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Cover: A Southern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* stands on Tussock Grass on Westpoint Island. Painted in poster colors, this artwork is a reproduction of a photograph by Phillip Colla. Thanks to the photographer for the original image. © Pooja Patil.



Boesenbergia tiliifolia (Baker) Kuntze (Zingiberaceae) - a new record for Maharashtra, India

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The genus *Boesenbergia* Kuntze (Zingiberaceae) was named by Otto Kuntze in honour of his brother-in-law, the artist Walter Boesenberg. It comprises 98 species (Saensouk & Larsen 2002; Aishwarya et al. 2015; Debnath et al. 2024; POWO 2024) and is distributed in India, Indo-China, Malay Peninsula, Myanmar, Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines, and southern China (Sirirugsa 1987, 1992). In India, it is represented by 13 species (Das & Sikdar 1982; Singh & Srivastava 2020; Debnath et al. 2024; Saravanan & Kaliamoorthy 2024). Only *B. rotunda* (L.) Mansf. has been reported to occur in Maharashtra so far (Lakshminarasimhan et al. 1996).

As part of the ongoing taxonomic studies of the flowering plants in the Concan region of Maharashtra, the first author has conducted extensive field studies from 2015 to 2024. During a botanical survey in the Concan region of the northern Western Ghats in Maharashtra in September 2023 and 2024, the first author collected a single specimen of a *Boesenbergia* species from Tillari (Forebay) Dam near Dodamarg in Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra. After a thorough examination of the live and herbarium specimens, study of relevant literature (Mangaly & Swarupanandan 1981; Uthayakumari et al. 2006; Aishwarya & Sabu 2015),

the specimen was identified as *Boesenbergia tiliifolia* (Baker) Kuntze. A review of the literature (Cooke 1907; Lakshminarasimhan et al. 1996; Aishwarya & Sabu 2015) indicated that this species has not been previously reported from Maharashtra. Therefore, the present collection constitutes a new distributional record for the flora of Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods

The Concan region of Maharashtra has been previously explored botanically by several botanists, including Dr. Lush, Dr. Stock, Law, Dr. Ritchie, Dalzell, Woodrow, and Nairne, and the specimens were deposited at the Kew Herbarium. Most of these historical collections lack specific collection locations, as only general locality names such as 'Konkan' were used. Additionally, many areas in the region are botanically underexplored, and their floristic wealth remains less known (Kulkarni 1988). The current explorations aim to fill this gap. During a survey (2023–24) in the Tillari Dam area of Dodamarg Tehsil in Sindhudurg District, the first author (VAP) collected an interesting specimen of *Boesenbergia* (Image 1), which was subsequently identified using pertinent literature as *B.*

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tiliifolia. A herbarium specimen was prepared following international standards and deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botany at Anandibai Raorane Arts, Commerce and Science College in Vaibhavwadi, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra. The identity of the specimen was confirmed by Dr. M. Sabu, an expert in Zingiberaceae (Name spelled out pers. comm. 22.ix.2024). A live specimen of *B. tiliifolia* is maintained in the Botanical Garden at ARACS College, Maharashtra. Photographs of the dissected floral parts were taken using a Labomed CSM2 Stereo Microscope coupled with a Nikon Z50 camera.

Taxonomic treatment

Boesenbergia tiliifolia (Baker) Kuntze in Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 685. 1891; Schum. in Engler, Pflanzenr. 4(46): 94. 1904 (as '*tiliifolium*'); Schltr. in Feddes Repert. 12: 317. 1913; Mangaly & Swarupnandan in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 23(3&4): 236. 1981 (as '*tiliaefolia*'); Das & Sikdar in Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal 36: 45. 1982 (as '*tiliaefolia*'); Uthayakumari et al. in J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 30(1): 190. 2006 (as '*tiliaefolia*'); Sabu in Zingiberaceae and Costaceae of South India 124. 2006 (as '*tiliaefolia*'). Aishwarya & Sabu in Rheedea 25(1): 63. 2015.

Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Rhizome cylindrical, 5–10 × 0.3–0.4 cm, odourless. Leaves 3–6, 10–15 cm long; petiole 1–3.5 cm long; lamina ovate-elliptic, 9–12 × 4–10 cm, fleshy, glabrous, acute at apex, unequal at base. Inflorescence terminal, 4–5 cm long, 8–10-flowered. Bracts 8–10, distichous, oblong, 1.5–2 × 0.4–0.7 cm, minutely white hairy, acuminate at apex and wavy along the margins. Bracteoles oblong-lanceolate, 1.2–1.4 × 0.3–0.4 cm, bi-lipped. Flowers 2.5–3.5 cm long. Calyx tubular, 0.5–1.0 × 0.2–0.4 cm, truncate at base, translucent white, tridentate at apex. Corolla tube 1.4–1.9 × 0.14 cm, white with a pink tinge; corolla lobes three, oblong, 1.0–1.3 × 0.3–0.5 cm, deeply pouched at apex, translucent white, glabrous, margins entire. Lateral staminodes two. Labellum obovate-cuneate, 1.4–1.5 × 0.8–0.9 cm, white with laterally radiating pink bands in the depression and pink towards the tip, margins wavy towards the upper half. Stamens 0.6–1.1 cm long, white; filaments 0.2–0.5 × 0.15–0.3 cm; anthers 0.4–0.6 × 0.2 cm; connectives not crested or spurred. Pollen grains spheroidal, 90–130 µm in diameter, with small spiny protuberances. Ovary oblong to elliptic, 0.2–0.5 cm long, glabrous, tricarpeal, trilocular with ovules on axile placentum; style filiform, 1.7–3.4 cm long, glabrous, white; stigma cup-shaped, non-ciliate, white. Capsule glabrous, 1–1.1 × 0.5–0.6 cm, slightly constricted, obtuse to blunt at apex. Seeds 2–4, measuring 4–5 × 1–1.5 mm,

glabrous, with lacerate arils; aril strands 7–8, whitish, unequal, tubular, sharply or bluntly acute at apex.

Flowering and Fruiting: September–December.

Distribution: India: Andaman Islands, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra (present study), Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu (Figure 1).

Specimen examined: India, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg District, Tillari Dam, Dodamarg, 15.780° N, 74.088° E, ±73 m elevation, 21.ix.2024, coll. V.A. Paithane 3028 (Herbarium of ARACS College, Maharashtra).

Taxonomic note: Saravanan & Kaliamoorthy (2024) stated that *Boesenbergia kalakadensis* Saravanan & Kaliamoorthy shares morphological similarities with *B. rotunda* Mansf. and *B. tiliifolia* (Baker) Kuntze. *B. tiliifolia* (Baker) Kuntze can be distinguished by its smaller flowers, measuring 2.5–3.5 cm in length, compared to 8.2 cm in *B. kalakadensis* and 10.1 cm in *B. rotunda*.

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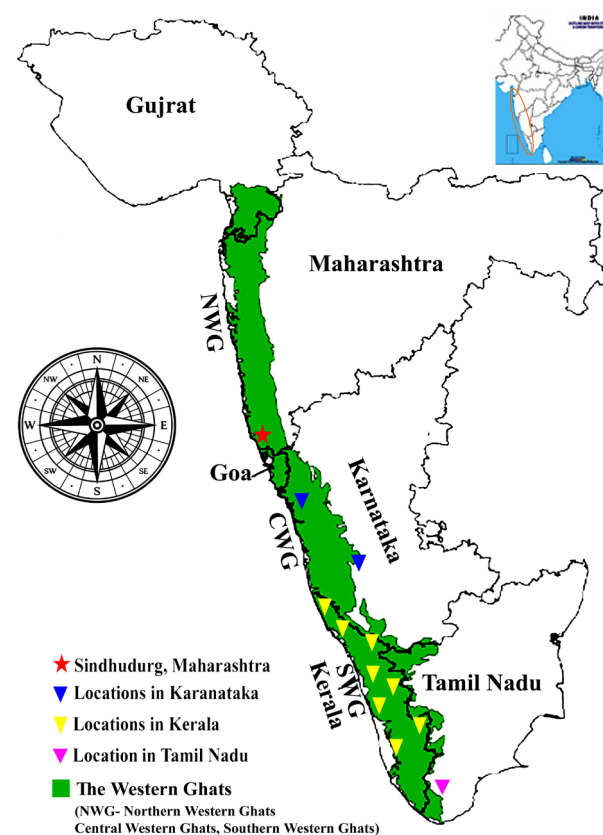


Figure 1. Distribution map of *Boesenbergia tiliifolia* (Baker) Kuntze in the Western Ghats of India.

