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Euphorbia hypericifolia L. (Euphorbiaceae): Additions to flora of semi arid Punjab, India (Sharma, 1987)

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Abstract
Euphorbia hypericifolia L., member of family Euphorbiaceae is reported first time from the Semi Arid region of Punjab, India during the year 2026. It is documented as a weed species of waste places in the campus of Taj Public School, Jand Sahib district Faridkot, Punjab. Morphological features were examined for establishment the identity of species. Present study will be useful to the taxonomists, botanists, biologists as an additional information about the occurrence of new *Euphorbia* species from the Semi Arid region of Punjab.

Keywords: *Euphorbia*, Angiosperm, weed, medicine, Faridkot, Taxonomy

Introduction

Genus *Euphorbia* L is a member of family Euphorbiaceae distributed with 2150 species in the world and about 195 in India (Aditya, 2010) [1].

Morphological features such as stem, leaf, stipule, sepal, petal, inflorescence, seed (size, shape, colour) are important for differentiation of species (Larano and Bout, 2010; Pahlevani *et al*., 2015; Kursat *et al.*, 2023) [2–4]. These features solve the taxonomic problems because every species have own distinct feature for identification.

Previously, Sharma *et al.* (1987) [9] documented floristic diversity from Semi arid region of Punjab, India. They recorded 11 species of the genus *Euphorbia* L. But there is no any information about occurrence of *Euphorbia hypericifolia* L. from Semi Arid region of Punjab India.

Material and Methods

Study Area

Present study was conducted in the campus of Taj Public School Jand Sahib, Faridkot, Punjab, India during the year 2026 (Fig.1.). Plant species documented as a weed species from waste places.

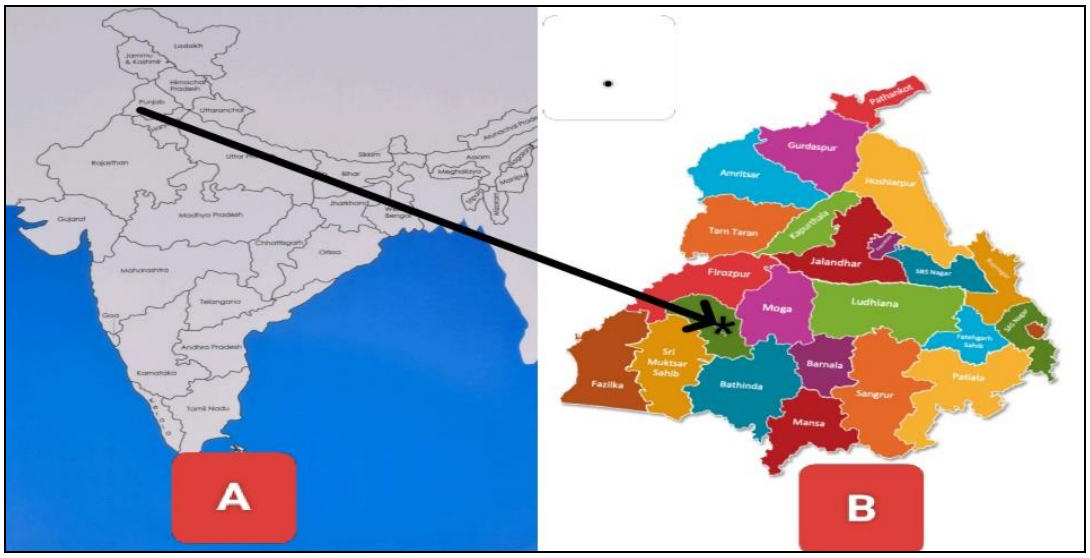

Fig 1: Map of Study Area. A- Map of India, B- Map of Punjab. (Source – www.google.com).

Morphological Study

Various morphological parameters such as habitat, stem, leaf, stipule, inflorescence, flower, fruit, seed etc were examined for accurate identification. Available Literature (Sciandrella *et al*., 2016; Khamar *et al.*, 2024; El Mokni *et al.*, 2025 and Gairola *et al.*, 2026) [5, 6] was also consulted for authentication of species. Herbarium sheet (TPS-87) were are deposited to the Herbarium, Biology Lab, Taj Public School Jand Sahib, Faridkot, Punjab, India.

Morphological details

Euphorbia hypericifolia L.

Herbs, annual, 20-55 cm tall. Root fibrous, 2-4 mm thick. Stems branched mainly from upper parts, erect, 1-3 mm thick, glabrous or sparsely pilose. Leaves opposite; stipules triangular, 1.3-1.5 mm, free or connate; petiole 1-2 mm; leaf blade narrowly oblong or obovate, 1-2.5 cm × 4-10 mm, adaxially dark green, light green abaxially, sometimes purple-red, sparsely pilose on both surfaces, or glabrescent

abaxially, base rounded, margin entire or finely serrulate toward apex, apex obtuse or rounded; involucral leaves 2, similar to normal leaves. Cyathia many in axillary or terminal cymes, peduncle 3-5 mm; glands 4, appendages white or light pink. Male flowers numerous, slightly exserted from involucre. Female flower: pedicel longer than involucre; ovary 3-angular, glabrous; styles free; stigma slightly 2-lobed. Capsule 3-angular, 1-1.5mm ×1- 2 mm, smooth, glabrous. Seeds ovoid-angulate, 1 -1.2mm × 0.4-0.8 mm. (Fig 2.).

