**A REPORT ON THE EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION OF** *Polycarpaea aurea* **(CARYOPHYLLACEAE), AN ENDEMIC HERBACEOUS SPECIES, TO CHOTA NAGPUR PLATEAU, JHARKHAND, INDIA**

Vijay Kumar Mastakar 1, P. Lakshminarasimhan 2 & Madhuri Modak 3

1 Botanical Survey of India, C.G.O. Complex, 3rd MSO Building, Block F, DF Block, Sector 1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, West Bengal 700064, India  
2 Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, P.O. Botanical Garden, Howrah, West Bengal 711103, India  
3 Govt. Motilal Vidyagiri Mahavidyalaya, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462002, India

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### Materials and Methods:
To assess the angiosperm diversity of Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand intensive field explorations were conducted from 2010–2013 during which a species of *Polycarpaea* was collected. A careful scrutiny of the literature and herbarium specimens housed at CAL, revealed that it was *P. aurea* (Wight) Dunn. It is an endemic species, hitherto known only from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu (Daniel et al. 2000). The present collection shows its extended distribution in Chota Nagpur Plateau, Jharkhand. Hence, a detailed description, illustration, images and relevant information are provided here for its identification (Fig. 1a–h and Image 1a–j).


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Extended distribution of *Polycarpaea aurea*  
Mastakar et al.


**Specimens examined:** 49324, 28.viii.2010, near Tapkara Dam, Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, India, c. 580m, 22°47'15.9"N & 84°41'49.8"E, coll. V.K. Mastakar; 41809(CAL), 24.iii.2011, coll. V.K. Mastakar.

Annual, erect, much branched and suffruticosic herb; branches terete. Stems densely white-pubescent, turning grey-pubescent or glabrescent when old; internodes long. Leaves opposite-decussate, rarely pseudo-verticillate due to presence of a few secondary leaves in axils, sessile, linear, 4–12 × 0.5–0.75 mm, obtuse at base, entire at margins, mucronate at apex, glabrous; surface wrinkled and margins recurved on drying; Stipules lanceolate, entire at margins, acuminate at apex, c. 3mm long, scarious, colourless or yellowish-brown, slightly silvery. Inflorescence a cyme, irregular, lax. Flowers c. 3.25mm long; bracteoles ovate-lanceolate, c. 2.25 × 1 mm, entire at margins, acute at apex, grey with a faint brownish tinge; pedicels c. 1.5mm long, pubescent. Sepals five, free, ovate-lanceolate, c. 2 × 0.8 mm, exceeding petals and capsules, entire at margins, acute-acuminate at apex, scarious, bright orange-reddish. Petals five, oblong-obovate, c. 1 × 0.5 mm, partly enclosing capsule, obtuse at apex, yellowish-brown. Stamens five; filaments forming a cup of c. 0.5mm high base with petals and encircling ovary; anthers creamy white when young. Ovary free from base, conic, obtuse, c. 0.6 × 0.4 mm, 1-loculed; style slender, c. 0.4mm long, 3-fid. Capsules ovoid-ellipsoid, c. 1.2 × 1 mm, shortly stiped, 3-valved, smooth, shining, glabrous, dehiscing above side; tips faintly incurved when young, recurved after dehiscence. Seeds 3–5, reniform, c. 0.5 × 0.3 mm, purplish-brown with radiating lines at attachment and a groove.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** August–March.

**Habitat:** Rocky areas in scrub jungles, at c. 580m.

**Distribution:** Endemic: Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand (Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary), Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

**Notes:** *Polycarpaea aurea* Wight & Arn., Ann. Nat. Hist. Ser. 1, 3: 91. 1839, as cited in Index Kewensis is not validly published, as the name *P. aurea* (Wight) Gamble, Fl. Madras: 65. 1915. Furthermore, the name by Wight & Arnott is considered as a pro synonym. Noltie (2005) also states that if this taxon is recognised at specific rank, the correct citation should be *P. aurea* (Wight) Dunn in Gamble, Fl. Madras: 65. 1915. However, the treatment of Daniel (2005), i.e., *P. aurea* (Wight) Dunn in Gamble, Fl. Madras: 65. 1915, has been followed here, as the treatment of families that appeared in the first 92 pages of Flora of Madras was made by Dunn.

**References**


Image 1. *Polycarpaea aurea* (Wight) Dunn (Caryophyllaceae)
A–B - habit; C - flower; D - sepals; E - petals; F - stamens; G - Pistil; H - fruit; I - dehiscent fruit; J - seeds.