

## **New Species / New Records 2020-21**

### **1. Eleven species of liverworts as new distributional records to Bryoflora Andhra Pradesh, India.**

**July, 2020**

Ananthaneni Sreenath and Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao

#### **Abstract**

Eleven species of liverworts viz., *Asterella khasiana* (Griff.) Grolle., *Plagiochasma cordatum* Lehm. & Lindenb., *Plagiochasma intermedium* Lindend & Gottsche, *Riccia frostii* Austin, *Riccia poihaniana* A.E.D. Daniels & P. Daniel, *Riccia sporocarpa* Bisch. *Riccia stricta* (Gottsche, Lindenb. & Nees) Perold, *Riccia velimalaiana* A.E.D. Daniels & P. Daniel, *Riccardia levieri* Schiffner., *Riccardia tenuicostata* Schiffn. And *Riccardia villosa* (Stephani) S.C. Srivast. & Udar, are collected from different forest tracts of Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh, are being new distributional records the state.

**Keywords:** Eleven Species, Liverworts, New records, Andhra Pradesh

**Source:** <https://jbsd.in/Vol%2011No3/Ananthaneni111-120.pdf>

### **2. Addition of Six New Genera to the Flora of Odisha: A Report**

**September, 2020**

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#### **Abstract**

In the present study six genera of plants were recorded as new additions to the angiospermic flora of Odisha state, India along with their detailed description, phenology and distribution. During the extensive exploration in different districts of the state, *Calystegia sepium* (L.) R.Br. (Convolvulaceae), *Cymbalaria muralis* G.Gaertn., B.Mey. and Scherb. (Plantaginaceae), *Gloxinia perennis* (L.) Druce (Gesneriaceae), *Fumaria indica* (Hauskn.) Pugsley (Papaveraceae), *Lobularia maritima* (L.) Desv. (Brassicaceae), *Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) Kuntze (Dioscoreaceae) were collected and after a

thorough microscopic observation and detailed review of the available literature and references, these six genera were found to be new records for the flora of Odisha state, India. Now-a-days, in all over the globe, plant diversity is not only being depleted but also some species are found to become threatened and endangered and more so, many of the natural vegetation become extinct in course of time. A detailed and thorough scientific approach was made on the proper status of these six new recorded genera and discussed in details for their taxonomical, nomenclatural, biological and ecological data (i.e. accepted scientific name, synonyms, geographical distribution and conservation status).

**Key words:** New report, Odisha, Phytodiversity.

<https://www.ajbls.com/sites/default/files/AsianJBiolLifeSci-9-2-260.pdf>

### **3. New species of gecko found in the Eastern Ghats**

**November, 2020**

This is the twelfth species to be discovered outside the Western Ghats. A new species of lizard, the smallest known Indian gekkonid, has been discovered in the Eastern Ghats. Studies show that the species belonged to the genus *Cnemaspis*. In India, 45 diverse species of *Cnemaspis* have been found, of which 34 are from the Western Ghats.

#### **Six new lizard species found in Western Ghats**



The newly discovered dwarf gecko - *Cnemaspis avasabinae* is the twelfth species to be discovered outside the Western Ghats and also the first species reported from the Velikonda Range in

Andhra Pradesh. This discovery suggests that the genus may be even more widely distributed than previously thought.

“*Cnemaspis* is one of several groups of gecko that we now know are very diverse and widespread over much of peninsular India. Knowing this, we can survey in places that have not yet been studied, or have been understudied, and there is a good chance that new species can be found,” explains Aaron M. Bauer from Villanova University, U.S. in an email to *The Hindu*. He is one of the authors of the paper published in *Zootaxa*.

### **Many species likely**

“In the past, it was thought that there were only a few species, many of them relatively widespread, but now we recognize that it is likely that each hill range or isolated forest patch may have its own species. While we long knew that the diversity in the Western Ghats was high, only more recently have we come to recognize that the Eastern Ghats are also tremendously biodiversity,” he adds. The team gave it a common name – Sabin’s Nellore dwarf gecko.

