Ipomoea ochracea (Convolvulaceae) – A new record for India

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Abstract

Ipomoea ochracea (Lindl.) G. Don (Convolvulaceae), an African species is reported here for the first time from the Western Ghats of India. A detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided for easy identification.

Keywords: Convolvulaceae, India, Ipomoea ochracea, New Record

Introduction

Ipomoea L. is one of the dominant genera in the family Convolvulaceae. It is represented by c. 650 species and mainly distributed in tropical and warm temperate regions of the world (Mabberley, 2008). In India, the genus is represented by c. 60 species (Santapau & Henry, 1973), and in Maharashtra state by c. 38 species (Almeida, 2001; Venkanna & Das, 2001).

During our visit to Pateshwar hill ranges of Western Ghats in Satara district of Maharashtra state, an interesting specimen of the family Convolvulaceae was collected. After preliminary laboratory studies it has been identified as a species of Ipomoea. Since the specimen was not matching with any species of the genus reported from India, it was sent to Dr. George Staples, Singapore Botanic Garden, who identified it as Ipomoea ochracea (Lindl.) G. Don. The identity was further confirmed by referring Verdcourt (1958), Stefanovic et al. (2003) and by browsing the Kew database (http://apps.kew.org/efloras/key). As its occurrence not reported by the earlier workers (Hooker, 1882; Cooke, 1905; Johari, 1983; Fang & Staples, 1995; Biju, 1997; Das & Mukherjee, 1997; Naik, 1998; Almeida, 2001; Venkanna & Das, 2001), it is being reported here as a new record to India and a detailed description, illustration and relevant notes are provided for identification of the species.


Fig. 1

Climbers, perennial; roots tuberous, pendulous, slender. Stems with long hairs. Leaves broadly ovate, 3 – 6.5 × 2.5 – 5 cm, cordate with rounded lobes at base, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, thinly hirsute with long hairs; petioles 1 – 5 cm long, densely hirsute. Inflorescences a cyme, 1 – 3-flowered; peduncles 0.7 – 1 cm long, slender, hairy; bracts linear-lanceolate, 0.3 – 0.5 × c. 0.1 mm, near joint of pedicel with peduncle, hairy; pedicels 0.7 – 1.2 cm long, hairy, elongated in fruits. Calyx subequal, oblong-acute, 0.9 – 1.2 × 0.2 – 0.3 cm, white-ciliate at margins, faintly-veined, glabrous inside, hirsute outside. Corolla infundibuliform, 3 – 3.6 cm long, sulphur-yellow; tube c. 2 cm long, glabrous; limb 3 – 3.2 cm across. Stamens 5, subequal, included, adnate to corolla at c. 5 mm above base; filaments 8 – 9 mm long, hairy at base; pollen grains globose, echinate. Ovary ovoid, to 4 mm long, glabrous; style slender, 1.3 – 1.5 cm long, glabrous, included; stigma 2-lobed. Capsules ovoid, 0.8 – 1.2 × 0.7 – 0.9 cm, acute with persistent style, glabrous, brown, 4-valved, 2-celled; seeds 2 – 4, c. 5 × 4 mm, hairy, dark brown.

Flowering & Fruiting: August – September.

Habitat & Ecology: Rocky crevices of hill slopes, c. 890 m. It was found twining on Ischaemum sp. and Apluda mutica L. and mostly associated
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Fig. 1. *Ipomoea ochracea* (Lindl.) G. Don: a. Habit; b. A flower; c. Corolla split open; d. Pistil; e. Fruit; f. & g. Seed (Drawn from *Shimpale* 8658 by G.G. Potdar).

**Distribution:** Africa; the present record of this species from Western Ghats shows its extended distribution in India.

**Specimen examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Satara district, Pateshwar hills, 17° 36’ 997” N & 074° 03’ 281” E, 889 m, 11.9.2010, Shimpale 8658 (Department of Botany Herbarium, The New College, Kolhapur).

**Notes:** Among the Indian taxa it resembles *Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker Gawl. and *I. obscura* f. *concolor* Naik & Zate from which it can be distinguished as shown in Table 1.

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### Literature Cited


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