

New distributional records of *Crotalaria leptostachya* benth and *Crotalaria calycina* schrank, for flora of Nasik district Maharashtra India

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Abstract

While exploring the flora of Nashik district the Author came across two species of genus *Crotalaria* which were identified as *Crotalaria leptostachya* and *Crotalaria calycina* respectively. Upon studying the available literature it was found that both have been recorded as New distributional record for flora of Nashik District.

Keywords: *Crotalaria*, new distributional record, Nashik district

Introduction

Crotalaria is an important genus of family Papilionaceae (Fabaceae) occurring in varied habitats and used for different purposes such as vegetables, garnishes, Green leafy vegetable, Pulses, Green manure. Some species are ecologically important as larvae of butterflies feed on them, where as some are used as ornamentals. In Nasik district the genus is represented by nineteen species till date. The present report of *Crotalaria leptostachya* Benth and *Crotalaria calycina* Schrank, would increase the number to Twenty one.

Methodology

Study area

Nashik district is located in Northern Maharashtra between. Bounded by Thane district and Gujarat state on west, Ahmednagar towards south, Aurangabad towards east, and Dhule and Jalgaon towards North, Two mountain ranges the Sahaydri and Satamala traverse the district. The western parts receive heavy rainfall where as the remaining part is in the rain shadow region. The main rivers being Darna, Godavari and Girna.

Field visits were carried out to different parts and different ecosystems of the district for exploring the flora. Plants were photographed and collected to prepare herbarium sheets according to Jain and Rao (1977). Plants were identified by referring research papers, Floras and websites.

Observations –

Crotalaria calycina Schrank

Annual erect hairy herbs, up to one meters tall. Leaves alternate sessile, villous, oblong – lanceolate. Flowers bracteate in loose terminal racemes. Calyx villous, corolla yellow, almost equal to calyx. Pods oblong, smooth.

Previous report from – Ahmednagar, Amravati, Nanded, Parbhani, Pune, Satara, Thane and Yavatmal Districts.

Present report- Bhavli Tehsil Igatpuri District Nasik .



Crotalaria calycina Schrank



Crotalaria calycina Schrank

Crotalaria leptostachya Benth

Erect annual herbs, up to 2 m tall. Stem stout quadrangular, hairy at edges. Leaves sub – sessile, alternate, oblong – lanceolate, apex acute, base rounded. Flowers in axillary or terminal racemes. Corolla yellow. Pods obovate – oblong hairy.



Crotalaria leptostachya Benth



Crotalaria leptostachya Benth

Endemic to Western Ghats.

Previous report from –Ahmednagar, Pune, Raigad, Thane, Districts

Present report- Waghera Ghat, Trymbakeshwar Tehsil and Pimpalgaon Bhatata, Igatpuri Tehsil District Nasik.

Results

Two species of *Crotalaria* viz *Crotalaria leptostachya* Benth and *Crotalaria calycina* Schrank, were recorded from Waghera ghat (Trymbakeshwar) and Bhavli Dam area (Igatpuri), which increased the number of *Crotalaria* species from Nashik district to twenty one.

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