

Full Length Article

New additions to the Flora of Nagpur District, Maharashtra - IV

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ABSTRACT

Continuous botanical explorations in the various localities of Nagpur District resulted into the some novel additions to the floristic wealth of district. Authors have collected 4 plant specimens from 3 different families viz. *Mutingia calabura* L. (Mutingiaceae), *Mikania micrantha* Kunth; *Centratherum punctatum* (Asteraceae) and *Clerodendrum splendens* G. Don (Verbenaceae) for the first time from this region. Plant specimens were collected, identified with the help of literatures and various floras.

Keywords: New additions to the Flora, *Mutingia calabura* L., *Mikania micrantha* Kunt. *Centratherum punctatum* and *Clerodendrum splendens* G. Don

INTRODUCTION

Floristic diversity refers to the variety of various taxa in a particular region. While documenting the floristic vegetation due to ignorance or any other reasons some elements not recorded earlier. Authors have been incessantly exploring the district with many field visits in every season. Continuing from our last communications of new additions to the flora of Nagpur district (Kamble *et al.*, (2013-a, 2013-b, 2013-c), here again authors were collected some interesting taxa for the first time from the district. Earlier Ugemuge (1986) documented Flora of Nagpur district with 1136 plant species. Afterwards, some workers under botanical explorations in the district worked out many further additions to the Flora of Nagpur District, viz. Bhuskute (1989, 1990), Thakre and Srinivasu (2012a, 2012b), Kamble *et al.*, (2013-a, 2013-b, 2013-c) and Thakre and Srinivasu (2013).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

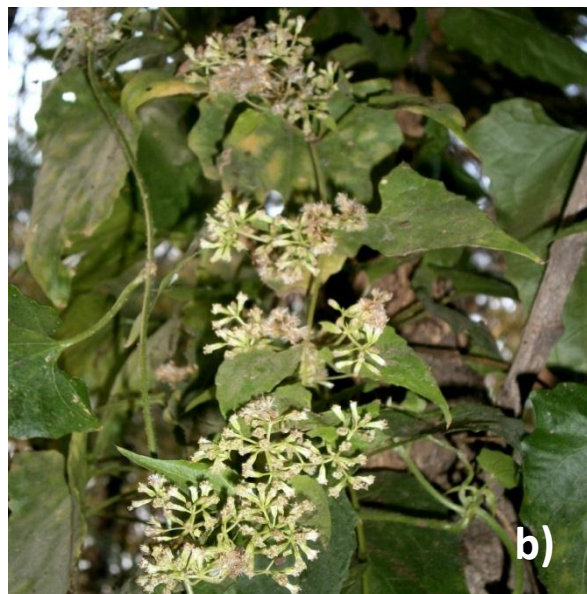
Study Area

Nagpur district is very well blessed with natural wealth in Eastern Maharashtra. It lies

between latitudes 20° 35' and 21° 44' north and longitudes 78° 15' and 79° 40' east and has an area of 9930 square kilometers. The district has an average elevation between 275.50 and 305m above sea level & geographically surrounded by large residual hill ranges of Satpudas and their detached members. Politically district is divided into 14 talukas viz. Bhiwapur, Hingna, Kalmeshwar, Kamptee, Katol, Kuhl, Mouda, Nagpur, Nagpur Rural, Narkhed, Parseoni, Ramtek, Saoner and Umred.

Several visits were made in the district for the floristic survey during whole year. The identification and authentication has been done with the standard literatures; different floras, research papers and reports viz., Flora of Nagpur District (Ugemuge 1986), Flora of Maharashtra State Vol. I (Singh & Karthikeyan 2000), Flora of Maharashtra State Vol. II (Singh *et al.* 2001), the Flora of Maharashtra (Almeida 1998) etc. The voucher specimens of the collection have been deposited at the Herbarium, P.G. Department of Botany, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur.

PHOTOPLATE: I

*Muntingia calabura* L.*Mikania micrantha* Kunth*Centratherum punctatum* Cass.*Clerodendrum splendens* G. Don**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Authors collected some interesting specimens belonging to families Muntingiaceae, Asteraceae and Verbenaceae. After describing it, the observations were recorded and authenticated with the help of floras, the specimens illustrated below. The flowering and fruiting seasons, habitats and the localities in the district of the plants also cited in the text.

