

Euphorbia rosea Retz., (Euphorbiaceae) A new distributional records for the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, India

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Article Info

Received: 01-09-2020,

Revised: 20-11-2020,

Accepted: 26-11-2020

Keywords: *Euphorbia rosea* Retz., Marathwada region, Maharashtra.

Abstract

The present paper deals with addition of *Euphorbia rosea* Retz., (Euphorbiaceae), this species is reported for the first time from different parts of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Detailed taxonomic description, photographs and relevant informations are provided here for easy identification.

INTRODUCTION

Euphorbia L., is the largest genus in the family Euphorbiaceae and the sixth largest genus among flowering plants, consisting of around 2,000 species and occurring throughout the world chiefly in tropical, subtropical and warm temperate regions. The genus stands at the top with 30 species endemic to India (Balakrishnan 1998; Binojkumar & Balakrishnan 2010).

Marathwada is one of the largest regions of Maharashtra state consisting eight districts viz. Aurangabad, Jalna, Parbhani, Nanded, Latur, Beed, Osmanabad and Hingoli. The field surveys in the region were carried out during 2019-2020. During thorough plant exploration of the region we found that *Euphorbia rosea* Retz. A newly introduced flowering plant in the region those were not reported in earlier floristic and taxonomic work. After the publication of Flora of Marathwada Naik (1998), many taxa of flowering plants were collected and reported as an addition to the flora of Marathwada by various authors such as Sonje *et al.* (2007), Rathor *et al.* (2007), Kare *et al.* (2008), Survase & Sardesai (2009), Kamble *et al.* (2013), Raut *et al.* (2016) etc. Plant taxa reported in present work are totally new addition to the flora of Marathwada region of Maharashtra

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During botanical exploration of Marathwada region in Maharashtra one interesting species is *Euphorbia rosea* Retz., (Euphorbiaceae) was collected from open grassy field, margins of water courses and in moist shady places in forest. The species was identified with the help of pertinent literature (Singh *et al.* 2001, Almeida 2003), and the taxa were confirmed by Dr. Nilesh V. Malpure Department of Botany, S.S.G.M. College, Kopergaon and by consulting the BSI western Circle, Pune, herbarium as well.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Euphorbia rosea Retz., Obs. Bot. 4: 26. 1786; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 251. 1887; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 572, 1907; Singh *et al.* Fl. Maharashtra St. Dicot. 2: 885. 2001; Almeida. Fl. Maharashtra 4(B) 318 2003. *Chamaesyce rosea* (Retz.) Webster, J. Arnold Arbor. 48: 423. 1967.

Prostrate or ascending herbs with woody rootstock; branches upto 30 cm long, reddish, flexuous; stems numerous, brittle, prostrate, spreading, slender, flexuous, glabrous. Leaves numerous, opposite, 6-9 x 3-6 mm, coriaceous, obliquely obovate or linear-spathulate, rounded at the apex, crenate, serrulate or dentate, base rounded, very unequal-sided; petioles short; stipules

interpetiolar, triangular. Cyathia few in subterminal, lax clusters, rarely solitary in upper axils. Involucres solitary or few, in small, leafy axillary and terminal nearly sessile cymes 5 mm long to the extremity of largest limb, sub-campanulate; stalk 1 mm long; lobes triangular, ciliate; gland small, about 1 mm long, transversely oblong; limbs of the glands rosy, very conspicuous, those of the 2 upper glands long, 3 by 1.5 mm, obliquely oblong, crenulate at the apex those of the 2 lower glands much smaller, 0.5 mm long, oblong or sub-orbicular, crenulate at the tip. Capsules 2 mm long, glabrous; styles 1.5 mm long, connate about $\frac{1}{2}$ - way up from the base, then divaricate and shortly 2-

fid at the apex; cocci slightly rough, bluntly keeled. Seeds 1.5 mm long, transversely rugose.

Flowering and Fruiting: November-January

GPS Reading: N 19° 49' 6.24" E 75° 15' 59.72"

Distribution: Rare. In Maharashtra reported only from Bhandara and Nasik.

Specimens examined: India, Maharashtra, Aurangabad District: MMG 508 (CAL), Date: 06.12.2020, Patoda; MMG 518 (CAL), Date: 13.12.2020 Aurangabad. In Marathwada grow in open grassy field.

Note: It can be identified by limbs of involucral glands subequal, two upper limbs of involucral gland much larger than the two lower ones.

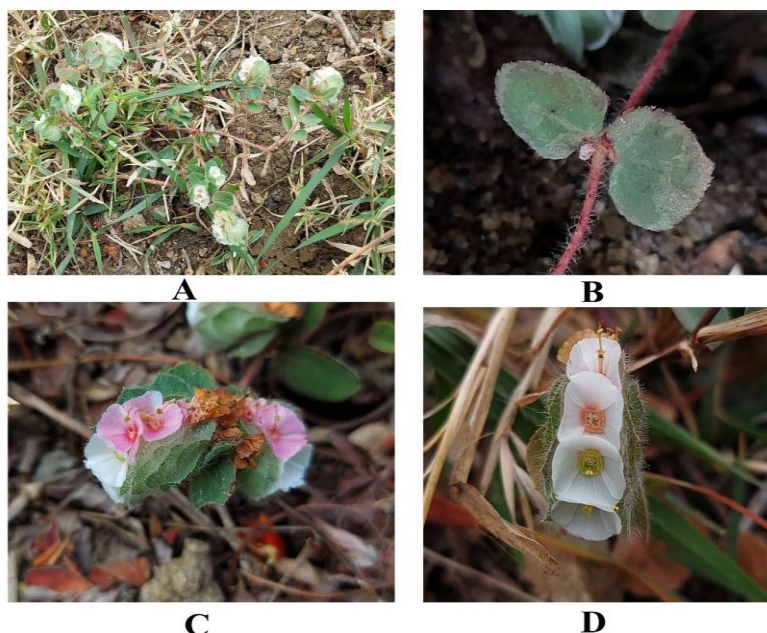


Figure:1. *Euphorbia rosea* Retz. A. Habit
B. Leaf C. Inflorescence D. Flowers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wish to express their gratitude to Dr. Nilesh V. Malpure Department of Botany, S.S.G.M. College, Kopargaon, for confirming the identity of the species. Dr. Tanveer A. Khan for their support.

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How to cite this article

Milind M. Girdhari, 2021. *Euphorbia rosea* Retz., (Euphorbiaceae) A new distributional records for the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, India. *Bioscience Discovery*, **12**(1):36-38.

Google Scholar citation: <https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=vPzEyC8AAAAJ&hl=en>