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NOTE

STAR GRASS LILY *IPHIGENIA STELLATA* BLATTER (COLCHICACEAE) – A NEW ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF GUJARAT, INDIA

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Image 1. *Iphigenia stellata* in habitat.

Flowering and fruiting: June–September

Specimen examined: BVBRC136, viii.2018, India, Gujarat State, Dang District, Ahwa, Don Hill station (20.733°N, 73.863°E, 967m) coll. Mitesh Patel. Herbarium deposited at Bapalal Vaidya Botanical Research Centre (BVBRC), Department of Biosciences, VNSGU, Surat, Gujarat, India (Image 2).

Distribution: Maharashtra (Kolhapur, Satara, and Sindhudurg districts), Karnataka, and Gujarat (present study).

Conservation status: In Gujarat, the plant has so far been reported from only Don Hill station of Ahwa Taluka, Dang District. About six individuals were seen in this area, however, futuristic surveys are recommended to assess its status in different regions in Gujarat.

Note: *I. stellata* is easily distinguished from *I. indica* by its much larger flower and by the shape of the clawless petals. As per the IUCN threat criteria, it falls within the Endangered category. It is endemic to the Western Ghats of India and common to a few parts of Maharashtra. A few individuals were also collected

from the Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka (Singh 2015). The present collection of this taxon from Dang District in the state of Gujarat is also a terminus of Western Ghats which warrants further explorations in the remote localities of Western Ghats so as to update its distribution and threat status.

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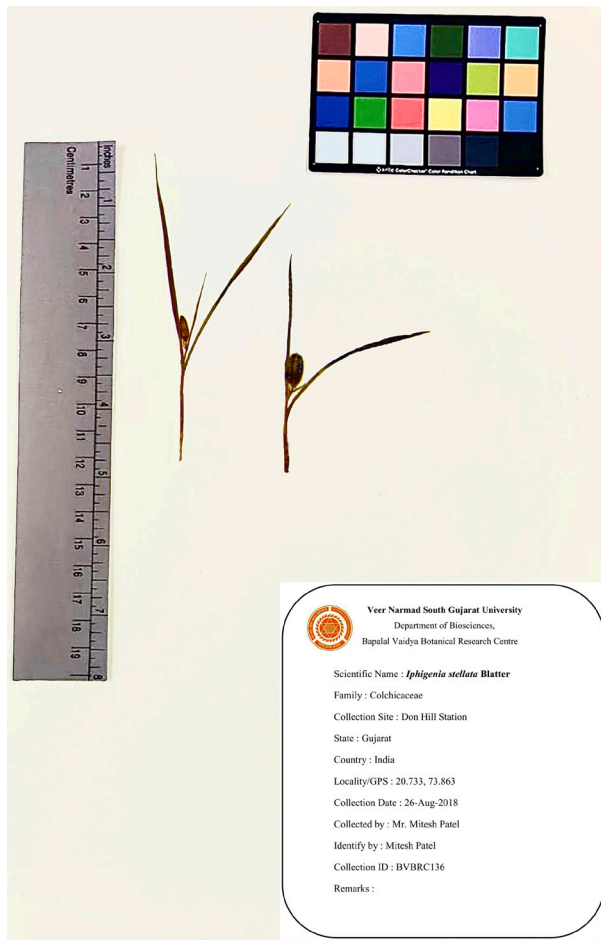


Image 2. Herbarium sheet of *Iphigenia stellata*.





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