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Sida tiagii Bhandari (Malvaceae) - New Record to the Flora of Maharashtra State and It's Range Extension in Central and Western India

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Sida tiagii, Bhandari, Flora, Central and Western India Western India A B S T R A C T Present paper deals with a new record to the Flora of Maharashtra state and its range extension in Western India. Sida tiagii Bhandari belong to family Malvaceae is a taxon growing in few localities of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state and it is found to be rare in distribution and is not reported in the flora of Maharashtra state earlier. This taxon also extends its range of distribution from Rajasthan to Maharashtra, India.

Introduction

Sida L. comprising herbs and subshrubs belongs to the family Malvaceae. The genus comprise about 150 species is found in tropical and subtropical regions of the world Bhandhari (Mabberly, 2008). (1978)reported 7 species of Sida from Indian desert. Singh (1987) reported 8 species of Sida from Rajasthan and Paul (1993) reported 12 species from India. Sivarajan and Pradip (1996) have critically studied the genus in their work on Mavaceae of Southern Peninsular India 15 species and a variety. Cook (1901) in his work reported the occurrence of 6 species and 2 infraspecific taxa. Joshi et al., (2012) reported S. tiagii in his Kaccha Island in Gujrat state and recently Tiwari and Shukla (2014) have reported this taxon from Madhya Pradesh.

Methodology

During our field exploration, many taxa of Sida were collected from various localities of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. Specimens were brought to the laboratory and processed for herbarium specimens with standard procedure given by Survase and Dhabe (2013). Majority of the Specimens were satisfactorily identified and confirmed by using pertinent literature and voucher specimens were deposited in Herbarium, Department of Botany, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad critical (BAMU). After investigations, authors found that one of the taxon belongs to Sida tiagii Bhandari which

is a new record to the Flora of Maharashtra. This species is allied to *S. ovata* but differs in its mericarps with completely enclosing calyx and spiny outgrowths just below the awns.

So far this taxon is known to be endemic to Rajasthan and Gujrat (India) and Pakistan. In recent exploration, few more localities were found in Western India in addition to the type localities. This taxon is found to be extended its distributional range from Rajasthan to Madhya Pradesh to the central India and towards Maharashtra in Western India. Therefore, in present paper correct and updated citation, detail description, distributional map showing range of extension, note on its phenology depicted for taxon followed by a note on ecology and taxonomic identity.

Sida tiagii Bhandari in Annals Arid Zone 16: 455. 1977 et Fl. Ind. Desert 74. 1978. S. pakistanica Abedin in Pak. Journ. Bot. 11: 54.1979. V. Singh et al Fl. of Rajasthan 133. 1987. Paul in Shama et al., in Fl. of India 3: 372. 1993.

Much branched, perennial undershrub, densely stellately -tomentose all over. Stem woody at the base. Leaves $1.5-3 \text{ cm} \times 1-1.5$ cm, ovate-oblong to obovate, rounded, entire, 3-5 nerved from base, dentate above, rounded at apex, both surfaces stellately hairy, petioles 1-1.5 cm long, stellate. Pedicels solitary, 3-13 mm long, jointed just below the calyx. Calyx 8-9 mm long, densely stellate, lobes mucronate enlarged in fruit. Corolla pale-yellow, 1.8 cm when fully open, petals obliquely obovoid. Staminal tube hirsute. Capsule pentangularovoid, 9 mm in diam., completely covered by persistant calyx; mericarps 7-8, woody, much reticulated on sides, apex hirsute, 2awned, with 2 glands and 2 spiny outgrowths just below the awns; awns 5.5 mm long, hirsute. Seeds 2.5 mm long, black, glabrous with tufts of stellate hairs at hilum.

Flowering and fruiting: August to October.

Distribution: Pakistan, India- Rajasthan, Gujrat and now Maharashtra.

Lectotype: India, Rajasthan, Barmer Dist. Mungaria, 28th August 1962, Bhandari M. M. 1570A (CAL).

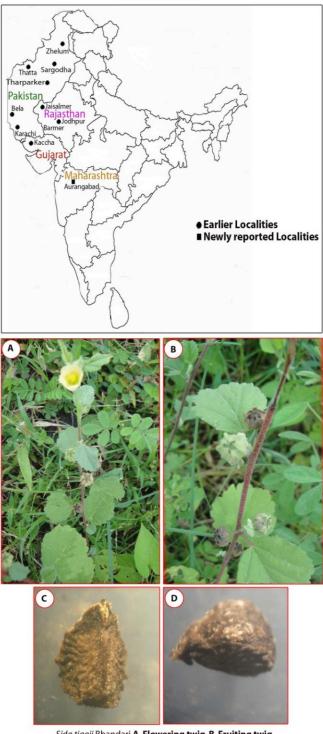
Illus: Bhandari M. M. Fl. of Ind. Desert 74. 1978, T. K. Paul in Sharma *et al.*, *op.cit*. Fl. of India Vol. 3: 295. 1993.

Ecological Note: The taxon occurs in rocky soil and admist grasses and is known only from few collections in Aurangabad, Maharashtra so far, seems to be rare and hence it needs urgent steps towards conservation.

Voucher specimens referred

Pakistan-Sargodha Dist: Khatwari on way to Naushera, M. Qaiser 2633 (KUH); Jhelum Dist.: Mustafaabad, near Choa Saidan Shah, M.Qaiser & A. Ghafoor 4569 (KUH); Bela Dist.: Sonmiani, S. Abedin & S. I. Ali 693 (KUH); Dadu Dist.: near Thana Bula Khan, stony hills, S.M.H. Jafri 3699 (KUH); Karachi Dist.: stony hillock, Manghopir, S.M.H. Jafri 1510 (KUH); Thatta Dist: Hazarat Abdullah Shah Mazar, Thatta, S.Abedin 5583 (KUH) Tharparker Dist.: Top Mallah, Virawa, Nagar-parker Road, M. Qaiser 4149 (KUH). India- Rajasthan-Jodhpur: Massuria, foot hills Bhandari M. M. 33, 13. 08. 1959, Barmer: Mungaria. on sand near Gadra Road, 28. 08. 1962, Bhandari M. M. 1570, 1602, Jaisalmer: Amarsagar, Blatter 5628. Gujarat- Kachha Island, Joshi P. N. s.n. Madhya Pradesh- Tiwari A. P. and Shukla A. N. s. n.

Distributional map



Sida tiagii Bhandari A. Flowering twig, B. Fruiting twig, C. Ventral view of seed and D. Dorsal view of Seed

Specimen examined

Maharashtra State- Aurangabad Dist.- Near Soneri Mahal, University Campus, Aurangabad, S. S. Bhosale & Arvind S. Dhabe 6201, Budhha caves Road, University Campus, Aurangabad S. S. Bhosale, 8549.

Medicinal uses: Sida tiagii Bhandari is a native taxon of the Indian and Pakistan desert area. Fruits used in folk medicine as a blood purifier, tonic and muscle strengthener (Bhandari, 1990; Tahir *et al.*, 1996). Fruits are also used as antidepressant (Datusalia *et al.*, 2009), acute and chronic hypoglycaemic (Datusalia *et al.*, 2012) and anti-inflammatory (Kumawat *et al.*, 2012).

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