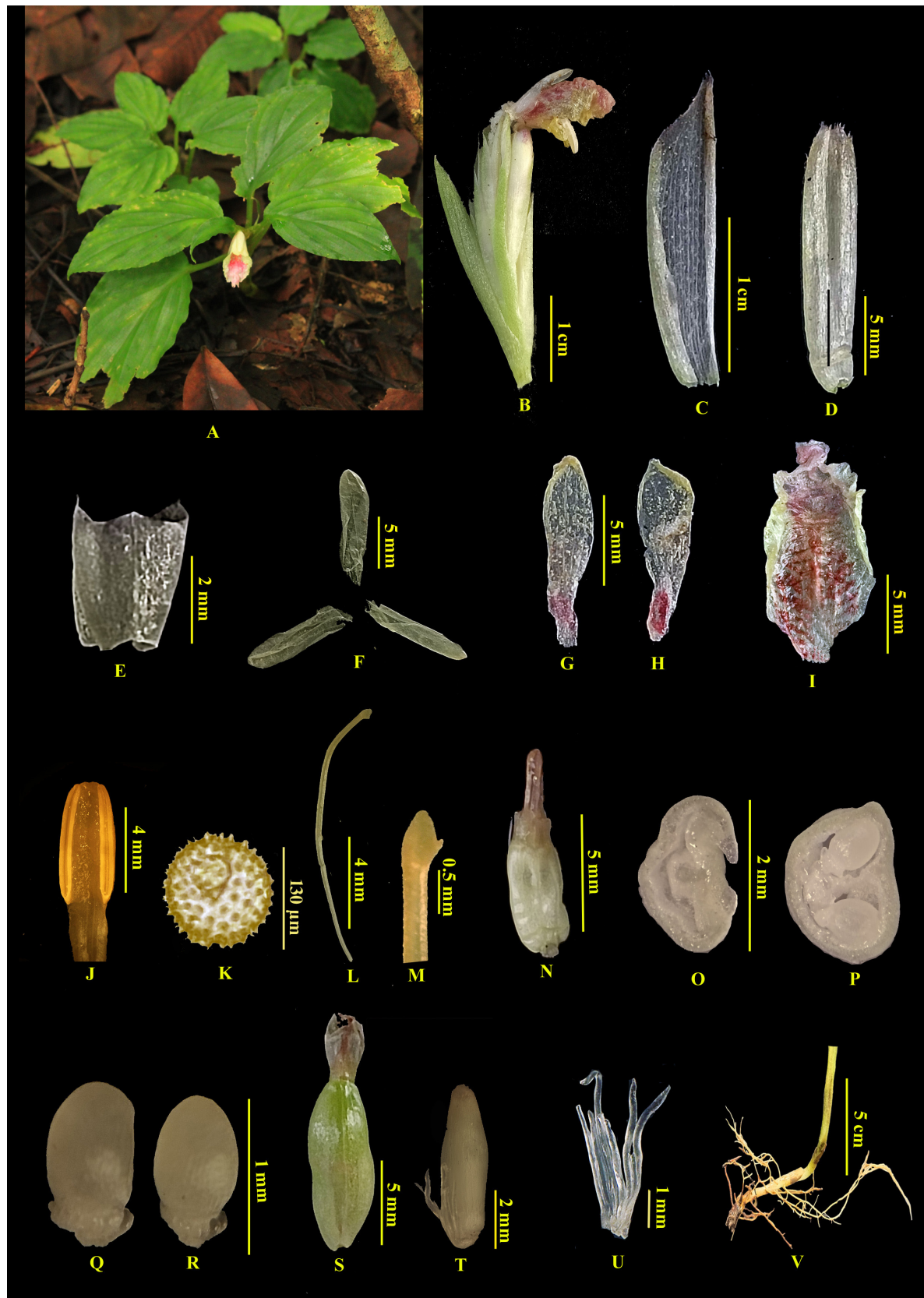


Image 1. *Boesenbergia tiliifolia* (Baker) Kuntze: a—Habit | b—Flower | c—Bract | d—Bracteole | e—Calyx | f—Corolla lobes | g & h—Lateral staminodes | i—Labellum | j—Stamen | k—Pollen | l & m—Style & stigma | n—Ovary with epigynous glands | o & p—Cross-section of ovary | q & r—Ovules | s—Capsule | t—Seed | u—Lacerate arils | v—Rhizome.

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