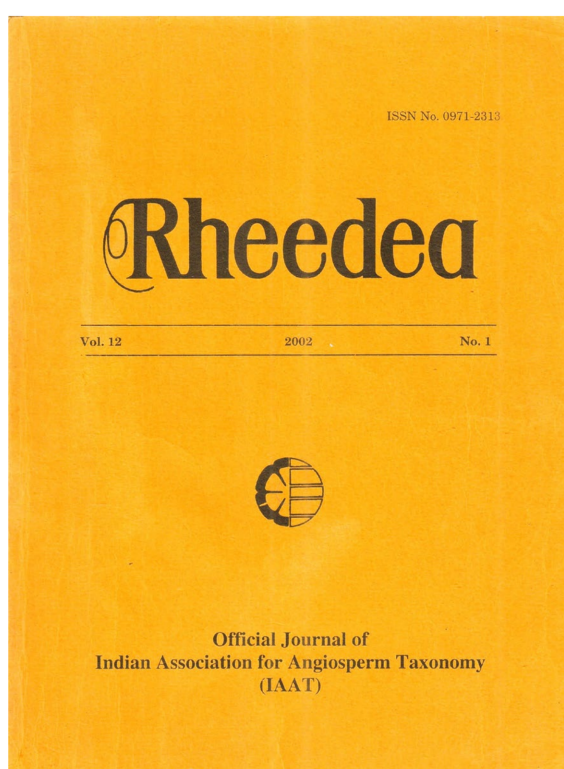




Ipomoea parasitica (Kunth) G. Don (Convolvulaceae): A new record for India

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***Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth) G. Don (Convolvulaceae): A new record for India**

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Abstract

Ipomoea parasitica (Kunth) G. Don (Convolvulaceae) is reported for the first time from India. Detailed description, illustrations and relevant notes of the species are provided.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ipomoea* L. is the largest one in the family Convolvulaceae, with about 500 species distributed throughout the tropics of the Old and New World (Austin & Huaman, 1996). The genus is represented by 56 species in India (Johri, 1983; Biju *et al.*, 1998), of which 32 species occur in the Southern Peninsular India (Biju, 1997; Biju *et al.*, 1998).

During the revisionary study of the Convolvulaceae of Peninsular India for Ph.D. dissertation of the author, a few interesting specimens of the genus *Ipomoea* L. were collected from different places in South India. They did not match with any of the species of the genus known so far from India. The species is later identified as *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth) G. Don.

A brief description and detailed illustrations are provided to facilitate the identification.

***Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth) G. Don, Gen. Syst. 4: 275. 1838; Stanley & Williams, Fl. Guatemala, *Fieldiana*: Botany 24: 45. 1970. (Fig. 1).**

Convolvulus parasiticus Kunth, Nov. Gen. & Sp. Pl. 3: 103. 1819.

Annual vines; stem twining, woody at base, herbaceous towards tip, usually muricate, glabrous, terete, hollow. Leaves simple, ovate to deltoid, 4-22 x 3-20 cm, apically acuminate, mucronulate, basally cordate (rarely truncate), glabrous below, sparsely pilose above; midrib and lateral veins raised beneath; petiole up to 30 cm long, slightly pubescent. Flowers in axillary, few to several (up to 30) flowered cymes; peduncle up to 25 cm long, pubescent, terete; bracts small, linear-lanceolate, 1-1.5 x 1 mm; pedicels short, 2-2.5 cm long, pubescent,

