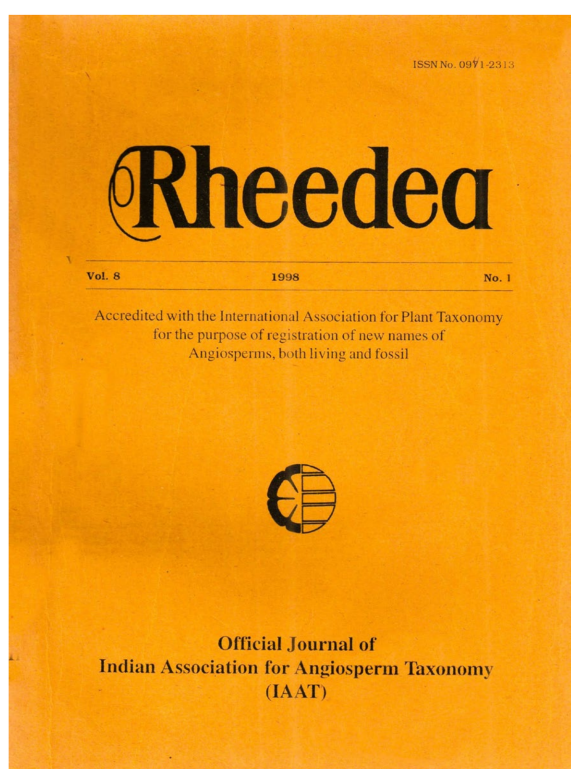




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A New species of *Euphorbia* L. (Euphorbiaceae) from Southern India

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Abstract

A new species, viz., *Euphorbia balakrishnanii* (Euphorbiaceae) is described and illustrated.

***Euphorbia balakrishnanii* Binojk. & Gopalan, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).**

Euphorbia corrigioloides Boiss. affinis, caulibus curtioribus, multo effusis; caudicibus infirmis; foliis elliptico-oblongis vel suborbicularibus, obtuse serratis, paginis superis ad medianum irregulariter maculatis; cyathiis axillaribus, solitariis vel aliquot fasciculatis; carinis capsulae acutis, ciliatis, seminibus oblongis differt.

Typus: India, Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli, Marshy areas of scrub forests in Vallanad R.F., 25 Feb. 1990. *Binojkumar 85092* (Holotype - CAL; Isotype - MH).

Prostrate or decumbent herbs; rootstock weak; stems many from a slender rootstock, filiform, 10-28 cm long, pale red; nodes slightly thickened; internodes 1-1.5 cm long, glabrous. Leaves simple, opposite; stipules broad, triangular, lacinate, ca 1 mm long; petioles ca 3 mm long, glabrous or sparsely pubescent; lamina elliptic-oblong to suborbicular, 5-10 x 4-6 mm, oblique at base, bluntly serrate at margins towards upper portion, acute to subapiculate at apex, with an irregular purple patch at the centre on adaxial surface. Cyathia axillary, solitary or 2-3 together; peduncles ca 2 mm long, glabrous; involucre turbinate, ca 1.5 mm across, sparsely puberulous; lobes 5, oblong, deeply lacinate; glands 4, orbicular; limbs of glands suborbicular, minutely wavy along margins towards apex, ca 1 mm across, white or pale pink. *Male florets*: 8-12 in each cyathium; bracteoles filiform, ca 1.5 mm long; pedicels ca 1 mm long; anthers subglobose, transversely dehiscent. *Female flowers*: gynophore ca 3 mm long, glabrous; ovary ca 1 mm across, sparsely hairy; styles 3, ca 1 mm long, each bifid at apex; stigma capitate. Capsules ovoid, ca 1.5 (-1.7) x 1.5 (-1.7) mm, keeled, ciliate along keels. Seeds oblong, ca 1 x 0.75 mm, smooth, grey.

