

A new family record Molluginaceae (Caryophyllales) to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Apurba Kumar Das* and C. Sivaperuman

Zoological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair-744102, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India.

*apurbakumar15@gmail.com

Article Info

Received: 16-02-2019,

Revised: 22-03-2019,

Accepted: 26-03-2019

Abstract

One angiosperm species *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam., from sandy plains of southern coast, belongs to family Molluginaceae is reported as new distributional record for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Keywords:

Molluginaceae, Angiosperm, new distributional record, Great Nicobar Island.

INTRODUCTION

The family Molluginaceae (carpet weed family) mostly consists of herbs or dwarf shrubs with fleshy or succulent leaves, in the order of Caryophyllales, which comprises 12 genera and about 120 species (Mabberely, 2017) distributed mainly in the tropical and subtropical regions, but widespread in southern Africa. In India the family is represented by two genera such as *Glinus* and *Mollugo* with six species. In mainland India the genus *Mollugo* L. is represented by four species *Mollugo cerviana* (L.) Ser., *Mollugo disticha* (L.) Ser., *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam, and *Mollugo pentaphylla* L. (Pullaiah and Silar, 2000).

During recent studies on floristic diversity of Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve, the author collected a prostrate herb from the sandy places in Sastri Nagar, Great Nicobar Island. On critical assessment and study of the specimen, it was confirmed as *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam. Referring the literature came to know that so far this species is not reported from these Islands (Pandey & Diwakar 2008; Shina, 1999; Hajra *et al.*, 1999; Naik & Rao 2016; Mathew, 1998). The report of this species is new addition to the flora of Andaman

and Nicobar Islands, as well as the finding of this species from Great Nicobar Island also adding new addition of the family Molluginaceae to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A brief description and photographs are given for easy identification of the species in the field.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Mollugo nudicaulis Lamarck, Encycl. 4: 234. 1786; FBI 2: 664. 1879; Gamble 1: 553.1919. (Fig. 2).

Glabrous prostrate annual herb up to 15-20 cm tall. Leaves are at the base and forming a rosette, 1.6-6.0 cm × 5-16 mm, spatulate (spoon shaped to inverted lanceshaped), apex obtuse-retuse, base attenuate, glabrous, margin entire, petiole short. Inflorescence trichotomously branched cymes, involucre bracts ovate-oblong, 1-2 mm long, rough. Flowers white in many peduncle, about 8 mm across. Sepals 5, broadly ellipsoid to oblong, 2.5-3.0 mm long. Stamens 3-5; filaments 1.5-2 mm. Ovary oblong, 3-lobed, 3-celled, stigma 3, short curved. Capsule 3 valved, ellipsoid, 2 mm. Seeds small about 1 mm, black and glossy, minutely strophiolate.

