



## Short communication

## Occurrence of *Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc., (Convolvulaceae) in Khandesh region Maharashtra, India

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### INTRODUCTION

The vegetation of Khandesh region is quite varied and interesting and divided into three districts Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar. It lies at the Northwestern corner of the Deccan plateau, in the valley of the Tapti river, and is bound to the north by the Satpuda ranges, to the east by the Berar (Vidarbha) region, to the south by the hills of Ajanta, belonging to the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, and to the west by the Northern most ranges of the Western Ghats, and beyond that the coastal plain of Gujarat. Khandesh region lies between 20° 8' and 22° 7' North latitude and 73° 42' and 76° 28' East longitude. The forest of the Khandesh region is of dry deciduous type. Khandesh region though botanically rich in biodiversity have not been explored extensively except a few sporadic reports on floristic of Yadav *et al.* (2003), Patil (2003), Valvi *et al.* (2006), Kshirsagar & Patil (2008), Khan *et al.* (2015) and Khan (2019).

In the family Convolvulaceae *Ipomoea* L. is also dominant genera. *Ipomoea* L. denoted by about 650 species, mostly confined to the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world (Mabberley 2008). Santapau & Henry (1973) informed *ca.* 60 species for India. Afterwards *Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke (Biju *et al.* 1998); *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth) G. Don (Biju 2002) and *Ipomoea ochracea* (Lindl.) G. Don (Shimpale *et al.* 2012) have been additional to Indian flora, taking the total number of *Ipomoea* L. increase into 63 species for India.

While exploring the Khandesh region of the state of Maharashtra, the authors came across an interesting species of *Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc. from Jalgaon district, Maharashtra. Which is a native of Africa and first time recollected after a gap of 53 years from Maharashtra in India (Shimpale *et al.* 2014). During present investigation *Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc. is a second distributional records for India.

Through search of literature (Singh *et al.* 2001, Patil 2003, Kshirsagar & Patil 2008, Khan 2019) and consultation of BSI Herbarium Pune revealed that this species was not reported from Khandesh region in Maharashtra. This species is rare to Indian flora because it was collected from one locality of Maharashtra State and the present collection adds second locality in India. The voucher specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, H. J. Thim College of Arts and Science Mehrun, Jalgaon. Therefore, *Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc., is reported here for the first time from Satpuda range of Khandesh region of Maharashtra State. Detailed description and notes are provided here to facilitate easy identification.

### ENUMERATION

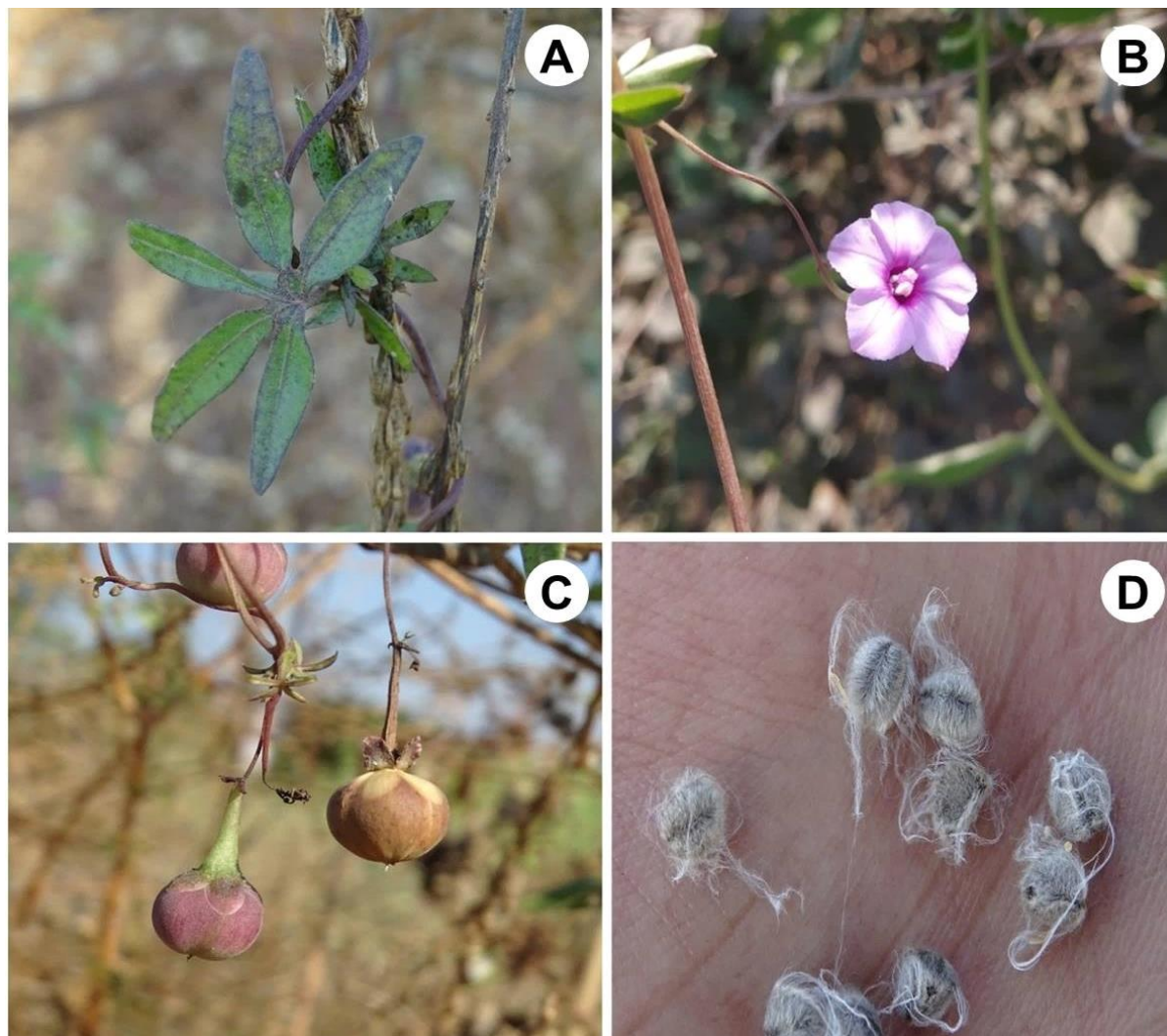
*Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc., Kew Bull. 15: 12. 1961; Shimpale *et al.* in Rheedea 24: 117.2014. [Fig. 1]

