

***Pancratium triflorum* Roxb. (Amaryllidaceae) new distributional record for Telangana state, India**

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ABSTRACT

Pancratium triflorum Roxb., an endemic plant of Indian sub continent reported as new distributional record for the state of Telangana of India.

Key words: Endemic, Floristic Explorations, New Record, Telangana

INTRODUCTION

The genus, *Pancratium* L. belonging to Amaryllidaceae, (Asparagales: Pancratieae) [1], a widespread genus among the three genera of the family and representing with 21 species [2]. *Pancratiums* are perennial bulbous herbs with white fragrant flowers, perianth tube and corona, formed by the basal connection of the staminal filaments.

Roxburgh [3] reported 4 species including present species in his work. Herbert [4], in his work on Amaryllidaceae included 5 species from India and described two species, *P. malabathricum* and *P. Cambayense*, the later one synonymised under *P. triflorum*. Later Dalziel [5] described *P. parvum* from Concan region. Baker [6] in his book worked out 12 species of *Pancratium*, out of which 5 spp. and 1 variety were from India. Hooker [7], enumerated 6 species of the present genus and two species under doubtful. After the Hooker treatment two species *Pancratium st-mariae* [8] and *P. donaldii* [9] added from the Western Ghats of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The intensive and extensive floristic surveys were conducted for the past 3 years in Mahabubnagar District; in 2013 the authors could collect few individuals of bulbous plants with ovate bulb, semi succulent leaves, in vegetative stage and planted them in pots. Some of the specimens were preserved in the form of Herbarium according to standard methodology. Recently June 2015, the flowering was observed in the potted plants.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After a critical study it was identified as *Pancratium triflorum*. A perusal of literature has revealed that this species has not been reported from Mahabubnagar district and other districts of Telangana state [10, 11]. But Pullaiah [12] mistakenly mentioned its distribution in his "Flora of Telangana" with Visakhapatnam locality; now Visakhapatnam is in Andhra Pradesh state. Hence the present distribution of *Pancratium triflorum* forms new distributional record for the state of Telangana.

Pancratium triflorum Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2:126. 1832; FBI 6:285; Fischer 3:1604. 1928.

**Plate-1.**

Perennial, glabrous herbs. Bulbs globose, imbricate ca. 5cm dia.; neck absent. Leaves synanthous, semi succulent, 20-40x1-3cm, linear-lanceolate, margin entire, apex sub acute, glabrous. Scape terminal, single, strong, with longitudinal grooves, compressed, 12.5x0.6cm, greenish; umbels 3-6-flowered (3-flowered observed). Spathe one, hyaline, ovate-lanceolate, 2.5cm long, veined, apex bilobed, acute. Flowers open during early morning, fading afternoon. Pedicel length variable, triangular, subsessile to 1 cm, greenish. Perianth tube cylindrical, 10.5cm long, below green and above light greenish-yellow, apex widen; lobes spreading, slightly recurved, lanceolate, 3.4x0.8cm, 3-nerved, acuminate at apex, white above and midrib region light yellowish below. Corona 1.5cm long, funnel shaped, apex with 12 teeth, deep cleft between two teeth between each pair of stamens; teeth 6 mm long; filaments much longer than the teeth, subulate, 1.2cm long; anthers unequal, linear-falcata, 4mm long, 1mm broad, yellow.

Ovary trigonum, 6-10x2-4mm, green, ovules numerous; style filiformis, ca. 12cm long, slightly longer than the anthers, base greenish and above whitish; stigma small, capitate, 3-lobed, whitish.

Representative specimen: Tirumalaiah Gutta (MBNR), L. Paramesh & B. Sadasivaiah, 43897.

Flowering & Fruiting: June-August.

Habitat and Ecology: This species grows under shady areas of *Eucalyptus* plantations in sandy-loamy soil at an altitude range of 300-400m.

Distribution: Endemic to Indian sub continent (India and Sri Lanka).

India: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odissa and Telangana.

Telangana: Mahabubnagar District.

CONCLUSION

The tubers of *Pancratium triflorum* are eaten by wild boar, which leads to decrease its population and these are found in *Eucalyptus* plantations. The plantation area is under severe threat due to human interference and developmental activities. Hence, there is an urgent need to conserve the species. In some of the areas in the forests of Odisha, the tubers are edible by local tribal people, it need to know the nutritional values of the tubers.

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