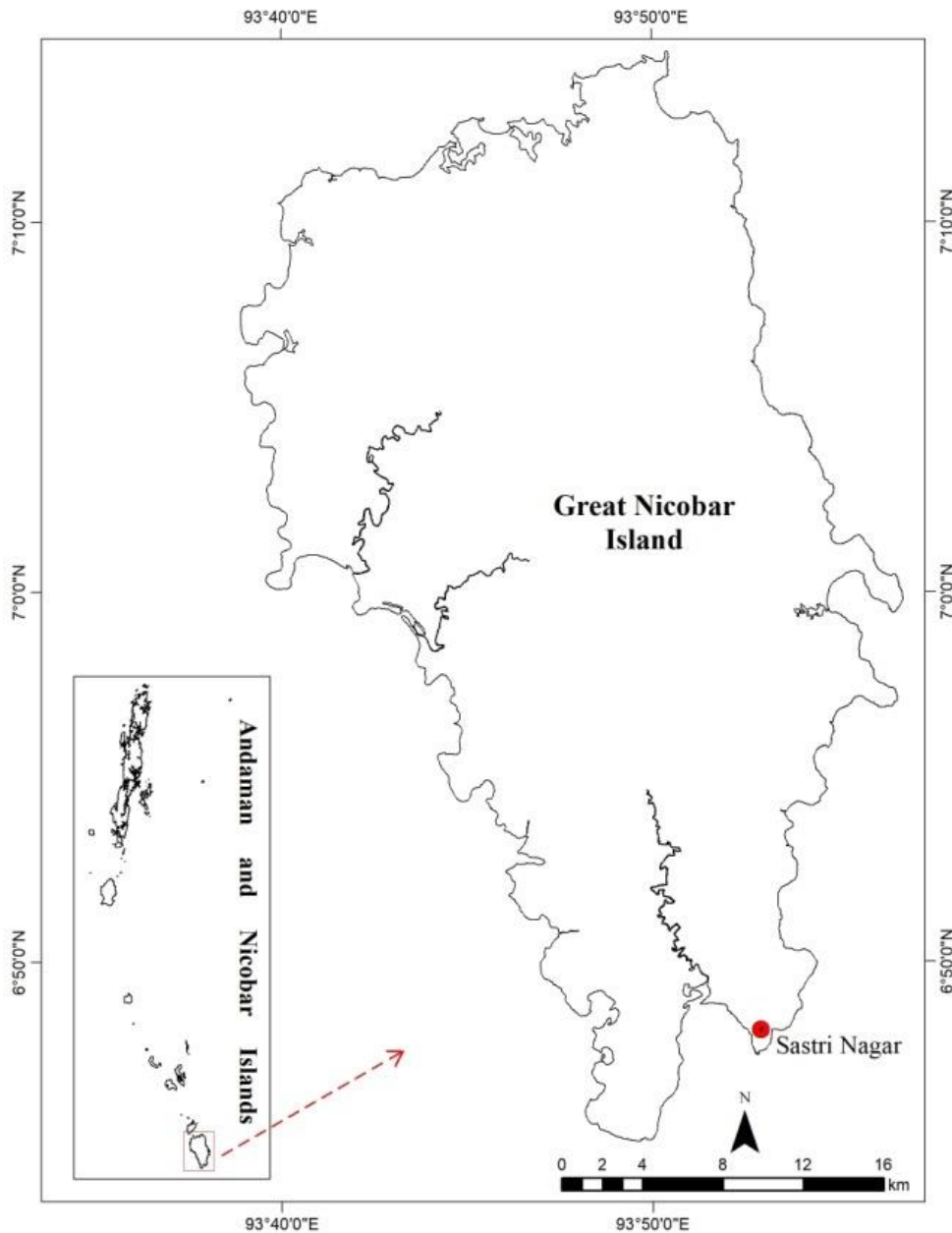


Fig. 1: Distribution of *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam., in Great Nicobar Island.

Flowering & Fruiting: December-May

Distribution: North America, Tropical Africa, India and Pakistan.

Habitat: Common in sandy places, scrub deciduous forest, along road side and in waste lands.

Specimen examined: India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Great Nicobar Island, Sastri Nagar,

6°48'10.51"N 93°53'10.27"E, 03.04.2019, Apurba Kumar 4112 (ZSI). (Fig. 1).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are indebted to Director, Zoological Survey of India, for providing the facilities and constant support. Thanks are extended to Divisional Forest Officer, Nicobar Division, Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar Island for providing permission to carry out the field survey.

