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Original Research Article

A Note on *Lindernia viscosa* (Hornem.) Merr. (Scrophulariaceae): A new distributional record for Telangana, India.

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Abstract: *Lindernia viscosa* (Scrophulariaceae) is reported for the first time from Telangana state. A detailed description with an illustration is deliberated here.

Key words: Adilabad; Kawal Tiger Reserve; Lindernia; Scrophulariaceae; Telangana

Introduction

The genus *Lindernia* All. (*sensu lato*) comprises about 160 species distributed both in Old and New Worlds (1). Its members were shifted to various split genera such as, *Lindernia* All. (*sensu stricto*) *Vandellia* L., *Bonnaya* Link & Otto and *Ilysanthes* Rafin. This genus is represented by 31 taxa in India (8; 4; 5), 11 of them are reported in Andhra Pradesh (7) and 8 species in Telangana (6). While exploring Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana state: Adilabad district) for a floral inventory, one of the authors collected a specimen which after study was identified as *Lindernia viscosa* (Hornem.) Merr. This particular species has not been reported so far from the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh or from the separated Telangana state, hence reported as a new distributional record for Telangana state.

Lindernia viscosa (Hornem.) Merr., Sp. Blancoan. 14. 1918; Philcox, Kew Bull. 22: 38. 1968; Sivar. & P. Mathew, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 80: 132 & 137. 1983. *Gratiola viscosa* Hornem., Enum. Pl. Hort. Hafn. Suppl. 19. 1807. *Vandellia hirsuta* Buch. -Ham. ex Benth., Scroph. Ind. 36. 1835; Gamble, Fl. Madras 959. 1923; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 281. 1884. *Lindernia hirsuta* (Buch. -Ham. ex Benth.) Wettst. in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. 4 (3b): 79. 1891; S. K. Mukh, J. Indian Bot. Soc. 24(3): 131. 1945. Fig. 1.

Annual, 8–12 cm high, branching from near the base, sparsely hirsute all over. Leaves opposite, elliptic or ovate, 1.5–3.5 × 1–2 cm, attenuate or broad at base, subentire or crenate or serrate-dentate and shortly ciliate along margins, obtuse at apex, membranous, sparsely hirsute on both surfaces, pinnately veined; lateral veins 3 or 4 pairs; upper leaves sessile and smaller than lower leaves; lower leaves petioled; petioles to 5 mm long. Racemes lax, axillary and terminal; pedicels 3-10 mm, slender; bracts lanceolate, 1.3-2.1 × c. 0.2 mm, acute at apex. Flowers pale blue or violet, c. 4 × 2 mm. Calyx deeply 5-lobed; lobes linear-lanceolate, 2.5-3.1 mm. Corolla 4-5 × c. 1 mm; tube c. 1.8 mm long; upper lip outer erect, notched or bifid; lower 3-lobed, spreading. Stamens 4, fertile, the 2 upper stamens on the corolla throat, usually included, the lower 2 with arched filaments having a rounded appendage towards the base, c. 2.2 mm long; anthers cohering in pairs, the cells divaricated, c. 0.2 × 0.2 mm. Ovary c. 1.1 × 0.8 mm; style c. 1.9 mm long, slender; stigma 2-lamellate. Capsules globose or subglobose, 2.8-3.2 × 1.6-2 mm, glabrous, as long as calyx lobes, many-seeded; seeds rectangular, 0.1–0.2 mm long, rugose, straw-colored.

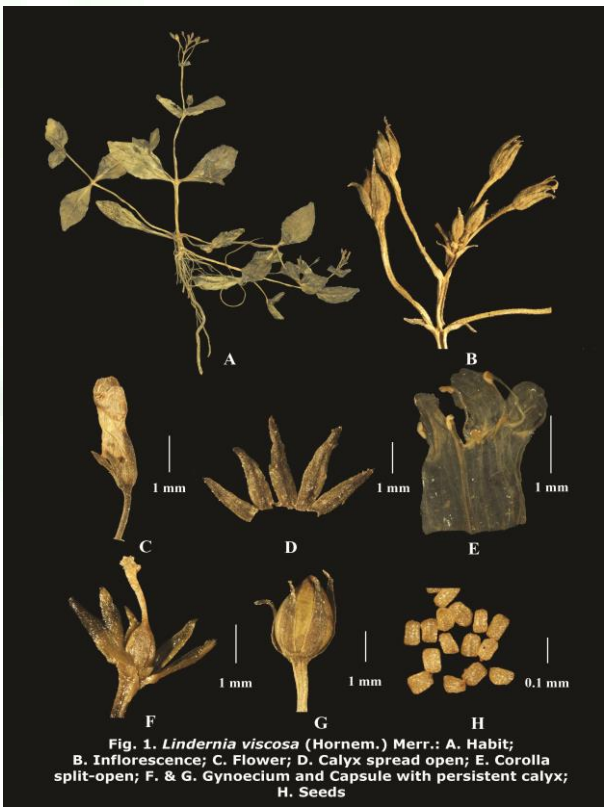

Fig. 1. *Lindernia viscosa* (Hornem.) Merr.: A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C. Flower; D. Calyx spread open; E. Corolla split-open; F. & G. Gynoecium and Capsule with persistent calyx; H. Seeds

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Flowering & Fruiting: August - October.
Habitat: Occasional in moist and shady places.
Distribution: Widely distributed in Tropical Asia (Bangladesh, Combodia Indonesia, Laos, Malayasia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri lanka, Thailand and Vietnam); India: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and now in Telangana.

Specimen examined: TYPE (K00800760): 302, *Vandellia hirsuta*, Upper Assam, Jenkins, Hooker 1841. India: Telangana, Kawal Tiger Reserve, 19°14'39.2" N; 078°58'03.6" E, 581 m, 15.9.2014, *P.S. Annamma* 4048 (BSID).

Note: *Lindernia viscosa* is allied to *L. multiflora* and two species differ in presence or absence of hairy nature of the plant and capsule shape (3; 8). Both are distributed in Malaysia and India. Cook (1) ignored this difference with *Vandellia multiflora* (Roxb.) (*L. viscosa* specimens become glabrous in dried condition) and synonymised the latter under *L. viscosa*. But a critical study made on both these species revealed that *L. multiflora* (Roxb.) can't be synonymised under *L. viscosa*.

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