

## New distributional record of two geophytes from Nasik district (M.S.)

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### Abstract

During the excursions carried out to explore the geophytes in Nasik district, the authors recorded *Zingiber cernuum* Dalz, and *Chlorophytum bharuchae* Ansari, Sundargarh, and Hemadri from Igatpuri and Chandwad tehsils respectively. Out of this two *Zingiber cernuum* Dalz was recorded as new distributional record for Nasik district whereas *Chlorophytum bharuchae* Ansari, Sundargarh, and Hemadri, which is endemic to Western ghats was recorded as first time from Northern Maharashtra.

**Keywords:** geophytes, new distributional record, endemic

### Introduction

Geophytes are an important group of plants, used for number of purposes. Plants belonging to this group bear certain resemblance to the mythological Princess Persephone who had to spend certain period of life in the underworld and the remaining on the earth. Similarly most of the geophytes have their bulbs, tubers, rhizomes etc under the soil for most part of the year, and during the rainy season the aerial parts are visible. This makes the group vulnerable of losing their habitat for various activities undertaken by us. Because of which the record of occurrences of geophytes becomes important.

### Methodology

Study area—Nasik District is located in northern Maharashtra, in 19°59'50.17" N latitude and 73°47'27.46" E longitude. Most part of the district is in the rain shadow area where some parts Like Igatpuri, Trymbakeshwar, Peth, Surgana and Some parts of Kalwan and Dindori receive heavy rainfall. Western parts of the district have hilly terrain. Major rivers are Darna, Godavari and Girna.

Excursions were carried out just after the first showers of the rain, to various parts, the geophytes were recorded, Photographed, specimens were collected and herbarium sheets were prepared according to Jain and Rao (1971). Plants were identified by using flora, websites and research papers.

### Observations Results

#### *Zingiber cernuum* Dalz.

Large tuberous perennial herb up to 2 meters tall. Stem curved in upper parts. Leaves strap shaped 20-30 x 5-7 cm. Flowers arranged in spikes. Spikes short arising from rootstock just above the ground. Flowers white variegated with red colour. Petals six, stamens six, style thread like. Capsules about 1 cm long white from outside red on inside.

Previous distribution—Ahmednagar, Chandrapur, Kolhapur, Pune, Ratnagiri, Satara, Sindudurg.

Present Distribution—Ghatandevi—Igatpuri Tehsil.

*Chlorophytum bharuchae* Ansari, Sundargarh, and Hemadri. Perennial erect herbs up to 30 cms. Roots tuberous, tubers cylindrical. Leaves radical strap shaped 15-55 x 1.5-3.0 cm,

margins wavy, apex acute-acuminate. Inflorescences flowers white 1 cm in dia. Tepals six with brown spot at curved tips. Stamens six protruding. Capsules green deeply tri-lobed. Seeds Black.

Previous distribution Pune, Kolhapur and Satara.

Present Distribution- Vadbare-Village Chandwad. Tehsil.

### Results and Discussions

Out the two plants *Zingiber cernuum* Dalz. is reported here as a new distributional record for flora of Nasik district, where as *Chlorophytum bharuchae* Ansari, Sundargarh, and Hemadri is reported as new distributional record for flora of North Maharashtra. *Chlorophytum bharuchae* is endemic to Western ghats. The occurrence of these two plants would prove important for reserving the area which they grow for under forest.



Fig 1: Chlorophytum bharuchae



Fig 2: Zingiber cernuum. (Leaf)



**Fig 3:** *Zingiber cernuum* (Floral axis)



**Fig 4:** *Chlorophytum bharuchae* (Herbarium)



**Fig 5:** *Zingiber cernuum* (Herbarium)

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