



***IPOMOEA MOMBASSANA* VATKE (CONVOLVULACEAE) - NEW RECORD TO THE FLORA OF TELANGANA STATE, INDIA**

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A new record of *Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke, belonging to the family Convolvulaceae has been described from the wastelands of Palamakula village of Rangareddy district, Telangana State, for the first time. The detailed taxonomic description, phenology, and associate species are explicated. Color photographic plate is furnished to validate the species authenticity.

Keywords: Convolvulaceae, *Ipomoea*, New record, Rangareddy district, Telangana State

Ipomoea L. is one of the most important genera in the family Convolvulaceae. It has main distribution in tropical and warm temperate regions of the world and represented by 650 species (Mabberley 2008). In India, the genus is represented by 63 species (Shimpale *et al.* 2014) with 4 endemic taxa (Singh *et al.* 2015). In Telangana the genus *Ipomoea* is represented by 18 species (Pullaiah, 2015) and 14 species (Reddy & Reddy 2016). During plant collections at the site of Palamakula village, Rangareddy District authors found the specimen belonging to the family Convolvulaceae. After critical examination of specimens, inspection of relevant literature (Almeida 2001, Austin & Huaman 1996, Biju 1997, Clarke 1883, Cooke 1905, Venkanna & Das 2001) it was identified as *Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke. This taxon was originally collected and described from Mombasa, Kenya in 1882 and grows commonly along the coastal regions of Kenya (Verdcourt 1963). This species was first recorded from India along peripheral dry deciduous forests of Chinnar, Kerala (Biju *et al.* 1998). This taxon has not been reported from Telangana State and therefore it forms a new distributional record for the state of Telangana, India and a complete description, photograph and significant notes are provided for identification of the species (**Plate 1**).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In December 2019 the authors found few interesting species of *Ipomoea* in waste lands near Palamakula village of Rangareddy in flowering and fruiting stage and again the plant specimens were collected in October 2020 and preserved in the form of Herbarium according to standard methodology and stored in Osmania University Herbarium (HY). The complete phenological record of the plant, habitat, associated species, soil type, geographical coordinates, elevation were noted in the field. The photographs of fresh specimens were taken by using Cannon Power Shot SX70 HS and microscopic observations were carried out for critical studies by using microscope.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

Ipomoea mombassana Vatke, Linnaea, 43: 515. 1882; Biju *et al.* Journ. Econ. Tax. Bot. 22: 471. 1998; Sasidh., Fl. Chinnar WLS 212. 1999.

Annual herbaceous twiners; stems 1.5 to 3 m long with bulbous based hairs. Leaves simple, petiole 7-10 cm long, lamina entire, leaf blade triangular-ovate, up to 8 cm long and 6.5 cm wide, tip acute or shortly aristate, recurved in some leaves, base cordate- sagittate or deeply cordate, more pubescent underneath, inflorescence 1-3-flowered, peduncle 8-9.5 cm



Plate 1: *Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke: **A.** Habit of the plant; **B.** Inflorescence; **C & D.** Flower side and top view; **E.** Capsules

long, pedicles 2.5-3 cm long, recurved, prominently pubescent; bracts 2, small, linear to lanceolate, 4 mm long, pubescent. Sepals 5, linear, acute, subequal, outer three larger, 6-7 x 2 mm, hastate at base, pubescent, inner two smaller, 6 x 2 mm, pubescent, persistent, recurved on fruits. Corolla broadly funnel-shaped, white with purple centre or entirely mauve, 6.5 – 7 mm in diameter, 3-5 cm long, puberulous. Stamens 5, subexserted, unequal, filaments whitish purple, anthers purple, dorsifixed. Ovary conical, disc small, style subexserted, biglobose. Capsule globose, 6.5 – 7 mm in diameter, tipped with indurated style base, seeds subtrigonous, 3 x 3.5 mm.

Flowering & Fruiting: October-December

Associated Species: *Panicum maximum*, *Lantana camara*, *Setaria verticillata*, *Cocculus hirsutus*, *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Alternanthera ficoidea*, *Commelina benghalensis*.

Specimen examined: Palamakula, Rangareddy district, Telangana L. Paramesh & A. Vijaya Bhasker Reddy Voucher number: 0499 (10-10-2020).

CONCLUSION

Ipomoea mombassana Vatke forms a new distributional record for the flora of Telangana State, India and it has an ornamental value due to its elegant showy flowers.

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