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EXACUM SESSILE L. OF TRIBE EXACEAE (GENTIANACEAE) A NEW REPORT FOR FLORA OF MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Exacum sessile L. belongs to Family Gentianaceae, hitherto unrecorded. It is reported for first time from Naygaon forest of Beed District, Maharashtra State, India. A brief description, key with allied species with herbarium image of recorded species is provided to facilitate its easy identification.

KEY WORDS: *Exacum sessile*, Exaceae, flora, Maharashtra State, New record.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Exacum* was established by Linnaeus (1753) with type species *E. sessile* and *E. pedunculatum*. The genus *Exacum* L. belongs to tribe *Exaceae* of family Gentianaceae, includes c 20 species, chiefly distributed from India and few in Malayan, Chinese, African and 19 species, 5 varieties which are distributed in Indian (Clarke, 2006; Biswal et al., 2011). While in Maharashtra the genus represents 5 species (Cooke, 1883; C. R. Jadhav in N. P. Singh et al., 2001) and 1 species from Marathwada (Naik, 1996). While working on genus *Exacum* L. of Maharashtra, author had collected some interesting and unrecorded species of *Exacum* L. were encountered from Beed District.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field explorations were conducted during 2014 from Naygaon forest of Beed District, Maharashtra State, India. All relevant field data including associated species have been recorded. Botanical characteristics of the plant species were recorded at the collection site itself and Identified using relevant flora, revisions and monographs and were processed and deposited in the Herbarium at Post Graduate Department of Botany, Deogiri College, Aurangabad (M. S.) India.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show in figure 1. Therefore, it is first occurrence report of *Exacum sessile* L. for Flora of Maharashtra State. The detail and update citation, brief description, distribution, phenological data and note on identity are provided to facilitate its easy identification.

Exacum sessile L Griseb. Gentian. 113, and in EC. Prodr. ix. 47; C. B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. : 98. 1883; Garge, S., Indian Gentianaceae 7.1988. (fig. 1).

Isotype: India, Manglor, S. Coll., 582 (K 000759950)

Stern 20-25 cm., erect, quadrangular, Leaves 1.5-2.5 cm, sessile, obscurely nerved, acute or sub-obtuse. Peduncles 1-1.5 cm., axillary, 1-2 flowered; terminal peduncle appearing sometimes 2.5 in., but then bearing a pair of small leaves near the flower. Calyx-lobes 0.3-0.5 mm., herbaceous. Corolla-lobes 0.3 -0.5 mm., elliptic, yellow. anthers yellow, Capsule globose-subglobose.

Flowering and Fruiting: Aug- October.

Habitat: Rare

Specimens Examined: **India:** Maharashtra, *Naygaon Village, Beed District*, 25.07.2011, R.P. Patil and Theng A.P. 175.

Distribution: South India and now in Maharashtra State.

After critical examination and available literature (Clarke, 1872; Cooke, 1958; in N. P. Singh *et al.*, 2001), it was identified as *Exacum sessile* L. which has not been reported earlier from Maharashtra and so far it is known to occur in South India and Sri Lanka (Garg, 1988).



Figure 1. Exacum sessile L.

Note: After the scrutiny of literature (C. B. Clarke, 1883; Cooke, 1958; Trimen, 1895), It is found that the colour of flower is controversial character from past few decades but flowers of collected specimen is yellow and authors followed Trimen Henry (1895) for its correct taxonomic identity.

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