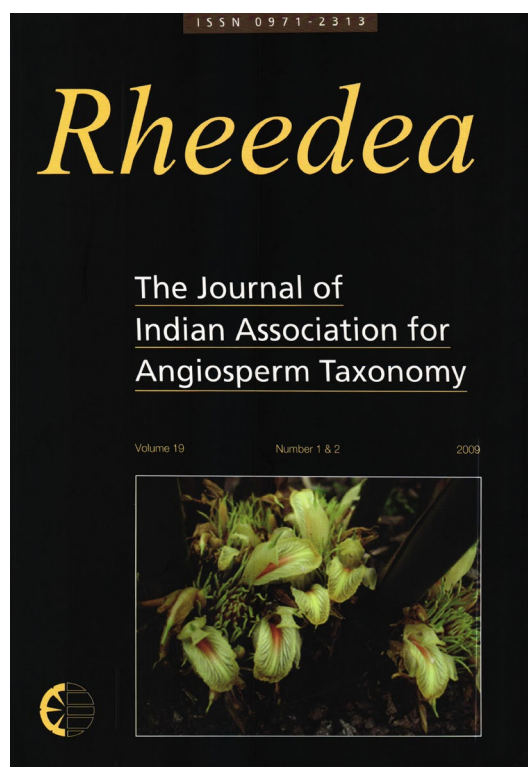




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# *Cleome burmannii* (Cleomaceae): A New Record to the Flora of Rajasthan, India

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## Abstract

The taxon *Cleome burmannii* Wight & Arn. (Cleomaceae) so far known from South India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia is reported for the first time from Rajasthan, India.

**Keywords:** *Cleome burmannii*, New Record, Rajasthan, India

## Introduction

Genus *Cleome* L. distributed in the tropical America and Africa comprises c. 150 species (Mabberley, 2005) with 15 wild species in Indian flora (Sundara Raghavan, 1993). Bhandari (1978), Sharma & Tiagi (1979) and Shetty & Singh (1987) have reported 4, 3 and 8 species of this genus respectively from Rajasthan.

We collected a few interesting specimens belonging to the family Cleomaceae in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan. The specimens were found allied to *C. rutidosperma* DC. but differed in certain floral characters. Critical study of these specimens and perusal of relevant literature (Babu & Majumdar, 1976; Kumar & Bir Bahadur, 1978; Sundara Raghavan, 1984) revealed that the identity of the specimens as *C. burmannii* Wight & Arn., a new record for Rajasthan.

***Cleome burmannii*** Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Orient. 1: 22. 1834; Hook.f. & Thomson in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 1: 170. 1872; Sundraragh. in B. D. Sharma & N. P. Balakr., Fl. India 2: 304, f. 57. 1993.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** May – November.

**Distribution:** India, Indonesia (Java) and Sri Lanka. India: Kerala, Tamil Nadu; now in Rajasthan.

**Specimens Examined:** INDIA, **Rajasthan**, Bhilwara District, Pansal, Meena & Yadav 51; Kotary, Meena & Yadav 221 (Herbarium, MLV Govt. College, Bhilwara).

**Ecological Notes:** Extremely rare in waste lands, sites of old cultivation and road sides on moist sandy soil and wet places up to 600 m altitude. The taxon grows in association with *Cleome viscosa* L., *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) Willd., *Indigofera linnaei*

Ali, *Polygala erioptera* DC., *Sida cordata* (Burm.f.) Borss.Waalk. and *Trianthema portulacastrum* L. The taxon has not been recorded in similar habitats elsewhere in Bhilwara district of Rajasthan inspite of repeated searches for the past five years. It is restricted to c. 2 sq. km. area and is represented by approximately 100 individuals. The occurrence of this species in Gujarat and some reports on the occurrence from Kerala and Tamil Nadu are based on misidentifications (Sundara Raghavan, 1984, 1993). The disjunct distribution of the species in India is of phytogeographical interest. This species has been evaluated as Endangered in India.

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