Rediscovery and extended distribution of *Indigofera santapaui* Sanjappa (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae) from the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, India

Kumar Vinod Chhotupuri Gosavi¹, Sanjay Gajanan Auti², Sharad Suresh Kambale³ & Munivenkatappa Sanjappa⁴

¹Department of Botany, HPT Arts & RYK Science College, Nashik, Maharashtra 422005, India.
²Department of Botany, Maratha Vidy Prasarar Samaj's Arts, Commerce & Science College, Tryambakeshwar, Maharashtra 422212, India.
³Department of Botany, Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj's Arts College, Tryambakeshwar, Nashik, Maharashtra 422212, India.
⁴Mahatma Gandhi Botanical Garden, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKV, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560065, India.

¹kumarvinodgosavi@gmail.com, ²autisanjay66@gmail.com, ³skambalesu@gmail.com (corresponding author), ⁴sanjappam@ymail.com

Tribe Indigofereae (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae) represented by seven genera *Cyamopsis*, *Indigasarum*, *Indigofera*, *Microcharis*, *Phylloxylon*, *Rhynchotropis*, and *Vaughania*. Of these, the first three occur in India. The genus *Indigofera* is widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world (Sanjappa 1995) with 750 species. In India, it is represented by 60 species and 10 varieties (Sanjappa 2021 in press). Of these 13 species and seven varieties are endemic to the country (Singh et al. 2015).

While surveying the hills in northern Western Ghats, the authors collected an interesting species of *Indigofera* from Ganeshkhind, Junnar (Pune district, Maharashtra), Anjaneri Hill, Pahine, Dhodamb Fort, Bordaiwat (Nashik district, Maharashtra), and Chinchali ghat (Dang district, Gujarat). After perusal of literature (Kothari 2001) it was identified as *Indigofera santapaui* Sanjappa. This species was described based on the Santapau’s collection from Purandhar (Santapau 11397 (BLAT)) and is unique in the genus in having yellow flowers which turn orange after pollination. Perusal of literature (Kothari 2001; Mishra & Singh 2001; Gaikwad et al. 2014) available on the species clearly indicates that this species is critically endangered and known from type locality only.

A detailed description, image, habitat, and distribution map are provided to facilitate identification and distribution.


Type: India, Maharashtra, Pune district, Vazirgad-Purandar, 09.x.1950, coll. H. Santapau (holotype, 11397 (BLAT)). Annual herbs up to 40 cm high; stems sparsely
Rediscovery and extended distribution of Indigofera santapaui Gosavi et al.


branched from the base, branches adpressed blackish-brown pubescent. Leaves pinnately trifoliate, 3–7 cm long, petiole 1–2 cm long, obscurely canaliculated, adpressed pubescent; leaflets obovate to obovate-oblong, 2.5–5 × 1–2 cm, cuneate at base, obtuse to rounded and mucronate at apex, adpressed pubescent, gland-dotted beneath; stipules 2–3 mm long, subulate, pubescent; petiolules 1.5–2 mm long, pubescent; exstipellate. Racemes 4–6 mm long, axillary, sessile, 5–12-flowered; rachis pubescent interspersed with glandular hairs, axillary. Flowers 4.5–5 mm long, yellow turning orange; pedicels 1–1.5 mm long similar to rachis in pubescence; bracts ca. 1 mm long, caducous. Calyx ca. 2 mm long, adpressed pubescent mixed with glandular hairs; tube short, lobes 5, up to 1 mm long. Standard ca. 4 × 3 mm, obovate, mucronate, yellow, blackish-brown strigose mixed with a few glandular hairs outside; wing petals 2.8–3 × 1.2 mm, yellow, glabrous; keel petals 2.6–4 mm long, dark strigose mixed with a few glandular hairs, spurred on sides. Stamens 10 (9+1), diadelphous, staminal sheath 2.5–3 mm long; anthers ca. 1 mm long. Ovary 1.5–2 mm long, oblong, adpressed puberulous mixed with glandular hairs; style ca. 1 mm long, glabrous; stigma capitate. Pods up to 2 cm long, sub-cylindrical, torulose, straight, reflexed, adpressed pubescent mixed with glandular hairs, sutures obscurely winged, endocarp smooth, 2–4-seeded, hairy. Seeds smooth, shining, reddish-brown.