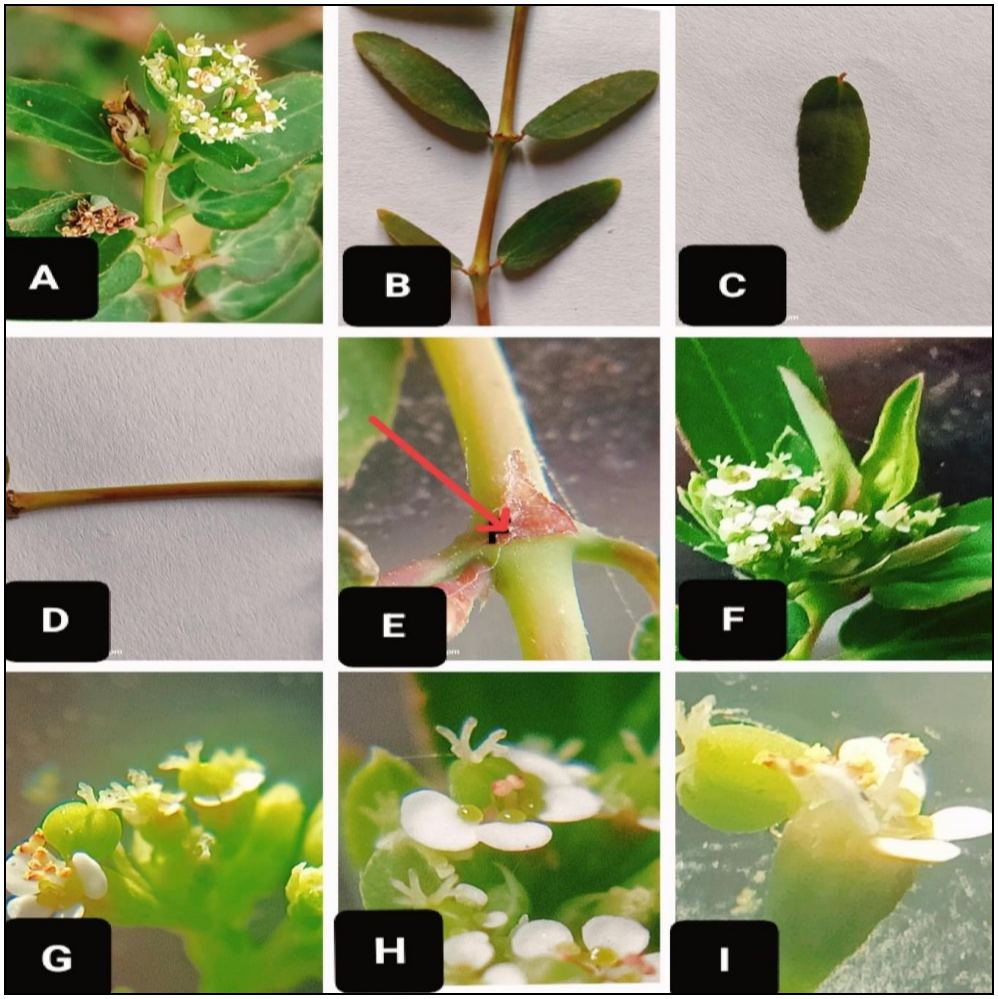

Fig 2: A- Habitat; B- Leaf Arrangement; C- Leaf; D- Stem; E- Stipule (Red Arrow); F- Inflorescence; G- inflorescence (Large View); H- Cyathia; I – Cyathia (single).

Synonyms (From world flora online.com)

Anisophyllum hypericifolium (L.) Haw.
Chamaesyce boliviana (Rusby) Croizat
Chamaesyce glomerifera Millsp.
Chamaesyce hypericifolia (L.) Millsp.
Ditrita obliqua Raf.
Ditritea obliqua Raf.
Euphorbia boliviana Rusby
Euphorbia cuspidata Bertol.
Euphorbia glomerifera (Millsp.) L.C. Wheeler
Euphorbia hypericifolia var. *Maculata Klotzsch*
Euphorbia papilligera Boiss.

Conclusion

Euphorbia hypericifolia is a new distributional record for Semi Arid region of Punjab, India. It is documented as a weed species of waste land. This study will be useful for the botanists, taxonomists, researchers *etc*. as an updated information about the occurrence of species of the genus *Euphorbia* from the region.

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