

## NEPTUNIA OLERACEA LOUR (MIMOSACEAE): AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF MARATHWADA (MS) INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

The taxon *Neptunia oleracea* Lour (Mimosaceae) is an addition to the flora of Marathwada. The identification, description and global position of the plant are mentioned in this present study. The taxon is identified by its aquatic habitat, spongy tissue on the stem and oblong inflorescence bearing the neutral and fertile flowers.

**Key words:** Description, Flora of Marathwada, Global position, Identification, Mimosaceae, *Neptunia oleracea* Lour.

### INTRODUCTION

Genus *Neptunia* Lour comprises two species in Maharashtra (Hooker 1879; Theodor Cook 1901; Kartikeyan and Singh 2000). The total 1719 species and 73 intraspecific categories belonging to the 799 genera and 159 families of flowering plants have been reported in the Marathwada region (Waghire and Chavan 2009). Naik (1998) has reported *Neptunia triquetra* (Vahl) Benth. species from Marathwada region of Maharashtra state.

We collected a few interesting specimens belonging to the family Mimosaceae in Nanded district (Tq. Degloor) of Marathwada (N18° 35'21.9" E77° 38' 26.3" 363m) India. The specimens were allied to the *N. triquetra* (Vahl) Benth but differ in habit, habitat and floral characters. Based on comparative study of these specimens and collection of relevant literature the specimens are identified as *N. oleracea* Lour. Description and citation was followed by the herbarium preparation. A specimen is deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University,

Aurangabad and Department of Botany, School of Life Science, SRTMU Nanded having herbarium addition entry No.0747 and No. 127 respectively.

### Taxonomic Treatment

***Neptunia oleracea* Lour:** Benth.in Hook. Journ. 4. 354; Loureiro, J. de, *Fl Coch.* 1, 2: 641, 653, (1790); J.D.Hooker, *Fl.Btrs.Ind.* 2:285(1879); Theodor Cook, *Fl. Prs.Bom.* 1: 435 (1901); Sharma and Singh, *Fl of Mah.* 1, (2000).

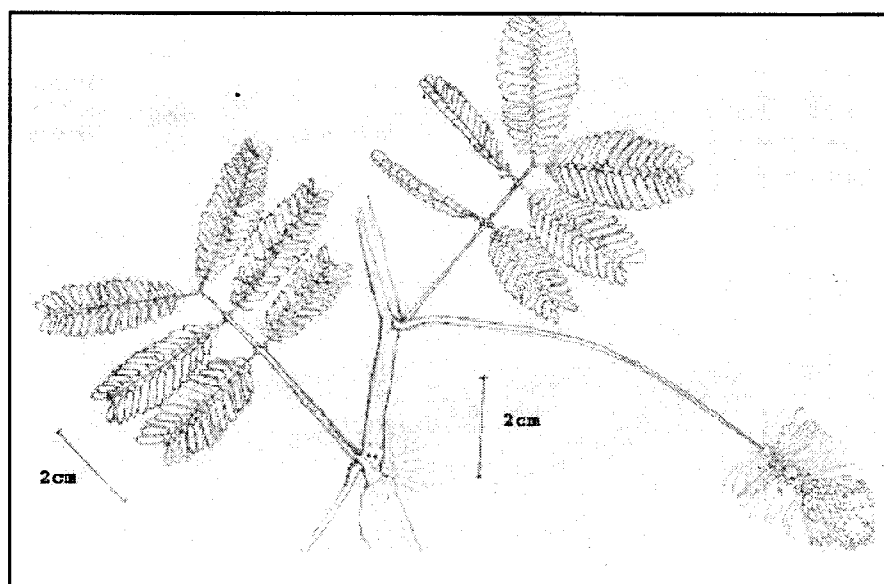
### Common names:

**Marathi:** Lajalu; **Hindi:** Lajwanti; **English:** Water puff, Water mimosa.

**Habitat:** Aquatic.

### Description:

***Neptunia oleracea* Lour** is Perennial, floating herb. Stem elongated, fistular, purplish to greenish in colour, covered with thick spongy sheath, root arises from the node of stem. leaves bipinnate, stipules ovate or cordate, petiole 2-4 cm. long, swollen and purple at base; pinnae 2-3 pairs, shortly stocked, leaflets 8-16 in paripinnate, oblique at base, rounded apex, entire, brown or purple colour at



margin, glabrous; flowers in oblong head, yellowish in colour, axillary, peduncle 6-14 cm. long, stout, erect; upper and middle flowers smaller and fertile, lower flowers neutral. Calyx membranous, corolla linear, oblong, acute. Stamens 10, anther gland crested. Pod stalked, deflexed, curved, and oblique at base, compressed, and depressed between seeds, beaked, dehiscent. Seeds 6-9, obovoid, oblong, and brown.