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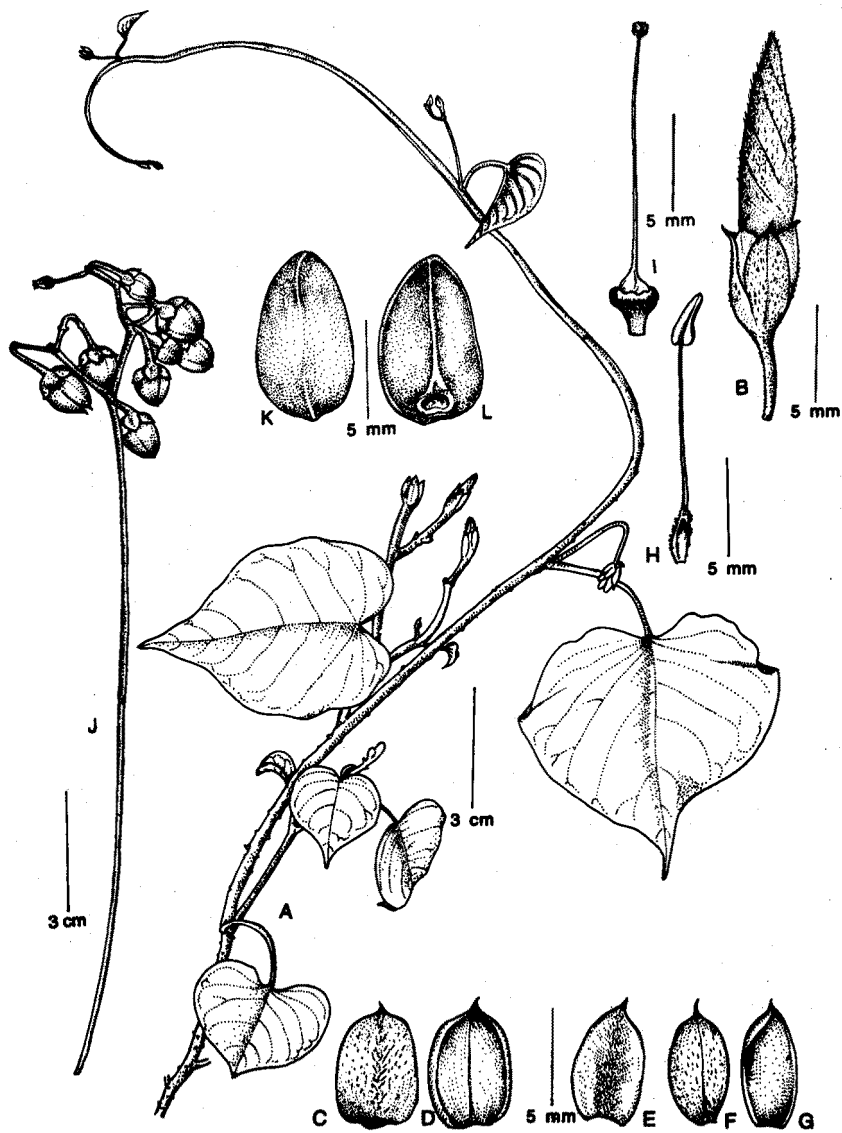


Fig. 1. *Ipomoea parasitica* (Kunth) G. Don: A. Flowering twig; B. Flower bud; C. & D. Outer sepals; E-G. Inner sepals; H. Stamen; I. Pistil; J. Fruits; K. & L. Seeds (K – dorsal view; L – ventral view) (from Biju 15345: K).

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slightly dilated above; sepals 5, more or less same size, outer 2 elliptic, 4-5.1 x 3-3.2 mm, apically apiculate, pilose outside, glabrous inside, scarious, inner 3 elliptic-oblong to widely ovate, 5-5.1 x 3-3.6 mm, apically apiculate, pilose only on outerside of midrib, glabrous inside, scarious; corolla purple, throat whitish, campanulate, tube up to 4 cm long, white, mouth up to 3.5 cm across, slightly 5-lobed, midpetaline bands pilose; stamens inserted; anthers up to 3 mm long; filaments white, attached 7 mm above the corolla base, subequal, 2 long up to 1.1 cm, 3 short up to 0.9 cm long, white ciliolate at base; ovary conical, 1 x 1 mm, glabrous; disc small, annular; style inserted, up to 1.3 cm long, glabrous; stigma bilobed, 1 x 2 mm, papillate. Fruits capsular, broadly ovate to globular, 1.8-2 x 1.5-1.9 cm, apically with persistent style base; pedicels enlarged and recurved; fruiting sepals slightly enlarged and reflexed; seeds 4, ovate to elliptic, 8-9 x 6-7 mm, glabrous to pubescent, black.

Flowering and fruiting: September – January.

Distribution: This species is reported from Mexico through Central America and Northern South America.

Ecology: *Ipomoea parasitica* is found at disturbed sites, especially along edges of secondary forests, roadsides, and margins of cultivated fields, and in waste places.

Taxonomic note: This species is very closely allied to *Ipomoea tricolor* Cav., but can be distinguished by smaller sericeous (outside) corolla and by broader calyx lobes.

Specimens examined: INDIA, Karnataka: Shimoga Dist., Shimoga, Biju 15345 (K), Biju 15347, Biju 15357 (TBGT); Kerala: Kottayam Dist., Periyar, Biju 34600 (TBGT); Tamil Nadu: Selam Dist., Kollimalai, Biju 43599 (TBGT).

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