Flowering and fruiting: Mid-August to October.

Distribution: India, Maharashtra (Pune and Nashik districts), Gujarat (Dang district) (Figure 1).


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References


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Articles

Roosting habits and habitats of the Indian Flying Fox Pteropus medius Temminck, 1825 in the northern districts of Tamil Nadu, India
– M. Pandian & S. Suresh, Pp. 19675–19688

Diversity and distribution of avifauna at Warathenna-Hakkinda Environmental Protection Area in Kandy, Sri Lanka
– Dinela Thilakarathne, Tithira Lakkan, Gayan Hirimuthugoda, Chaminda Wijesundara & Shalika Kumburegama, Pp. 19689–19701

Grass species composition in tropical forest of southern India
– M. Ashokkumar, S. Swaminathan & R. Nagarajan, Pp. 19702–19713

Communications

Habitat use and conservation threats to Wild Water Buffalo Bubalus arnee (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Bovidae) in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal
– Reeta Khulal, Bijaya Neupane, Bijaya Dhami, Siddhartha Regmi, Ganesh Prasad Tiwari & Manita Parajuli, Pp. 19714–19724

Get my head around owls: people perception and knowledge about owls of Andaman Islands
– Shanmugavel Sureshmarimuthu, Santhanakrishnan Babu, Nagaraj Rajeshkumar & Honnavalli Nagaraj Kumara, Pp. 19725–19732

Abundance and diversity of threatened birds in Nangal Wetland, Punjab, India
– Rajwinder Kaur & Onkar Singh Bireach, Pp. 19733–19742

Evaluation of fish diversity and abundance in the Kabul River with comparisons between Pakistan and Afghanistan
– Ugyen Kelzang, Ahmad Farid Habibi & Ryan J. Thoni, Pp. 19743–19752

New record of Myrmacronche melanocephala MacLeay, 1839 (Araneae: Salticidae) from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, India
– Swati Das, Maria Susan Sanjay, Basudev Tripathy, C. Venkatraman & K.A. Subramanian, Pp. 19753–19761

Diversity of spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) and the impact of pruning in Indian sandalwood Tetraponera rufonigra Jerdon, 1851 (Araneae: Salticidae) from Mahanadi Mangrove Wetland, India
– Anoop P. Balan & A.J. Robi, Pp. 19767–19783

New distribution records of Craib and C. anjanerica (Begoniaceae: Cucurbitales) for Laos
– Anoop P. Balan & A.J. Robi, Pp. 19784–19792

Notes

A recent sighting of the Stripe-backed Weasel Mustela striigordosa (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustelidae) in Hkakabo Razi Landscape, Myanmar

Are the uplifted reef beds in North Andaman letting nesting Olive Ridley Sea Turtle Lepidochelys olivacea stranded?
– Nehru Prabakaran, Anoop Raj Singh & Vedagiri Thirumurugan, Pp. 19810–19813

First report of the orb-weaving spider Araneus tubulobasidiscus Zhu & Zhang, 1993 (Araneae: Araneidae) from India

The genus Catapiestus Perty, 1831 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Catapiestini) from India
– Brodie Kruger, Pp. 19817–19819

Rediscovery and extended distribution of Indigofera santapaui Sanjappa (Leguminosae: Fabaceae) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India
– Aparajita Bhattacharya, Anupam Basu & Apurba Dutta, Pp. 19820–19823

Additional distribution records of Ceropogia anjaricae, an endemic and ‘Endangered’ lantern flower of the northern Western Ghats, India
– Anoop P. Balan & A.J. Robi, Pp. 19831–19842

Book Review

A look over on the scented tree of India (Santalum album)
– S. Suresh Ramanan & A. Arunachalam, Pp. 19844–19886

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