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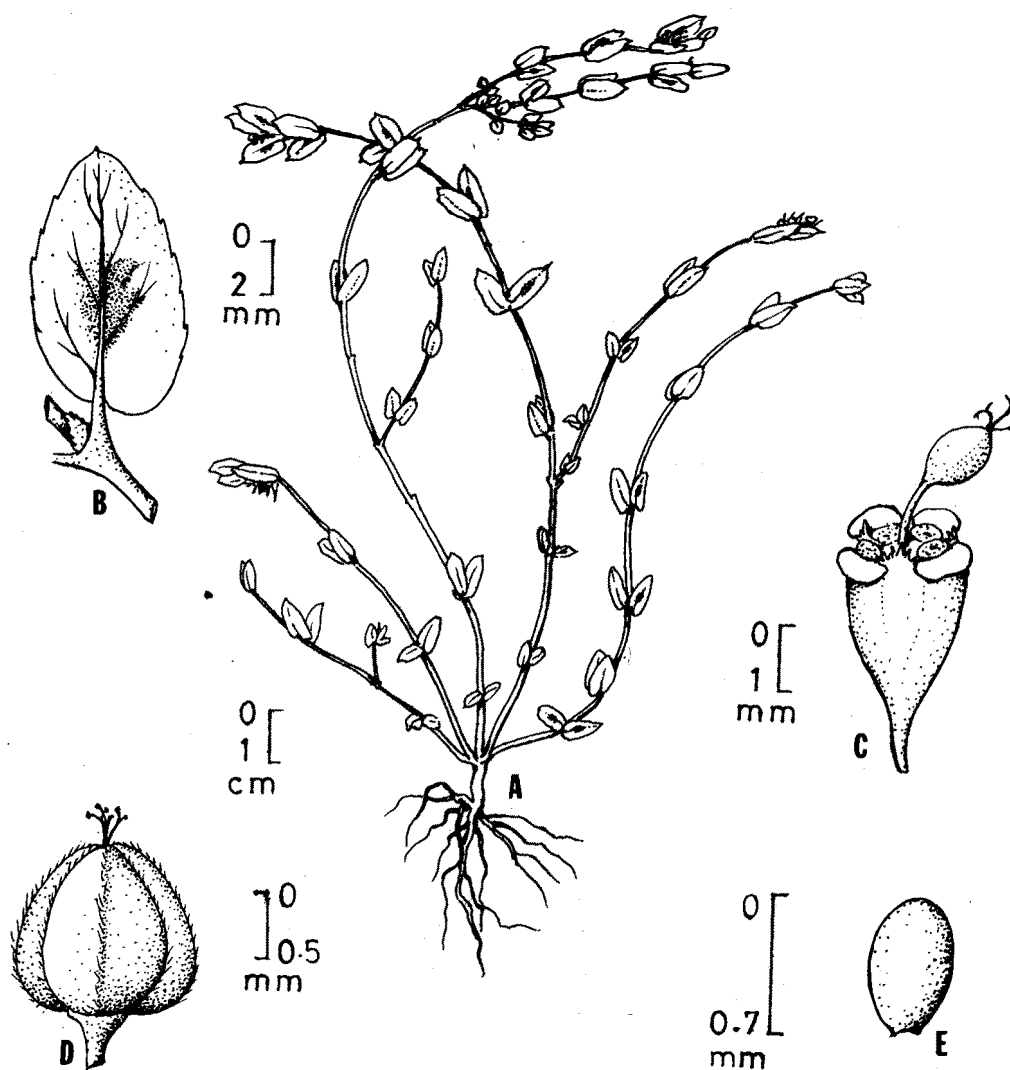


Fig. 1. *Euphorbia balakrishnanii* Binojk. & Gopalan. A. Habit; B. Nodal region showing stipule; C. Cyathium; D. Capsule; E. Seed.

A new species of *Euphorbia*

Allied to *E. corrigioloides* Boiss. by its many in cluster stems, spreading from rootstock; elliptic-oblong or suborbicular and bluntly serrate leaves with patches at centre on upper surfaces; in axillary, solitary or a few cluster keeled capsules with ciliate-hairy keels and oblong seeds. Comparison of *E. balakrishnanii* and *E. corrigioloides* is given in Table 1.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Etymology: This species is named in honour of Dr. N.P. Balakrishnan, Sc. ex-Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore contributions to the taxonomy of Indian plants.

Table 1

<i>Euphorbia balakrishnanii</i> Binojk. & Gopalan	<i>E. corrigioloides</i> Boiss.
spreading from a weak rootstock, 20-30 cm long.	stems decumbent, ascending many arising from stout root cm long.
Petioles ca 3 mm long.	Petioles ca 2 mm long.
Leaves elliptic-oblong to suborbicular, entire or bluntly serrate along distal margins, 5-10 x 4-6 mm, with an irregular purple patch at the centre on adaxial surface.	Leaves oblong-elliptic or obacutely serrate all along the margins, 4-5 mm, purple patch absent, few scattered purple spots.
Chlorenchyma distinctly aggregated around the reticulate nerves of lamina.	Chlorenchyma not distinctly around the nerves of lamina.
Cyathia axillary, solitary or 2-3 together, glabrous or rarely puberulous.	Cyathia many in dense axillary cymes, puberulous.
Capsules acutely keeled, ciliate along keels only.	Capsules obtusely keeled, pubescent throughout.
Seeds oblong, ca 1 x 0.75 mm	Seeds ovoid, ca 0.75 mm ac

