



# Rediscovery of *Ipomoea salsettensis* (Convolvulaceae) from Western Ghats of Maharashtra, India

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## Abstract

*Ipomoea salsettensis* Santapau & Patel (Convolvulaceae) is rediscovered from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, after a lapse of 58 years. A detailed taxonomic description, illustration, photographs and relevant notes are provided.

**Keywords:** *Ipomoea salsettensis*, Maharashtra, Rediscovery, Western Ghats

## Introduction

While conducting revisionary studies on genus *Ipomoea* L. for India, the authors collected some interesting specimens of the genus *Ipomoea*. After critical studies, screening of literature (Almeida, 2001; Venkanna & Das, 2001) and consultation of type (Patel 1509, BLAT!) the specimens have been identified as *I. salsettensis* Santapau & Patel. It is an endangered species endemic to Western Ghats of Maharashtra state (Ahmedullah & Nayar, 1987; Yadav, 1997; Mishra & Singh, 2001; Singh *et al.*, 2015). The type specimen was originally collected from Borivli National Park, Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1955 and then it was collected from Trombay by one of the original authors (Santapau 23353–4) in 1960 and subsequently by V. P. Patel (1525–28) in 1955 from Bhandup and S.C. Tiwari (T1732) in 1958 from Goregaon after these collections there is no report of its occurrence from any part of the state (Mishra & Singh, 2001). The present report from the Rajapur tehsil of Ratnagiri district, which is 480 km away from the type locality, not only forms the rediscovery but also extends its distributional record.

***Ipomoea salsettensis*** Santapau & Patel, Trans. Bose Res. Inst. Calcutta 22: 34, t. 2. 1958; N.P. Singh & Sundararagh., J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 8(1): 32. 1986; Ahmedullah & M.P. Nayar, Endemic Pl. Indian Reg. 1: 131. 1987; S.R. Yadav in Pokle *et al.*, Fl. Pl. Syst. Divers. 1: 42. 1997; M.R. Almeida, Fl. Maharashtra

IIIB: 333. 2001; Mishra & N.P. Singh, Endemic Threat. Fl. Pl. Maharashtra: 169. 2001; N.P. Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra 2: 470. 2001; Singh *et al.*, Endemic Vascular Pl. India 1: 44. 2015. **Figs. 1,2**

**Type:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Bombay, Borivali, 25.9.1955, Patel 1509 (holo, BLAT!).

Twinner, woody, perennial. Stems glabrous, furrowed, minutely warty. Leaves broadly ovate or orbicular, 3–15.5 × 3.5–15 cm, entire or 3–5-lobed, base cordate, apex acuminate or mucronate; petioles 5–8 cm long, verrucose. Flowers 3–6 in umbellate cymes, rarely uniflorate; peduncles *c.* 17 cm long; pedicels *c.* 1.5 cm long. Sepals unequal, 10–12 mm long, coriaceous, glabrous, deflexed in fruiting; outer lobes obovate or oblong, 10–11 mm long, apex rounded or retuse and mucronate, warty outside; inner sepals broader, smooth, margins membranous, apex rounded and mucronate, mucro emerging from the outer part of sepal, below apex. Corolla salver-shaped, 8–10 cm long, white; tube slender, 5–5.5 cm long, minutely puberulous inside; limb 4–6 cm in diam., distinctly lobed. Stamens subexserted, subequal; filaments pilose at base. Capsules depressed-globose, 1.5–1.7 cm across, 4-valved, 2-celled; seeds 6–8, tomentose.

*Flowering & fruiting:* September–December.

*Habitat:* It grows on roadsides in bushes. Although it produces profuse flowering, fruit setting is very low. During present investigation about

