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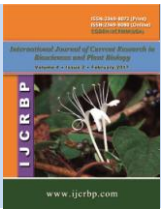

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Ipomoea parasitica (Kunth.) G. Don – A New Distributional Record for Khandesh Region, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Several visits were made in the district for the floristic survey during 2013-2016. The author collected an interesting and novel plant specimen from Chalisgaon Dist. Jalgaon. The identification and authentification has been done with the standard literatures; different floras, research papers *viz*., Taxonomic and morphologic studies in family Convolvulaceae of southern peninsular India. It was identified as *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don. It is a new world species and was collected for the first time in India from Shimoga District, Karnataka. The species was not recorded in Khandesh region so far, hence the present collection of *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don, forms a new distributional record for Khandesh, particularly in Maharashtra. The voucher specimens of the collections have been deposited at the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, B.P. Arts, S.M.A. Science, K.K.C. Commerce College, Chalisgaon, Dist.-Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

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Keywords

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Introduction

The genus *Ipomoea* L. comprises the largest number of the species within the family Convolvulaceae (Morning glory) which are widely cultivated as ornamentals because of their showy and beautiful flowers.Throughoutthe world *Ipomoea* is usually estimated to contain more than 600 species in which over half of them are concentrated in Americans and Asian countries. In India, the genus is represented by 60species (Santapau and Henry, 1973) subsequently *Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke (Biju et al., 1997); *I. parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don (Biju, 2002); *I. ochracea* (Lindl.) G. Don (Shimpale et al., 2012); *I. tenupes* Verdc (Shimpale et al., 2014); *I. mulleri* Benth (Sarvalingam et al., 2014) have been added to Indian flora, bringing the total number to 65 species in India.

In state of Maharashtra the genus *Ipomoea* is reported by 35 species (Singh et al., 2001), subsequently *I. ochracea* (Shimpale et al., 2012) and *I. tenupes* Verdc (Shimpale et al., 2014) had added to Flora of Maharashtra, bringing the total number to 37 species of the genus *Ipomoea.* During floristic explorations in 2013-2016 we came across an interesting specimen of the genus *Ipomoea* from the north Maharashtra region- Khandesh (Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar- districts). On critical studies with pertinent literature it is turned out to be *Ipomoea*

parasitica. Perusal of literature revealed that this species earlier known to peninsular India, Karnataka (Biju, 1997 and 2002), has neither been collected nor reported from Khandesh region. Hence the present collection is a first authentic collection in recent years and forms a new distributional record for Khandesh. The present communication includes a detailed description with illustration of this naturalized species to facilitate its further collection and easy identification.

Materials and methods

Collected plant specimen was examined and authenticated with the help of floras and perusal of literature revealed that species were not recorded by Hooker (1882, *Flora of British India*); Cooke (1958, *The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay*); Naik (1998, *Flora of Marathwada*); Singh et al. (2001, *Flora of Maharashtra State*, Dicotyledones); Kshirsagar and Patil (2008, *Flora of Jalgaon district*, Maharashtra), but Biju (2002) for the first time in India has reported the species from Karnataka, later Shimpale (2012) and Undirwade et al. (2015) reported the species from Maharashtra.

Results and discussion

Species description

Ipomoea parasitica (Kunth.) G. Don (Fig. 1), Gen. Syst. 4.275.1837. *Convolvulus parasiticus* Kunth., Nov. Gen. Sp.(quarto edt.) 3:103. 1818, *Ipomoea perlonga* B.L. Rob., Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 21:319-320, 1894. Annual vines; stem twining, woody at base, usually muricate, labrous, hollow. Leaves simple, ovate to deltoid, apically acuminate basally cordate, glabrous below, sparsely pilose above; midrib and lateral veins raised beneath; petiole generally longer than the blade, slightly pubescent. Flowers axillary, few to (up to 30) several flowered cymes; peduncle long; bracts small, linear-lanceolate; pedicels short, slightly dilated above; sepals 5, more or less same size, apically apiculate; corolla purple, throat yellow, campanulate, slightly 5 lobed, midpetaline bandspilose; stamens inserted; anthers long; filaments white, attached above the corolla base; ovary conical, glabrous; disc small, annular; style inserted, glabrous; stigma biglobose papillate. Fruits capsular, broadly ovate to globular, pedicels enlarged and recurved, fruiting sepals slightly enlarged and reflexed; seeds 4, ovate to elliptic, black in color.

Common name: Yellow throated morning glory.

Flowering: September – December

Fruiting: November –February

Distribution: *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don is a New World species. It is native to the American continents, but is well naturalized as an escape from cultivation in many parts of the world, including India. Mexico through Central and South America.

A **B** **C** **D**

Fig. 1: *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don. A – Habit; B – Inflorescence; C - Single flower; D – Fruiting;

Ecology: It is a rare plant and found growing along road sides, along margins of crop fields, waste places and open places in jungle.

Occurrence: Author collected it from jungles of village Junnone in Chalisgaon, M.S.

Taxonomic note: *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don is very closely similar to *Ipomoea tricolor* Cav., but can be distinguished by smaller sericeous (outside) corolla and by broader calyx lobes than that of later one.

Conclusion

Ipomoea parasitica (Kunth.) G. Don, was found growing in crop fields and along road sides in disturbed areas. Data available about species *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth.) G. Don, is meager but field surveys will play important role to enhance knowledge about the Indian biodiversity, particularly in Maharashtra.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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