A new species of *Euphorbia*

Allied to *E. corrigioloides* Boiss. but differs in shorter stems, spre rootstock; elliptic-oblong or suborbicular and bluntly serrate leaves wi patches at centre on upper surfaces; in axillary, solitary or a few cluster keeled capsules with ciliate-hairy keels and oblong seeds. Comparison of v *E. balakrishanii* and *E. corrigioloides* is given in Table 1.

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Etymology: This species is named in honour of Dr. N.P. Balakrishnan, Sci ex-Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore : contributions to the taxonomy of Indian plants.

Table 1

<i>Euphorbia balakrishnanii</i> Binojk. & Gopalan	<i>E. corrigioloides</i> Boiss.
<i>Stems</i> prostrate or decumbent, few, spreading from a weak rootstock, 20-30 cm long.	<i>Stems</i> decumbent, ascendent many arising from stout root cm long.
<i>Petioles</i> ca 3 mm long.	<i>Petioles</i> ca 2 mm long.
<i>Leaves</i> elliptic-oblong to suborbicular, entire or bluntly serrate along distal margins, 5-10 x 4-6 mm, with an irregular purple patch at the centre on adaxial surface.	<i>Leaves</i> oblong-elliptic or obl acutely serrate all along the r 4-5 mm, purple patch absent few scattered purple spots.
<i>Chlorenchyma</i> distinctly aggregated around the reticulate nerves of lamina.	<i>Chlorenchyma</i> not distinctly around the nerves of lamina.
<i>Cyathia</i> axillary, solitary or 2-3 together, glabrous or rarely puberulous.	<i>Cyathia</i> many in dense axilla cymes, puberulous.
<i>Capsules</i> acutely keeled, ciliate along keels only.	<i>Capsules</i> obtusely keeled, pu throughout.
<i>Seeds</i> oblong, ca 1 x 0.75 mm	<i>Seeds</i> ovoid, ca 0.75 mm ac

A new species of *Euphorbia*

Allied to *E. corrigioloides* Boiss. but differs in shorter stems, spreading from a weak rootstock; elliptic-oblong or suborbicular and bluntly serrate leaves with irregular purple patches at centre on upper surfaces; in axillary, solitary or a few clustered cyathia; acutely keeled capsules with ciliate-hairy keels and oblong seeds. Comparison of various characters of *E. balakrishnanii* and *E. corrigioloides* is given in Table 1.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Etymology: This species is named in honour of Dr. N.P. Balakrishnan, Scientist Emeritus and ex-Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for his significant contributions to the taxonomy of Indian plants.

Table 1

<i>Euphorbia balakrishnanii</i> Binojk. & Gopalan	<i>E. corrigioloides</i> Boiss.
<i>Stems</i> prostrate or decumbent, few, spreading from a weak rootstock, 20-30 cm long.	<i>Stems</i> decumbent, ascendent or suberect; many arising from stout rootstock, up to 50 cm long.
<i>Petioles</i> ca 3 mm long.	<i>Petioles</i> ca 2 mm long.
<i>Leaves</i> elliptic-oblong to suborbicular, entire or bluntly serrate along distal margins, 5-10 x 4-6 mm, with an irregular purple patch at the centre on adaxial surface.	<i>Leaves</i> oblong-elliptic or obliquely oblong, acutely serrate all along the margins, 5-15 x 4-5 mm, purple patch absent, rarely with few scattered purple spots.
<i>Chlorenchyma</i> distinctly aggregated around the reticulate nerves of lamina.	<i>Chlorenchyma</i> not distinctly aggregated around the nerves of lamina.
<i>Cyathia</i> axillary, solitary or 2-3 together, glabrous or rarely puberulous.	<i>Cyathia</i> many in dense axillary condensed cymes, puberulous.
<i>Capsules</i> acutely keeled, ciliate along keels only.	<i>Capsules</i> obtusely keeled, puberulous throughout.
<i>Seeds</i> oblong, ca 1 x 0.75 mm	<i>Seeds</i> ovoid, ca 0.75 mm across.

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