*Convolvulus heptaphyllus* Rottl. & Willd. in Neue Schriften Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin. 4: 196. 1803.

Annual herbs. Stems twining or sometimes prostrate, slender, glabrous. Lamina palmately divided at base, 9–10 × 8–9 cm; lobes elliptic to lanceolate 2.5–4.5 × 0.5–1.0 cm, typically obtuse and sometime apiculate at apex, at base narrowed and sub-petioluled, outer ones 2-lobed; petiole glabrous, 4.5–5.5 cm long; pseudostipules glabrous, existing like the leaves but much smaller. Flowers solitary or 2–3 flowered cymes, axillary; peduncle almost filiform, slender, 5.5–6.5 cm long, glabrous; pedicels slender 1.5–1.8 cm long, slightly sub-clavate; bracteoles minute, middle of the pedicel. Sepals orbicular or elliptic, 3.5–4.5 × 3.5–5.5 mm, sub-equal with membranous edges, typically obtuse but mucronulate, sometime muriculate. Corolla funnel-shaped, rose-purple

or dark mauve, 0.6–1.8 × 0.5–1.5 cm, with narrow apiculate lobes. Stamens 5, unequal in length, included, adnate to corolla lobe. Capsules globose, brown, glabrous, 6.5–7.5 × 7.5–8.5 mm, 4-valved. Seeds 2–4, sub-globose, brown, 3.5–4.5 × 2.5–3.0 mm, velvety pubescent, 6–10 mm long white cottony hairs at surface.

*Flowering and Fruiting*: October–January.



**Figure 1.** *Ipomoea tenuipes* Verdc.: A, Leaf; B, Flower; C, Fruits; D, Seeds.

*GPS Reading*: N 21° 6' 33.08", E 75° 32' 16.63" (Elevation 237.6 m)

*Habitat*: Rare. It mostly twining herb, growing over shrubs or herbs along the road sides, usually in black cottony or loamy soil.

*Distribution*: In India only reported from Paithan.

*Specimens examined*: INDIA, Maharashtra, Jalgaon District: 13.10.2019, TAK 7419 (CAL); Kanarda, 24.11.2019, TAK 7538 (CAL); Vidgaon, along the road sides in agricultural field, 05.01.2020, TAK 8193 (CAL); growing over shrubs along the road sides of Devjiri forest.

*Note*: Look similar to *Ipomoea cairica* (L.) Sweet. but It can be identify by its annual herb, lamina palmately divided at base, Sepals orbicular. Corolla funnel-shaped, rose-purple with narrow apiculate lobes. Capsules globose, brown. Seeds sub-globose, brown with white cottony hairs at surface.

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