The new species was sighted in a dry evergreen forest among the rocks beneath a small stream at a height of less than 200 meters above sea level and measured less than 2.9 cm (snout to vent length).

The most interesting find was that the males of the species lacked femoral pores. Generally, most variants of lizards have femoral pores in both the sexes, and the secretions from these pores play a role in communication.

Prof. Bauer explains: “Lacking femoral pores doesn’t mean that a male gecko is not adequately supplied with chemical means of communication. It may also be possible that geckos are able to release pheromones to attract or communicate with possible mates, even if there are no pores. Pores may be especially useful for lizards that maintain a home range or territory and use them to mark this – to keep away other males even more than to attract females. *Cnemaspis* also have good vision, so visual signaling may play a part in mate attraction in these geckos.”

### **More work needed**

The team notes that more work is needed in the surrounding areas to determine how widespread it is. “But for now we would have to consider the species ‘data deficient’ until we know more and can meaningfully assess its conservation status,” adds Prof. Bauer.

#### **4. *Lepidagathis rajasekharae* (Acanthaceae), a new species from the Seshachalam hills of Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India**

November, 2020

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**Doi:** <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.470.1.7>

#### **Abstract**

A new species of *Lepidagathis*, *L. rajasekharae* is reported from the Seshachalam hills of Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh, India. The new species is closely allied to *L. fasciculata* but differs in many attributes which are discussed here. A detailed description, photographs and conservation status are provided for the new species.

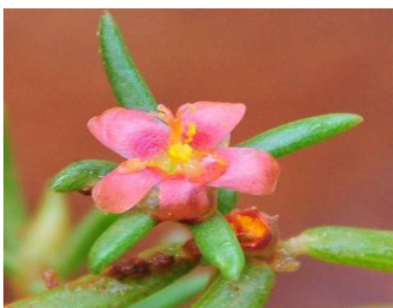
**Keywords:** Conservation status, Kadapa District, Moist deciduous forest, Ruellieae, Eudicots

<https://www.biotaxa.org/Phytotaxa/article/view/phytotaxa.470.1.7>

#### **5. New species of Sun Rose found in the Eastern Ghats**

December, 2020

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/new-species-of-sun-rose-found-in-the-eastern-ghats/article33424396.ece>



Botanists have discovered a new species of wild Sun Rose from the Eastern Ghats in India.

The new species, named *Portulaca laljii*, discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish pink flower, prolate-shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre. These morphological features distinguish the species from other species of genus *Portulaca*.

The details of the discovery have been published in the *Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity* in an article titled “A new species of the genus *Portulaca* L. (Portulacaceae) from the Eastern Ghats, India”.

“Botanical explorations were undertaken in the Prakasam district during April 2018 to February 2020. The species was first spotted in April 2018 but the samples were seen during flowering in July-August,” Pasupuleti Sivaramakrishna, one of the botanists behind the discovery, said. The flowers, which are reddish pink in colour, are very minute, at about 0.5mm. The plant was found growing in rocky crevices at an altitude of about 1,800 metres above mean sea level, very close to the ground, at about less than 10 cm.

“The flowers are very attractive and bloom for months from June to February. The plant can have a rich horticultural value,” said Mr. Sivaramakrishna, who is associated with the Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. Along with Mr. Sivaramakrishna, Pulicherla Yugandhar, another botanist associated with the same institute, has contributed to the discovery.

## **6. *Schoenorchis gemmata* (Lindl.) J.J. Smith: An addition to the Orchidaceous flora of Eastern Ghats, India**

**December, 2020**

SP Panda, D Behera, S Biswa, MU Sharief, BT Panda and HN Subudhi

### **Abstract**

The present paper deals with the species ‘*Schoenorchis gemmata* (Lindl.) J.J. Smith’ of Orchidaceae collected from Kolli Hills of Tamil Nadu state which is a new record

for Eastern Ghats. Correct nomenclature, short phytophany, ecology, phenology etc are described in this paper.

