

***Dipcadi* (Asparagaceae) and *Neodistemon* (Urticaceae): new generic records to the flora of Telangana**

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Abstract

Dipcadi montanum (Dalzell) Baker (Asparagaceae) and *Neodistemon indicum* (Wedd.) Babu & A.N. Henry (Urticaceae) are reported here as an addition to the flora of Telangana from Nirmal and Bhadradi-Kothagudem districts. Detailed description and colour photo plate is provided for easy identification.

INTRODUCTION

While working on the flora of Telangana state, the authors have collected two species viz., *Dipcadi montanum* (Dalzell) Baker (Asparagaceae) and *Neodistemon indicum* (Wedd.) Babu & A.N. Henry (Urticaceae) from Nirmal district and Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhadradi-Kothagudem district. Perusal of literature revealed that, the endemic species *Dipcadi montanum* (Dalzell) Baker is reported from Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (1) and *Neodistemon indicum* (Wedd.) Babu & A.N. Henry is reported from Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha and Uttarakhand (2) and not reported from Telangana state (3, 4). Hence, these genera are reported here as new generic records to the flora of Telangana state. A

brief description and colour photo plate is provided for easy identification. Voucher specimens are deposited in Botanical Survey of India, Deccan Regional Centre, Hyderabad (BSID).

Taxonomic treatment

Dipcadi montanum (Dalzell) Baker in J. Linn. Soc. 11: 398. 1870; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 346. 1892; Cooke, Fl. Bombay 2: 769. 1907; Deb & Dasgupta in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 75: 56. 1978 et Fasc. Fl. India 7: 6. 1981; Sharma *et al.*, Fl. Karnataka 2: 286. 1984; Lakshmi. in Sharma *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra St. Monocot. 131. 1996; Swamy *et al.* in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 41 (1-2): 61-63. 2018. *Uropetalon montanum* Dalzell in Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 2: 142. 1850. Fig. 1. Perennial, bulbous, scapigerous herbs. Plants erect, up to 40 cm high. Bulbs ovoid or ellipsoid, 1.8–2.5 × 1.5–2.2 cm, white, glabrous, with many fibrous

roots from base. Leaves basal, 4–5 per bulb, with sheathing base, emerge along with scape, linear, green, 20–25 × 0.2–0.3 cm, acute at apex, entire, glabrous. Inflorescences racemose, secund with erect or slightly patent flowers; scape erect, slender, 15–35 cm long; racemes up to 20 cm long, up to 10-flowered. Flowers oblong-obovate in bud, 1.7–1.9 × 0.8–1 cm, greenish-white, glossy; pedicels 2–4 × 1 mm, stout; bract membranous, scarious, broadly ovate or deltoid, 1.8–2 × 1–1.3 mm, acuminate-caudate at apex, base with hyaline entire margins and 5–6 conspicuous yellow nerves, persistent; bracteoles absent. Perianth in two whorls, 3+3, 12–15 × c. 2.5 mm long, spreading, unequal; outer tepals longer than the inner ones, united almost one-third from the base; inner tepals connivent; united more than two-thirds. Stamens 6, inserted at throat of tube; filaments arising from the base of the perianth tube; anthers creamy, linear. Ovary superior, stipitate; style cylindrical, papillose; stigma trifid, thicker than the style. Capsules obovoid, 9–10 × 10–13 mm, trigonous, deeply unequally trilobed, broader than long, narrowed at base, truncate at apex.

Phenology

June–August.

Habitat

Occasional in open grasslands in association with *Chlorophytum tuberosum* (Roxb.) Baker, *Cymbopogon* sp., *Iphigenia pallida* Baker, and *Microchloa indica* (L.f.) P.Beauv.

Distribution

Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Telangana (reported here).

Specimen examined

INDIA, Telangana, Nirmal district, Neradigonda mandal, Wankidi Village, 10.07.2020, V. Jalander P.V. Ramana and J. Swamy 009310 (BSID).

Neodistemon indicum (Wedd.) Babu & A.N. Henry in Taxon 19:651.1970; Babu, Herb.Fl. Dehradun 470.1977; Panda, Choudhury & Patnaik in Geobios 4: 53.1985; Saxena, H.O., Brahmam, Fl. Orissa 3: 1741.1995; Srivastava in Mudgal et al., Fl. Madhya Pradesh 2: 590.1997; Gaur, Fl. Garhwal 101.1999; Debta & Ambrish in Phtotaxonomy 17.117.2017; Pullaiah, Ali Moulali & Sandhya Rani, Fl. Andhra Pradesh 4:1786. 2018. *Distemon indicum* Wedd. Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat. 9(3-4): 551.1857. *Distemon indicum* Wedd. Monogr. Fam. Urtic. t, 20, 551. 1856; Hooker Fl. Brit. India 5: 588.1888; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa 3: 818(858).1924; Kanjilal, Fl. Assam 4:292.1940; C.E.C. Fisch. in Gamble, Fl.

Madras 3: 1304.1956. Shah & Suryanarayana in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 66 (2): 412.1969; Malhotra & Moorthy in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 68 (3): 856. 1971; Dhyani in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 76: 200.1979. Fig. 1.

