate. Flowers white, in axillary whorls; bracts setaceous, c 0.2 cm long; calyx c 0.8 cm long, campanulate, ribbed, hispid, teeth subulate; corolla 1.0.1.2 cm long, tube annulate inside, upper lip 0.6.0.7 cm long, lower ovate.oblong. Nutlets irregularly tuberculate, brown.

Fls. & Frts. : August - April.

Distrib. : Shembalpimpari

Occurance: Common throughout the district in the undergrowth of deciduous forests in plains and in rocky areas.

Specimen examined: VNC 178

6) MALVACEAE

Pavonia zeylanica (L.) Cav. Diss. 3: 134, t. 48, f. 2. 1787; Mast. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 331. 1874; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 108. 1958 (Repr.); Paul & Nayar in Nayar et al. Fasc. Fl. India 19: 198, f. 46. 1988; Paul in Sharma et al. Fl. India 3: 377, f. 108a. 1993. *Hibiscus zeylanicus* L. Sp. Pl. 699. 1753.

Undershrubs, nearly 1 m high, stellate pubescent; stems with numerous decumbent branches towards apex. Leaves 1–4 x 0.8–3.5 cm, orbicular to obvoid, deeply 3–5-lobed, sparsely stellate hairy on both surfaces. Flowers solitary, axillary; epicalyx segments 10, ciliate, persistent; calyx campanulate; corolla pale pink or pinkish–

white. Schizocarps globular, pubescent, mericarps 5, each c 4 x 3 mm. Seeds reniform.

Fls. & Frts. : July–December.

Distrib. : Tipeswar wildlife sanctuary

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 128

7) Menispermaceae

Cissampelos pareira L. var. hirsuta (Buch.–Ham. ex DC.) Forman in Kew Bull. 22: 356. 1968; Gang. in Sharma et al. Fl. India 1: 317. 1993. *C. hirsuta* Buch.–Ham. ex DC. Syst. Nat. 1: 535. 1817. *C. pareira* L. Sp. Pl. 1031. 1753 p.p.; Hook. f. & Thoms. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 103. 1872; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 24. 1958 (Repr.). 'Kuruphad', 'Pahadmul', 'Tahadvel', 'Tannivel'.

Climbing undershrubs, softly tomentose. Leaves 3–5 x 2–4 cm, ovate to orbicular, glabrous or sparsely pubescent above, pale and pubescent on nerves below, apex rounded, base truncate or subcordate. Male flowers in corymbose cymes, 4–6 cm long; calyx and corolla–lobes 4 each; stamens 4; female flowers in racemes; calyx and corolla lobes 1 each; stigma lobed. Drupes 2–4 mm across, ovoid, scarlet.

Fls. & Frts. : August–October.

Distrib. : Patharwadi

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 162

8) Phyllanthaceae

Flueggea virosa (Roxb. ex Willd.) Royle. *S. virosa* (Roxb. ex Willd.) Baill. in Adansonia 6: 334. 1866; Airy Shaw in Kew Bull. 26: 340. 1972. *Phyllanthus virosus* Roxb. ex Willd. Sp. Pl. 4: 578. 1805. *Fluggea microcarpa* Bl. Bijdr. 580. 1825; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5: 328: 1887; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 3: 77. 1958 (Repr.). 'Dait', 'Karmate', 'Pachurna', 'Pandhar Phalli'.

Shrubs, 2.4 m high, spreading. Leaves elliptic or obovate, apex rounded or obtuse. Flowers greenish-yellow. Capsules c 0.4 cm across, globose, ripens white. Seeds rounded on back, minutely punctate.

Fls. & Frts. : April - October.

Distrib. : Zari-jamni

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 149

9) Rubiaceae

Canthium coromandelicum (N. Burm.) Alston in Trimen, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 6 : 152. 1931; Nicols. et al. van Rheede, Hort. Malab. 218. 1988. *Gmelina*

coromandelica N. Burm. Fl. Ind. 132. 1768. *C. parviflorum* Lam. Encycl. 1: 602. 1785; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 136. 1880. *Plectronia parviflora* (Lam.) Bedd. Fl. Sylv. S. India t. 124. 1872; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 35. 1958 (Repr.). 'Kirni'.

Thorny shrubs, 2–3 m tall or climbing; thorns opposite, stout, straight; bark grey; wood hard. Leaves in clusters of 4 or 5, 0.7–4.0 x 0.5–2.5 cm, variable, obovate, orbicular, elliptic or elliptic–ovate, apex acute, base obtuse or cuneate; petiole 0.5–0.6 cm long. Flowers yellowish–green or green, in axillary clusters; calyx tubular; stamens hairy, filaments white. Drupes didymous, furrowed, obcordate, 1.1 x 0.9 cm, yellow or orange when ripe, edible.

Fls. & Frts. : June - May.

Distrib. : Dhangarwadi

Occurance: Not common

Specimen examined: VNC 173

Conclusion

Though the floristic explorations are being made continuously in different regions of all states, and new species and new distributional reports are continuously being published; yet more remains to be explored, especially regarding the distribution of ephemerals and seasonal. The significance of such field research is the detection of novel additions to a floristic region, which subsequently improves our understanding of plant biogeography and species diversity.

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