**Keywords:** Schoenorchis gemmeta, new record, orchid, Eastern Ghats

**Source:** <https://www.phytojournal.com/archives/2021/vol10issue1/PartAM/10-1-278-929.pdf>

## **7. Ipomoea triloba L. New distributional record to Eastern Ghats, India**

**December, 2020**

Paradesi Anjaneyulu, M. Anil Kumar & Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao

### **Abstract**

*Ipomoea triloba* collected from the Eastern Ghat forests of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh is a new distributional record for the Eastern Ghats of India.

**Keywords:** Convolvulaceae, New record, Eastern Ghats

**Source:** <http://biosciencediscovery.com/Volume%2012%20Number%201/Paradesi01-04.pdf>

## **8. *Crotalaria lamelliformis* (Fabaceae: Crotalarieae), a new species from Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, Peninsular India**

**March, 2021**

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**Doi:** <https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.490.1.6>

### **Abstract**

*Crotalaria lamelliformis* is described and illustrated as a new species in sect. Calycinae from Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh of India. The habitat ecology, distribution and conservation status are briefly discussed in this study. This new species is apparently resembled to *Crotalaria albida* B. Heyne ex Roth. (Nov. Pl. Sp., 1821:333) but shows a definite difference by showing a combination of vegetative morphology, inflorescence architecture and floral characters.

**Keywords:** Sadasivakona, Calycinae, Lamelliform, Callosities, India, Eudicots

**Source:** <https://www.biotaxa.org/Phytotaxa/article/view/phytotaxa.490.1.6>

## **9. New plant species found in Chittoor**

**March, 2021**



The discovery, in the southern Eastern Ghats, is featured in international journal 'Phytotaxa'

A team of botanists has recently stumbled upon a new rattlepod species in the Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh, which is part of the southern Eastern Ghats. The discovery has been published in the latest edition of the noted international journal *Phytotaxa*.

During their field study, botanists P. Sivaramakrishna and P. Yugandhar from Sri

Venkateswara University and Lalji Singh, Scientist-E from the Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar regional centre, came across the species growing in the pasture lands in Sadasivakona.

After a critical investigation from July 2018 to November 2020, they found it to be a new species.

Named as *Crotalaria lamelliformis*, the ascending herb is unique for its distinct features such as adpressed white hairs beneath the lower surface of leaves, inflorescence short-terminal racemes, 6-8 bright yellow flowers, unequal calyx lobes, anterior two sepals fused and standard petal sub-orbicular with short claw surrounded by white cottony hairs.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Sivaramakrishna said that the plant was also found in the nearby Kailasakona and Pudi areas. As the population and distributional range of the species is not clearly known, it has been assigned under 'data deficient' category following the IUCN (International Code for Botanical Nomenclature) rules, he said.

"The discovery of *Crotalaria lamelliformis* is an addition to the existing 116 species from India. Diversity of *Crotalaria* species is mostly confined to the peninsular India region," Dr. Sivaramakrishna added.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/new-plant-species-found-in-chittoor/article34086725.ece>

## **10. Iphigenia magnifica Ansari & R.S. Rao (Colchicaceae) – A new distributional record to the flora of Eastern Ghats, India**

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**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.2021.8.3.1221>

**Keywords:** Iphigenia, New records, Seshachalam hills, Eastern Ghats

### **Abstract**

*Iphigenia magnifica* Ansari & R.S. Rao (Liliales: Colchicaceae), an endemic species of Western Ghats is reported in this communication as a new distributional record for Eastern Ghats from Seshachalam hills of Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh. The present communication provides description of this species along with photographs of habitat, live plant and herbarium specimen, comparison with its allied species, ecology and conservation assessment.

**Source:** <https://horizonpublishing.com/journals/index.php/PST/article/view/1221>