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Polycarpaea Lam. (Caryophyllaceae), comprising c. 50 species, is distributed in tropical and warmer regions of the world, especially in Old World regions (Mabberley 2008). Majumdar (1993) recognized three species and three varieties from India. According to Daniel et al. (2000), the genus is represented by four species and one variety, viz., *P. aurea*, *P. corymbosa* (incl. var. *corymbosa* and var. *longipetala*), *P. diffusa* and *P. spicata*. Venu et al. (2001) described a new species, namely *P. majumdariana* based on a collection from Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Therefore, at present the genus is represented by five species in India, of which *P. aurea*, *P. diffusa* and *P. majumdariana* are endemic to the country.

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,

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

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Jharkhand. Hence, a detailed description, illustration, images and relevant information are provided here for its identification (Fig. 1a–h and Image 1a–j).

Polycarpaea aurea (Wight)

Dunn in Gamble, Fl. Madras 1: 65. 1915; P. Daniel et al., J. Swamy Bot. Club 17: 5, f. 1. 2000; P. Daniel, Fl. Kerala 1: 312. 2005.

P. corymbosa (L.) Lam. var. *aurea* Wight, III. Ind. Bot. 2: 44, t. 110. 1850 (as *ainea* in text); Edgew. & Hook.f. in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 1: 245. 1874; T. Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 66. 1901; Majumdar in B.D. Sharma & N.P. Balakr., Fl.



DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

Polycarpaea aurea



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India 2: 551. 1993; Shirodkar in N.P. Singh & Karthik., Fl. Maharashtra 1: 253. 2000.

P. aurea Wight & Arn., Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 1, 3: 91. 1839, pro syn.; Mooney, Suppl. Bot. Bihar & Orissa: 245. 1950; Ramam. in N.C. Nair & A.N. Henry, Fl. Tamil Nadu 1: 23. 1983; C.J. Saldanha, Fl. Karnataka 1: 152. 1984; B.D. Sharma et al., Fl. Karnataka Anal.: 16. 1984; D.M. Verma et al., Fl. Madhya Pradesh 1: 174. 1993; H.O. Saxena & M. Brahmam, Fl. Orissa 1: 99. 1994; T. Pullaiah et al., Fl. Eastern Ghats 1: 99. 2002.

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 suffruticose 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, dehiscent 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 Cat.

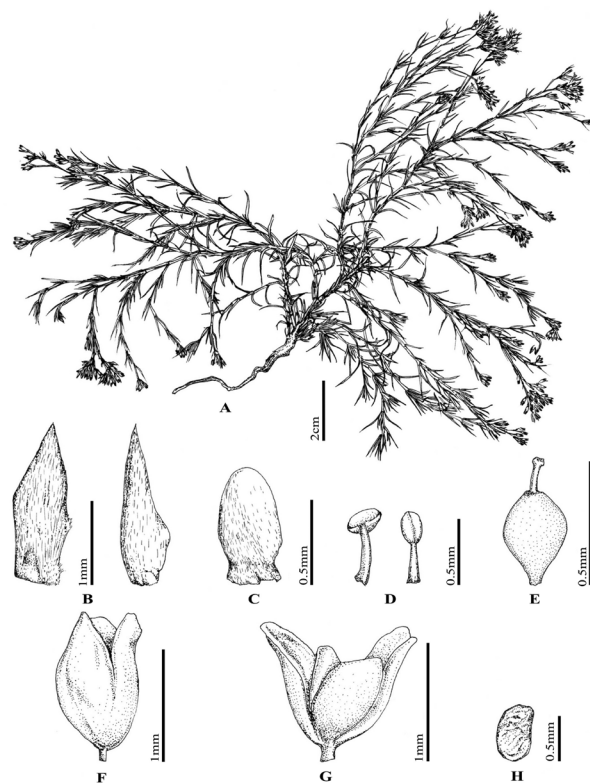


Figure 1. *Polycarpaea aurea* (Wight) Dunn (Caryophyllaceae) A - habit; B - sepals; C - petals; D - stamens; E - pistil; F - fruit; G - dehiscent fruit; H - seeds.

n. 2443 is merely listed as a *nomen nudum* in synonymy after a description of a variety 'd' of *P. corymbosa* Lam. (Noltie 2005). 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) 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.

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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.

