Additions to the Fabaceae of Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR), Maharashtra, India

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Fabricae is the largest family, represented by total 116 species in the Melghat Tiger Reserve. Present paper deals with the addition of 02 new reports of Fabricae members namely, Flemingia macrophylla (Willd.) O. Ktze. ex Merr. and Paracalyx scariosus (Roxb.) Ali, to the flora of Melghat Tiger Reserve. Correct and updated citation, local name, a short description, along with distribution, is provided for future field work.

Keywords: Additions, Fabricae, Melghat Tiger Reserve.

INTRODUCTION

Melghat Tiger Reserve (MTR) is situated in the mountainous region, the Gavilgarh hills of Satpuras in Dharni and Chikhaldara tahsil of Amravati District of Maharashtra state. Tiger reserve covers a total area of 1676.93 sqkms. The forest is of dry deciduous type and vegetation changes occur at close intervals. Tapti River and the Gawilgadh ridge of the Satpura Range forms the boundaries of the Reserve. The Flora of Melghat has been studied by various workers Witt (1916) and Patel (1968) studied mainly trees, shrubs and economic herbs etc. whereas Dhole and Joshi (1988) documented the floristic wealth of Melghat including herbs, grasses and cultivated species. Later on Bhogaonkar and Devarkar (1999) added 67 species and Londhe et al. (2002) reported 108 taxa to the existing list. Bhogaonkar and Dhole (2014) reported 02 new families to the flora of Melghat.
During the course of floristic studies in Melghat Tiger Reserve, the authors came across 02 new report of Fabaceae members namely, *Flemingia macrophylla* (Willd.) O. Ktze. ex Merr. and *Paracalyx scariosus* (Roxb.) Ali, collected from Raipur and Dhakna ranges of Melghat forest. On perusal of the above literature, it is found that these species are not reported by earlier workers, so these two species found to be new distributional reports to the flora of Melghat.

Plants were collected, identified with the help of standard and regional floras (Hooker 1997, Cooke 1967, Naik 1998, Singh and Karthikeyan 2000, Yadav and Sardesai, 2002) and herbarium specimens made are deposited in the herbarium of BSI Pune.


- Fig. 1: *Flemingia macrophylla* (Willd.) O. Ktze. ex Merr.
- Fig. 2: *Paracalyx scariosus* (Roxb.) Ali
Shrubs, 1.8 m high. Leaflets 10–16 x 4–6 cm, elliptic-ovate, subcoriaceous, silky on nerves beneath, apex acute, lateral ones oblique at base; petiole winged. Flowers purplish-yellow, in dense, axillary racemes; calyx gland dotted, pilose. Pods oblong, rusty-tomentose.

**Flowers and Fruits.** : January–February.

**Distribution**: Nearby areas of Raipur village

**Occurance**: Rare

Additional specimen examined: INDIA, Maharashtra, Amravati (Raipur PAD 712, 14-01-2012)


Twiners, extensive; stems and branches woody, finely downy or tomentose. Leaflets 3.2–10.0 x 2–6 cm, terminal rhomboid, laterals obliquely ovate, velvety pubescent, apex acute, base rounded. Flowers yellow, in axillary peduncled racemes. Pods oblique, downy, 1–seeded.

**Flowers and Fruits.** : November–April.

**Distribution**: Dharni tehsil

**Occurrence**: Not common

Additional specimen examined: INDIA, Maharashtra, Amravati (Dhakna range PAD 717, 14-01-2012)

**REFERENCES**


Witt DO (1916) Descriptive list of trees, shrubs, climbers and economic herbs of the Northern and Berar Forest Circles. Central Provinces, Allahabad.


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