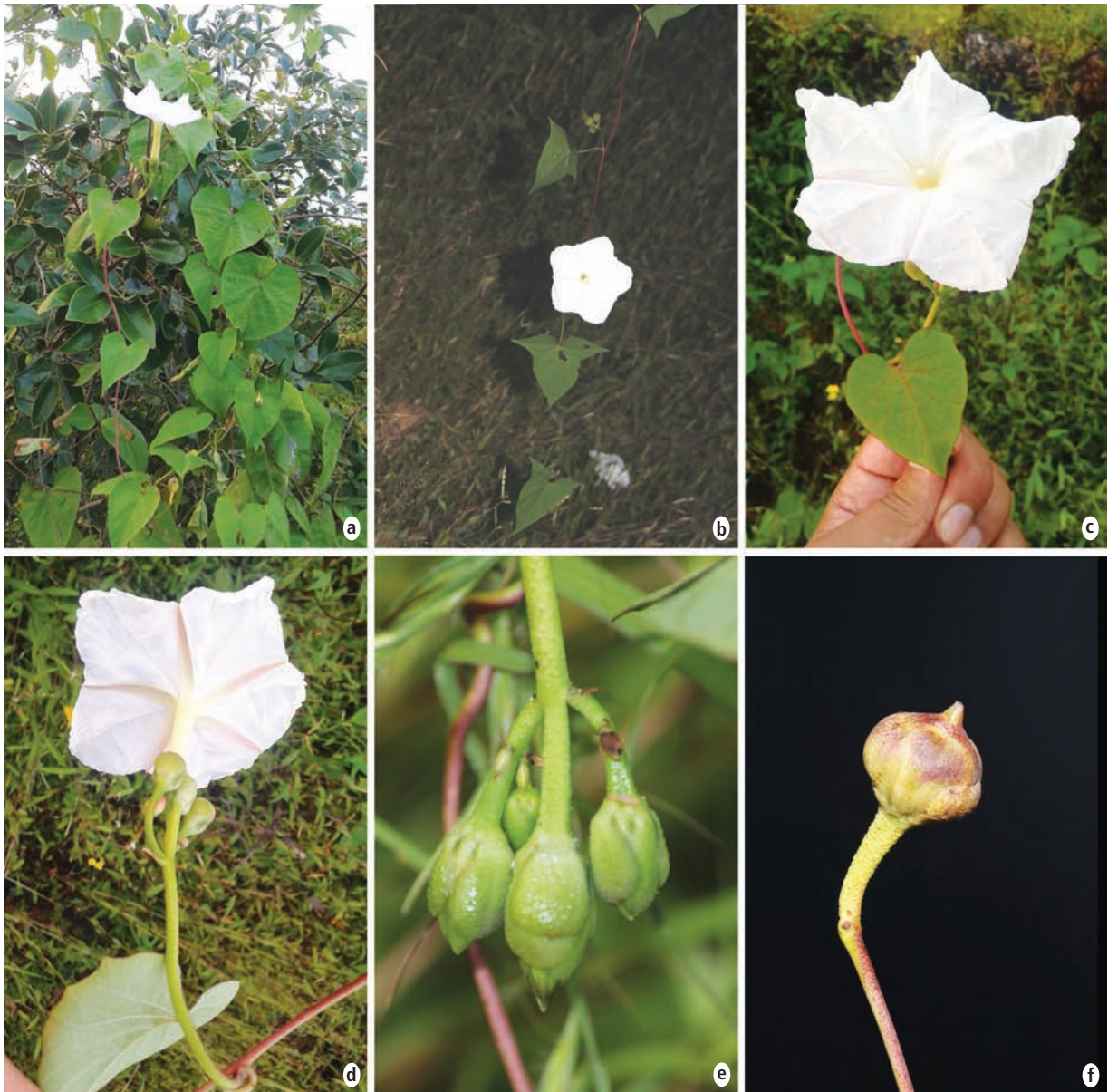


Fig. 1. *Ipomoea salsettensis* Santapau & Patel: a. Habit; b. Flowering-twig; c. Flower front view; d. Corolla tube showing mid-petaline bands on lower side; e. Flower buds showing sepals; f. Fruits

50 individuals were observed in two distinct populations.

*Distribution:* India: Maharashtra (Mumbai and Ratnagiri districts).

*Specimen examined:* INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri district, Rajapur, 14.10.2016, Kattee & Shimpale 1437 (The New College Herbarium, Kolhapur)

*Note:* *Ipomoea salsettensis* is often mistaken for *I. alba*. Both the species are nocturnal (flowers bloom night),

with long white corolla. Key differences between these two species are given in **Table 1**.