1) Muntingiaceae

Muntingia calabura L. Sp. Pl. 509, 1753; Murti in Sharma *et al.* Fl. India 3:570. 1993; Almeida, Fl. Mah. 1:169, 1996 (Photoplate: I (a)).

Trees with 4 m tall; branches hairy. Leaves 5-10 x 2-4 cm, oblong-lanceolate, acuminate at apex,

obliquely rounded at base, serrate at margins, 3-5 nerved, hairy on upper surface, woolly below. Flowers white, solitary or in pairs. Berries glabrous, ripens pinkish-red. Seeds numerous.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Ecology: Besides the stream, Escape

Location: Duttawadi.

Status: Not Common in District while Sparse in Maharashtra, But cultivated in Bangalore.

Exsiccata: Bot/9857

Note: It is the first record for Vidarbha.

2) Asteraceae

Mikania micrantha Kunth in Humboldt *et al.*, Nov. Gen. Sp.4, ed.f: 105. 1818; Sharma, B. D. *et al.*, eds. 1993 in Flora of India. (Photoplate: I (b)).

Vines, slender, branched. Stems yellowish or brownish, usually terete, slightly striate, glabrate to sparsely puberulent. Leaves opposite; petiole 1-6 cm; blade ovate, 3-13 × ca. 10 cm, both surfaces glabrate with numerous glandular spots, base cordate to deeply so, margin entire to coarsely dentate, apex shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a corymbose panicle, capitula clustered on subcymose branches; phyllaries oblong, ca. 3.5 mm, glabrous to puberulent, apex shortly acuminate; corollas white, 2.5-3 mm, tube narrow, limb broadly campanulate, inside papillate. Achenes 1.5-2 mm, 4-ribbed, with many scattered glands; pappus setae dirty white, ca. 3 mm.

Flowering & Fruiting: Year around.

Ecology: Moist, Marshy areas

Location: Seminary Hills.

Status: Not Common but it covered the particular marshy areas of Seminary Hill.

Exsiccata: Bot/9858

Note: It is the first record for Vidarbha.

Centratherum punctatum Cass. F. Cuvier, Dict. sci. nat. 7:384. 1817; Hook f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 227.1882.

(Photoplate: I (c))

Herb, erect, to 50 cm high with pubescent stems. Leaves simple, alternate, blade ovate to spoon-shaped, 2.5-8 cm long with a winged petiole and toothed margins. Flowers continuously through the year after maturity; flowers in stalked terminal heads surrounded by two types of bracts, the outer larger and leaf-like, the inner small. Ray florets none. Disk florets many, light purple, mostly 9-14 mm long, the central ones distinctly shorter than the marginal ones. Fruit a pale linear achene covered with upward pointing bristles.

Flowering & Fruiting: Year around.

Ecology: Moist, Marshy areas

Location: Gorewada, University Campus.

Status: Not Common

Exsiccata: Bot/9859

3. Verbenaceae

Clerodendrum splendens G. Don in Edinb. Phil. J. 9:349. 1824 non A Cheval. 1920; Bailey, Man. Cult. Pl. 845. 1949; Naik, Fl. Marathwada 2: 700. 1998.

(Photoplate: I (d))

Scandent shrubs; stems tomentose. Leaves 6-10 x 4-8cm, ovate-oblong, acute at apex, cordate at

base, pubescent on nerves beneath, punctuate all over. Flowers in much branched cymose panicles; calyx 5-partite; corolla scarlet-red, tube slender.

Flowering and Fruiting: September-December

Ecology: Open patches

Location: Bharat Nagar, Futala

Status: Not Common

Exsiccata: Bot/9860

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are thankful to Dr. N. R. Ugemuge, UGC-Emeritus Fellow, PGTD of Botany, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur for their valuable guidance during this task.

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How to Cite this Article:

Rahul B. Kamble and Alka Chaturvedi, 2014. New additions to the Flora of Nagpur District, Maharashtra-IV. *Biosci. Disc.*, **5**(2):160-162.