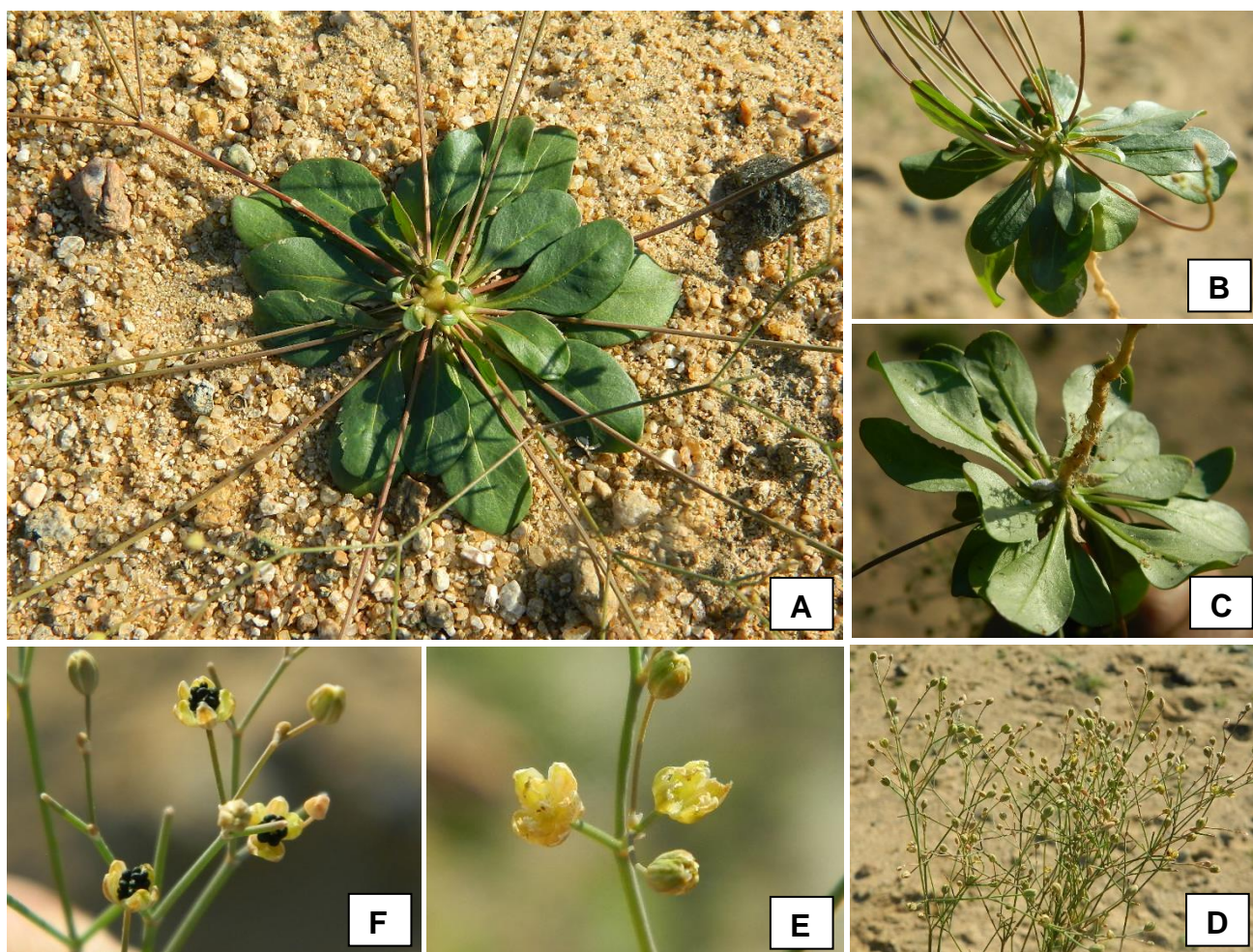


Fig. 2: *Mollugo nudicaulis* Lam., (Molluginaceae): A - Habit; B-Ventral leaf blade; C - Dorsal leaf blade; D- Inflorescence; E- Flowers; F- Seeds.

B-Ventral leaf blade; C - Dorsal leaf blade; D- Inflorescence; E- Flowers; F- Seeds.

REFERENCES

Hajra PK, Rao PSN and Mudgal V, 1999. (Eds.), *Flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands*. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.

Mabberley DJ, 2017. *Mabberley's Plants-Book: A portable dictionary of plants, their classification and uses*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Mathew SP, 1998. A supplementary report on the flora and vegetation of Bay Islands, India, *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.*, 22: 249-272.

Mudavath Chennakesavulu Naik and Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao, 2016. Eight Angiosperm

Species, Additions to Flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India. *Bioscience Discovery*, 7 (1): 30-33.

Pandey RP and Diwakar PG, 2008. An integrated check-list Flora of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India. *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.*, 32 (2): 403-500.

Pullaiah T and Silar Mohammed M, 2000. *Flora of Ranag Reddi District Andhra Pradesh, India*. Pp 109-110.

Sinha BK, 1999. In Hajra, P.K & P.S.N. Rao (Eds.) *Flora of Great Nicobar Islands*. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.

How to cite this article

Apurba Kumar Das and C. Sivaperuman, 2019. A new family record Molluginaceae (Caryophyllales) to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Bioscience Discovery*, 10(2):58-60.