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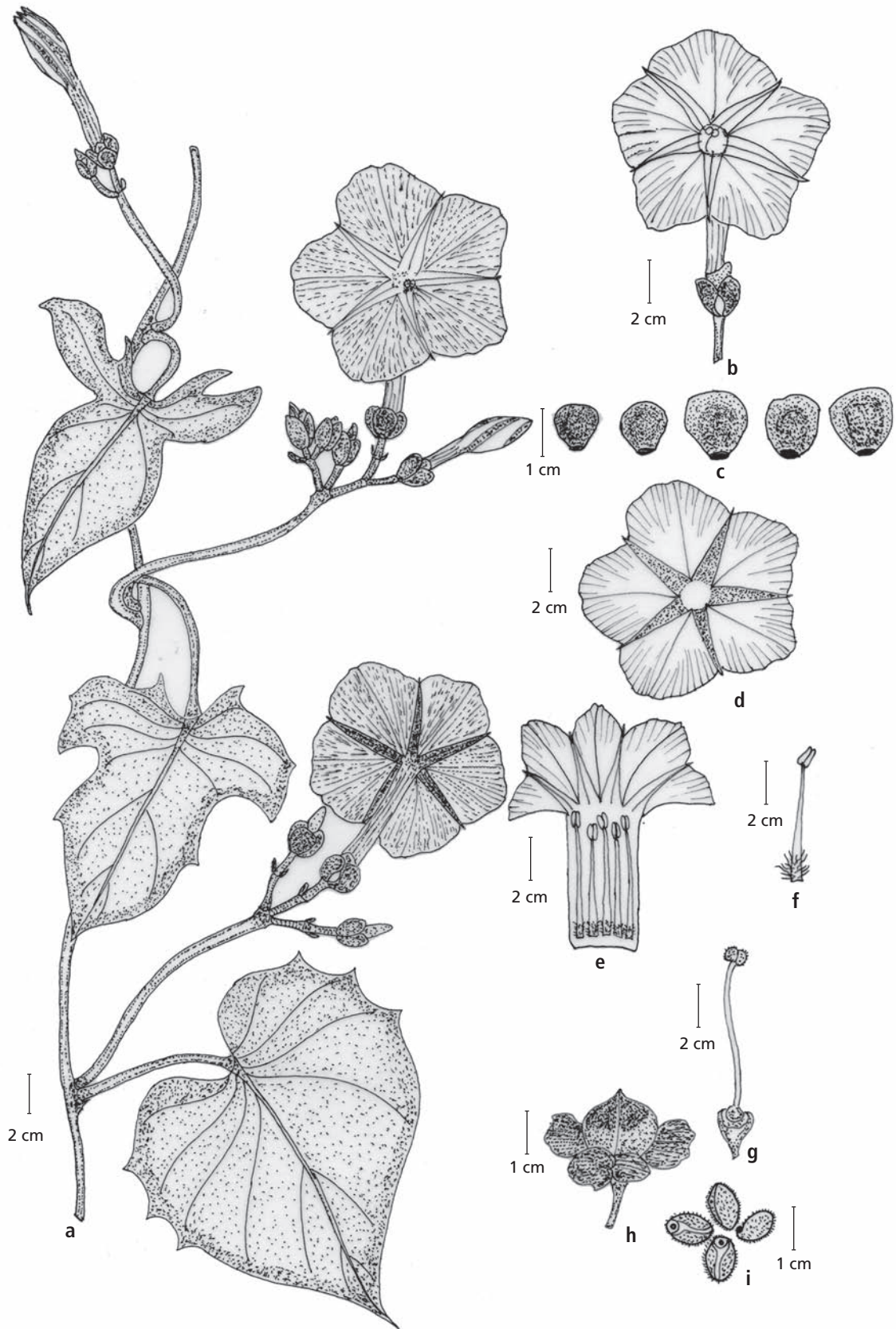


Fig. 2. *Ipomoea salsettensis* Santapau & Patel: a. Flowering-twig; b. Flower; c. Sepals; d. Corolla front view; e. Corolla split-open; f. Stamen; g. Gynoecium; h. Capsule; i. Seeds.

Table 1. Key differences between *Ipomoea salsettensis* and *I. alba*

Characters	<i>I. salsettensis</i>	<i>I. alba</i>
<b>Stem</b>	Furrowed, minutely warty	Smooth, often muricate
<b>Sepals</b>	Obovate or oblong, rounded or retuse and mucronate, warty outside and greenish	Ovate, strongly mucronate, smooth outside and purplish
<b>Corolla</b>	Tube 5–5.5 cm long; lobes distinct; mid-petaline bands reddish on outer side	Tube 12–15 cm long; lobes shallow; mid-petaline bands greenish on outer side
<b>Seeds</b>	6–8, tomentose, brownish	2–4, glabrous, white

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