



ISSN NO. 2320-5407

Journal Homepage: - www.journalijar.com

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)

10.21474/IJAR01/18556
DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/18556>



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Journal DOI: 10.21474/IJAR01

RESEARCH ARTICLE

HYPTIS CAPITATA JACQ. (HYPTIDINAE: LAMIACEAE) NEW RECORD FOR FLORA OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 20 February 2024
Final Accepted: 23 March 2024
Published: April 2024

Key words:-

Flora, *Hyptis Capitata*, Maharashtra,
New Record, Southern Konkan

Abstract

Hyptis capitata Jacq. reported here first time from the Southern Konkan region of Maharashtra. Previously, this species was recorded from Andaman and Nicobar Island, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and Goa. In the present article brief description, photographs, and relevant notes are provided to facilitate its easy identification.

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Introduction:-

The genus *Hyptis* Jacq. belongs to the subtribe Hyptidinae in the family Lamiaceae. A genus accounts 144 species, distributed in tropical and subtropical zones from North America to the Caribbean and southward to Argentina and Peru, often occurring in humid savannas and a few species extend to the Old-World tropics, mainly as weeds. It can be distinguished by annual or perennial herbs, subshrubs, or shrubs, of variable habit, with flowers in pedunculate sessile, cymose capitula with an involucre of bracteoles, and borne singly in the axils of foliaceous or reduced bracts and sometimes forming complex synflorescences. Flowers usually small, with narrow, cylindrical calyx, often accrescent in fruit, usually with subequal lobes; corolla small often white or occasionally lilac and with spotted posterior lip, tube cylindrical; Nutlets ovoid or narrowly ellipsoid (Harley & Pastore, 2012). Presently, in India the genus is represented by 4 species by (Mukerjee, 1940) but now *Hyptis pectinata* (L.) Poit is synonym of *Mesosphaerum pectinatum* (L.) Kuntze and *Hyptis suaveolens* (L.) Poit. is synonym of *Mesosphaerum suaveolens* (L.) Kuntze (POWO, 2024) Hence, now India represented by only two species namely *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. and *Hyptis brevipes* Poit. and after this present report only one species *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. found in Maharashtra State.

Material and Methodology:-

During the recent plant survey in Humarmala village, Kudal, Sindhudurg District. The first author has collected some specimens of *Hyptis* Jacq. Upon critical studies, scrutiny of authentic literature (Harley *et al.* 2004; Harley & Pastore, 2012; Mukerjee, 1940; Datar *et al.*, 2007; Thothathri, 1961; Varghese, 1979) and comparing with authentic specimen (<https://indiaflora-ces.iisc.ac.in/herbsheet.php?id=6442&cat=13>), the identity of the species was confirmed as *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. This species previously known from Andaman and Nicobar Island, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal and recently it was reported from Molem National Park Goa (Datar *et al.*, 2007).

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Taxonomic treatment

Hyptis capitata Jacq. in collectanea 1:102. 1786 (1787). S. K. Mukerjee in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 14: 63. 1940; Keng in Steenis, Fl. Males. 1, 8: 369. 1978. Cramer in Dassan. & Fosberg, Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 3: 156. 1981. Sivarajan *et al.*, J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 7: 224-225. 1985. Mandar *et al.*, Ind. J. For. 30(3): 355-356. 2007. Harley *et al.* in Phytotaxa 58:25. 2012. Varghese in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. (76): 200. 1979.

Herb, reaching height 1–1.5 m; branches quadrangular, pubescent. Leaves 10–15 × 5–8 cm long, broadly ovate-oblong, hairy, acute at apex, tapering at base, nerves 6–8 pairs; petiole up to 5 cm long, hairy. Flowers in head, axillary peduncles larger than floral head; bracts ovate lanceolate, reflexed, sepals 5-lobed, lobes subulate, densely hairy, shorter than the tube. Petal white, larger than the sepals, lobes sub equal. Stamens 4, didynamous; filament free, exerted, anther cell confluent. Ovary 4-lobed; style short, bifid. Nutlets 4, minute, 1.25 × 1 mm, ovoid, smooth, brownish-black.

Flowering and Fruiting:

September –April.

Distribution:

The native range of this species is Florida, Mexico to Tropical America (POWO, 2024). In India, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal, Goa and now in Maharashtra.

Illustration:

Datar *et al.* 2007 *op.cit.*

Habitat:

Along road side often associated with *Callicarpa tomentosa* (L.) L., *Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br., *Ageratum conyzoides* L., *Haplanthodes neilgherryensis* (Wight) Mujumbdar

Exsiccata:**India, Maharashtra:**

Humarmala village, Kudal, Sindhudurg District, 24th March 2024, Paithane V. A.1435.(VH); Humarmala village, Kudal, Sindhudurg District, 24th March 2024. Paithane V. A.1436. (VH); Humarmala village, Kudal, Sindhudurg District, 7th April 2024. Paithane V. A. 1457. (Herbarium Dept of Botany, ARACS College, Vaibhavwadi, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra).

Additional Specimen Examined:

Kerala. Adimali, Idukki District, 26.11.2018., Raja K. Swamy & Noel Sebastian 1856.(HJCB).

Conclusion:-

So far this species has not yet been reported from the Flora of Maharashtra State (Kulkarni & Das Das, 2001). The present collection of *Hyptis capitata* Jacq. from Southern Konkan region forms a new record for the flora of Maharashtra State. The nomenclature and taxonomic description, field photographs and images of inflorescences with persistent, accrescent calyx and seeds is provided to facilitate its easy identification. Voucher specimens have been deposited at Herbarium Department of Botany, Anandibai Raorane Arts, Commerce and Science College, Vaibhavwadi, Sindhudurg District (ARACS College Herbarium) and Herbarium Department of Botany, Vivekanand Arts and S. D. Commerce and Science College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra (VH).

Acknowledgements:-

First author is thankful to Hon'ble members of M. P. S. S. Mumbai and Principal for providing lab facility and constant support.

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