



Ipomoea triloba L. New distributional record to Eastern Ghats, India

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Abstract

Ipomoea triloba collected from the Eastern Ghat forests of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh, is a new distributional record for the Eastern Ghats of India.

INTRODUCTION

During floristic explorations in Andhra Pradesh, we could collect some curious plant specimens belonging to Convolvulaceae. After critical examination in the laboratory the specimens identified belonging to *Ipomoea triloba*. Perusal of published literature (Biju, 1997; George, 2013; Pullaiah, 2011; Krishnamurthy *et al.*, 2014; Sarvalingam *et al.*, 2015; Sourav, 2016; Naik *et al.*, 2018) revealed this species has not been reported so far from the Eastern Ghats. Hence, the present collections form a new distribution record for the Eastern Ghats ecoregion. Technical description, phenology, distributional map, voucher specimens and photos are provided. The voucher specimen was deposited in Sri Krishnadevaraya University Herbarium, Ananthapuramu (SKU).

Taxonomic Treatment

Ipomoea triloba L., Sp. Pl. 1: 161.1753; Sourav, *Trop. Plant Research* 3(1): 102-104.2016; Naik *et al.*, *Bioscience Discovery* 9(2): 274-277. 2018 (Image. 1 & 2).

Annual twining herbs, growing up to 5m. Stem terete, glabrous and sparsely pubescent at nodes, latex milky. Leaves simple, alternate, petiolate; petiole 1-8 cm long; lamina broadly ovate, usually trilobed or at times lobes absent, cordate at base, acuminate-apiculate at apex, chartaceous, glabrous to sparsely pilose on both surfaces, 3-8 × 2-6 cm long. Inflorescence axillary umbellate cymes.

Peduncle c. 10 cm long, angular-terete, verrucose. Flowers closing before noon, bracteate, dimorphic, bisexual, regular. Bracts oblong-lanceolate, 0.1-0.2 cm. Calyx green, with sub-equal lobes, oblong to elliptic-ovate, sparsely pilose abaxially, fimbriate on margin, acute-mucronate at apex, 5-8 mm long; outer two lobes shorter than the inner three. Corolla funnel-shaped, obtusely 5-lobed, pinkish purple, 1.5-2.0 cm long. Stamens epipetalous, included, 7 mm long; anther 1-1.5 × 0.5 mm long, 3-5 mm long. Pistil included, 12 mm long; ovary conical, pubescent, stigma 2-lobed. Capsule sub globose, bristly pubescent, apiculate, 2-loculed, 4-seeded. Seed 3-5.5 × 2-5 mm long, glabrous, shiny, chocolate brown.

Flowering & Fruiting: October-December.

Habitat & ecology: Rare, in scrub and along roads in forests.

Distribution: India: Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Eastern Ghats: Andhra Pradesh. World: Native to Tropical America and now widely distributed in the West Indian islands, Malaysia, Pacific islands and Tropical Asia (Biju, 1997; Ariyan Sarvalingam *et al.*, 2015; Sourav, 2016; Naik *et al.*, 2018).

Specimen examined 55525 (SKU), 16.xi.2017, Gudem (17° 51' 16.08" N, 82° 55' 55.06" E), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, coll. BR, MAK & PA.



Image1: *Ipomoea triloba*. A. Habit, B. Inflorescence & flower, C. Fruit, D & E. Seeds.



Image 2: Herbarium Specimen of *Ipomoea triloba*.

Abbreviations: SKU (Sri Krishnadevaraya University), BR (Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao), MAK (Midigesi Anil Kumar) and PA (Paradesi Anjaneyulu).

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