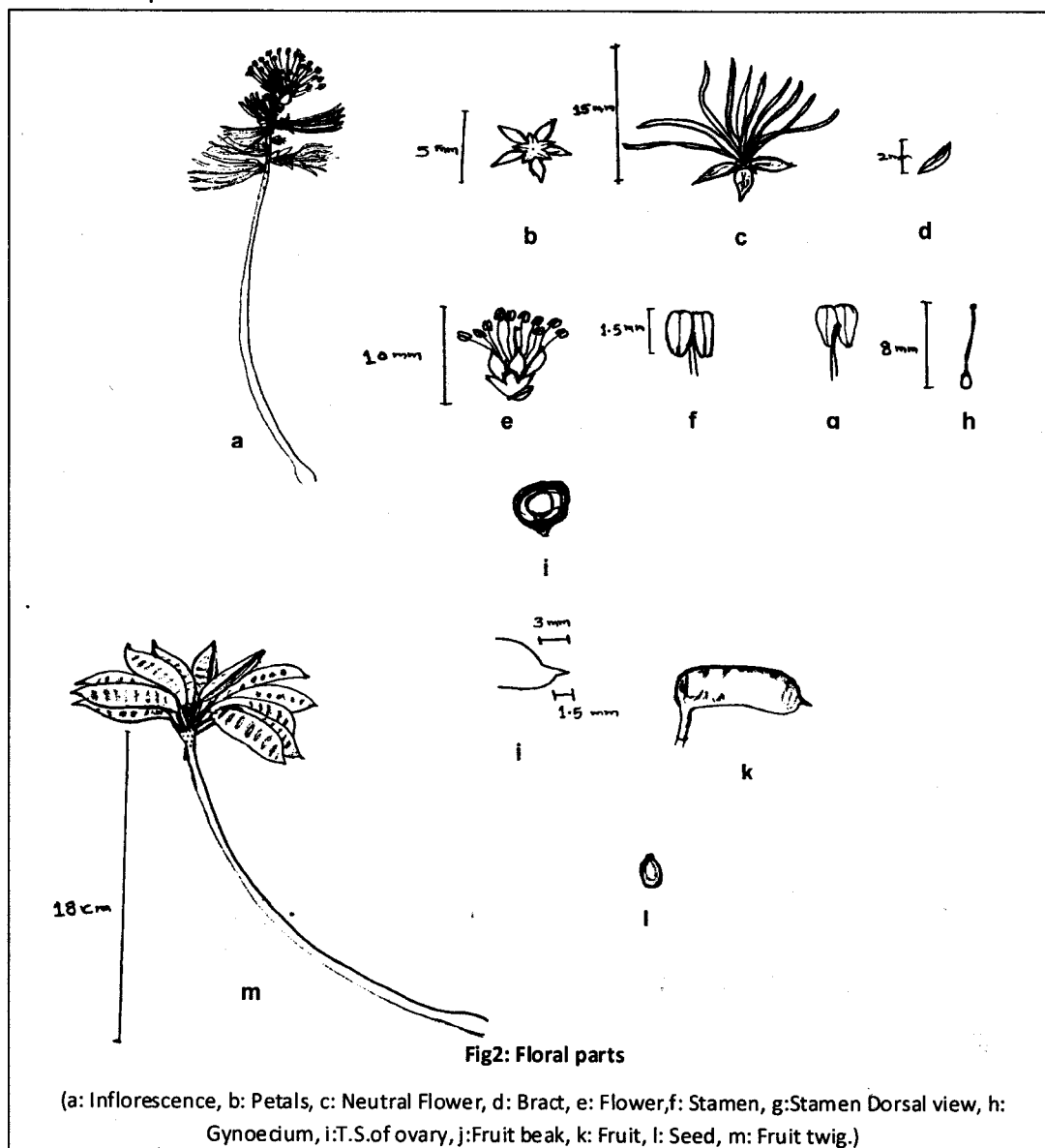
**Flowering and fruiting:** Throughout the year.

**Exsiccata:** BAMU Specimen No. 0747

**Specimen Examined:**

Specimen examined at the Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India.

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