

RESEARCH PAPER

Pogostemon deccanensis (Panigrahi) Press (Lamiaceae) - A new addition to the flora of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

Occurrence of *Pogostemon deccanensis* (Panigrahi) Press (Lamiaceae) is reported here as a floral addition for the state of Gujarat, India. A detailed description of plant with coloured photographs and other relevant information have been provided.

KEYWORDS: *Pogostemon deccanensis*, new record, Gujarat, India.

Received 15 December 2017, Accepted 19 February 2018 | Email: patelmeet15@gmail.com

Introduction

Pogostemon Desf. (Lamiaceae) is a genus with exerted stamens bearing moniliform hairs, comprising more than 96 species around the globe. In India, it is represented by 53 species and 3 varieties of which 22 taxa (19 species and 3 varieties) are endemic (Bhatti & Ingrouille, 1997, Shinoj et al., 2016). Out of these, 4 species have been reported so far from the state of Gujarat (Shah 1978, GEC 1996). During a botanical expedition, a small population of a *Pogostemon* Desf. species was observed near Gadad villag of Dang district from which few specimens were collected for study. The collected taxon was identified as *Pogostemon deccanensis* (Panigrahi) Press using available literature (Bhatti & Ingrouille 1997, Shinoj et al., 2016). Herbarium sheets were prepared and deposited in the herbarium of Bapalal Vaidhya Botanical Research Centre (BVBR), Department of Biosciences, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, Gujarat. Hence, *Pogostemon deccanensis* (Panigrahi) Press is reported here as an addition to the flora of Gujarat state with detailed description and colour photographs.

Pogostemon deccanensis (Panigrahi) Press in Bull. Br. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Bot.) 10: 73 (1982). *Dysophylla tomentosa* Dalzell & Hooker's J. Bot. 2: 337 (1850), non *Pogostemon tomentosa* Hassk. (1844). *Eusteralis deccanensis* Panigrahi in Phytologia 32: 475 (1976). *E. tomentosa* (Dalzell) Panigrahi in Phytologia 32: 477 (1976). *E. tomentosa* (Dalzell) Majumdar in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 74: 385 (1978/1977'). (Fig. 1).

Common name: Jambhali Manjiri (Marathi)

Herbs, 35-40 cm high, branched; Stem brownish violet, 20-25 × 0.1-0.4 cm, terete, with short internode (51-60 in numbers), densely covered with glandular hairs. Leaves in whorls of 6-8, linear to lanceolate, 5-12 × 1-3 mm, light green, acute at apex, truncate at base, margin entire. Inflorescence unbranched, a single terminal spike, up to 5.7 cm long, tapering towards apex, covered with glandular hairs; bracts 1-3 mm long, filiform-spathulate. Calyx 2-3 mm, shorter than the corolla, campanulate; teeth 0.5-0.7 × 0.4-0.6 mm, ciliate, covered with hairs. Corolla 3-4 mm long, 2-lipped, lower lip 0.9 × 1.0 mm, upper lip 2 mm across, both lips are hairy. Filaments are 3.0-3.5 mm long and inserted at a height of 1 mm in tube. Style 4 mm long; stigma lobes 0.5 mm. Disc uneven, 0.2 mm long, with one lobe elongated, 0.3 mm in notch between outlets. Nutlets 4, orbicular, smooth to reticulate, tan with whitish notch at the base.

Habitat: Growing in marshy areas, paddy fields and wetlands.

Flowering and fruiting: September-December

Specimen examined: India, Gujarat state, Dang district, Ahwa, Gadad villag (20°44'25.08" N, 73°52'06.13" E, 626 m) Mitesh Patel/BVBR102. November, 2016.

Distribution: India (Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat in this study).

Conservation status: In Gujarat as the plant has so far been reported from only Gadad villag of Ahwa taluka, Dang district. Regarding this, it should be considered vulnerable. However, futuristic surveys are recommended to assess its status in different regions in Gujarat.



Figure 1. *Pogostemon deccanensis* (A) In natural habitat, (B) Arrangement of leaves (C) Inflorescence.

Acknowledgement

This study is supported by a National Fellowship for Students of OBC, (NFO-2015-17-OBC-GUJ-29274) from University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, India. Authors are thankful to Head & Prof. Shantilal Tank, Department of Biosciences, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat for providing necessary facilities during this work. We would also like to thank Dr. Minoo Parabia for his constant support.

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