Erect slender herb, 15–60 cm high, sparsely branched, puberulous or sparsely hairy. Stem quadrangular, minutely pubescent. Leaves alternate, broadly ovate, 2–7 × 1.5–4.5 cm, rounded to narrowed at base, coarsely dentate at margins, acuminate-caudate at apex, sparsely appressedly pubescent above, hairy on nerves beneath and cobwebby pubescent between, prominently 3-nerved from the base, 1–4 lateral nerves to each of the three principal nerves; petioles 0.5–4.0 cm long, sparsely pubescent; stipules lanceolate, 5–8 mm long, with a long setaceous tip. Flowers few to many, monoecious, in axillary and terminal spikes; spikes up to 15 cm long, terminal spikes longer than the axillary spikes; rachis pubescent. Bracts sub-amplexicaul, ovate-cordate, 2.2–2.5 × 1.2–1.6 cm, cuspidate at apex, scabrid on surface. Male and female flowers in same axils, ca. 1 mm long. Perianth of male flower campanulate, 2–3-fid, valvate; male flowers minute, tipped with hooked hairs; stamens 2–3, exerted. Female perianth tubular, ventricose; female flowers strigose, pistillode woolly; ovary included in and more or less adnate to the perianth; stigma linear, deciduous. Aches broadly ovoid, enclosed in the thickened fleshy perianth, 2.4–2.8 × 1.2–1.9 mm long, beaked.

Phenology

August–November.

Habitat

Occasional in moist and shady habitats and crevices of boulders along the streams in association with *Adiantum lunatum* Cav., *Arthraxon lancifolius* Hochst., *Platostoma hispidum* (L.) A.J. Paton and *Selaginella* species.

Distribution

Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Telangana (reported here).

Specimen examined

INDIA, Telangana, Bhadrachari-Kothagudem district, Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Allapally Range, Arlagandi East, 05.10.2019, J. Swamy 009968 (BSID).

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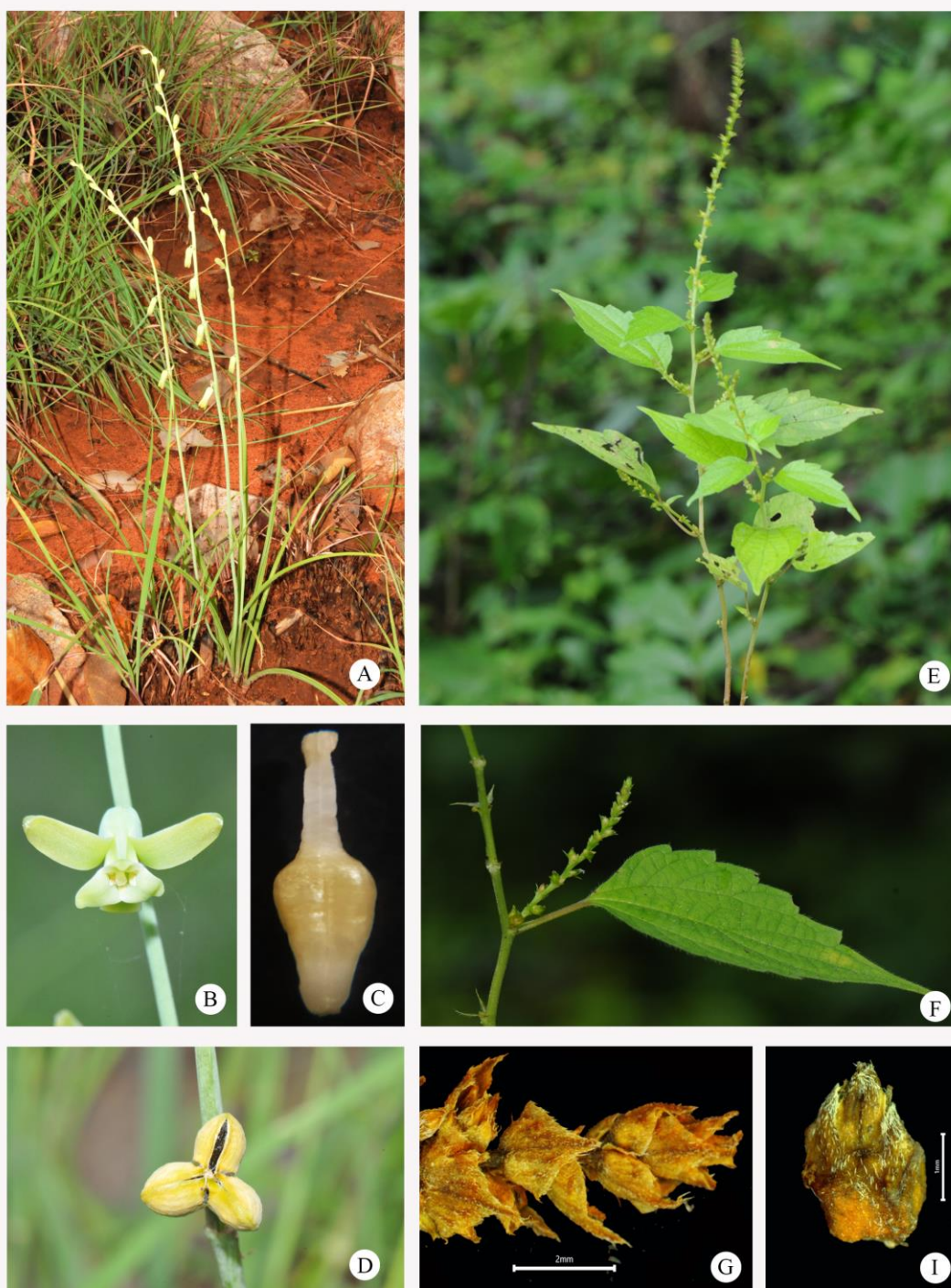


Fig. 1. *Dipcadi montanum* (Dalzell) Baker: A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Pistil; D. Capsule. *Neodistemon indicus* (Wedd.) Babu & A.N.Henry: E. Habit; F. Inflorescence in leaf axil; G. Portion of Inflorescence; I. Fruit.

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