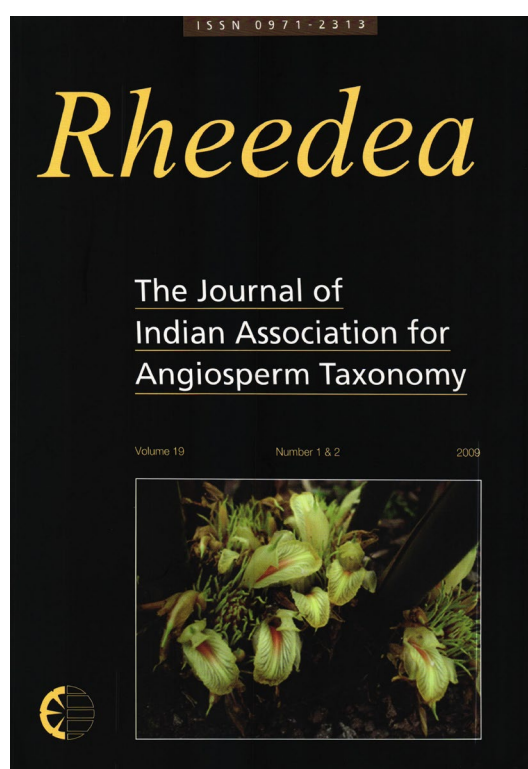




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How to cite:

**Bachulkar M.Y. & D.G. Jagtap 2009.** *Gynura amplexicaulis* (Asteraceae): A New Record for India. *Rheedia* 19(1&2): 59-60.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedia.2009.19.01.14>

Received: 05.04.2009

Revised and accepted: 20.08.2009

## *Gynura amplexicaulis* (Asteraceae): A New Record for India

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### Abstract

*Gynura amplexicaulis* Oliv. & Hiern, collected from the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, is reported here for the first time for India. Detailed description and illustrations of the species are provided.

**Keywords:** *Gynura amplexicaulis*, Asteraceae, New Record, India, Western Ghats

### Introduction

The genus *Gynura* Cass. (Asteraceae – Senecionae – Eusenecionae) is represented by c. 100 species distributed in Asia, Africa and Australia and 8 species in India (Mathur, 1995). A few specimens of the genus *Gynura* were collected from Amba of Kolhapur District and Mahabaleshwar hills of Satara District in Maharashtra State. After critical study, they are identified as *Gynura amplexicaulis* Oliv. & Hiern. This taxon is hitherto unknown to Indian flora, so it is reported here as a new record for India.

***Gynura amplexicaulis*** Oliv. & Hiern in Oliv. *et al.*, Fl. Trop. Afr. 3: 403. 1877. *Crassocephalum amplexicaule* (Oliv. & Hiern) S. Moore in J. Bot. 50: 211. 1912.

**Fig. 1**

Erect perennial herbs, 130 – 185 cm high, glabrous, with tuberous root stocks; tubers more than 15 per plant, 2.5 – 8.5 × 1 – 1.5 cm; stem angular, 2.5 – 3.5 cm across at the base, lenticulate, with leaf scars, yellowish green, slightly purple-tinged at base, stout, branched above. Leaves semi-succulent, alternate, sessile, oblong, elliptic-lanceolate to rhomboid, 12 – 21 × 3.5 – 8.5 cm, amplexicaul at base, dentate, acute at apex, glabrous or sparsely pubescent. Capitula in 2 – 4-clustered corymbs or lax panicles, terminal or axillary, campanulate, 16 – 22 × 8 – 11 mm, bracteolate; bracteoles 8 in number, c. 6 mm long; peduncle 2 – 10 cm long, glabrous, with small linear bract at the base. Involucral bracts 1-seriate; bracts 13 – 15, linear, 15 – 20 × 3 – 4 mm, glabrous, yellowish green, scarious along margins, acute and purple-tinged at apex. Disc florets orange, 13 – 21 mm long; limbs 6 – 15 mm

long, 5-lobed. Anthers 2.5 – 3 mm long, entire or sub-auricled at base, acute at apex. Style slender, 8 – 10 mm long; style arms 2.5 – 3.5 mm long, hispidulous. Achenes oblong, c. 6 mm long, glabrous, dark brown, deeply ribbed; ribs 10, slightly rugose. Pappus copious, 13 – 14 mm long, white.

*Flowering & Fruiting:* July – November.

*Habitat:* In semi evergreen forests, along roadsides in open and shady conditions.

*Distribution:* India (Maharashtra), Nepal and Tropical Africa. This species shows remarkable disjunct distribution.

*Note:* *Gynura amplexicaulis* is similar to *G. pseudochina* (L.) DC. in having tuberous roots but differs by the amplexicaul leaves and larger achenes.

*Specimens Examined:* INDIA, **Maharashtra**, Kolhapur District, Amba, 13.10.2008, *Bachulkar* 3333; Satara District, Mahabaleshwar, 2.11.2008, *Jagtap* 3373 (SUK).

### Acknowledgements

Authors are thankful to Dr. Bertil Nordenstam, Director, The Swedish Museum of Natural History, Department of Phanerogamic Botany, Stockholm, Sweden, for confirming the identity of the species and Prof. G. B. Dixit, Head, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for providing facilities. We are also thankful to Shri Vijaysinha Yadav, President, Shri Shahu Shikshan Prasarak Seva Mandal, Peth-Vadgaon, for encouragement.

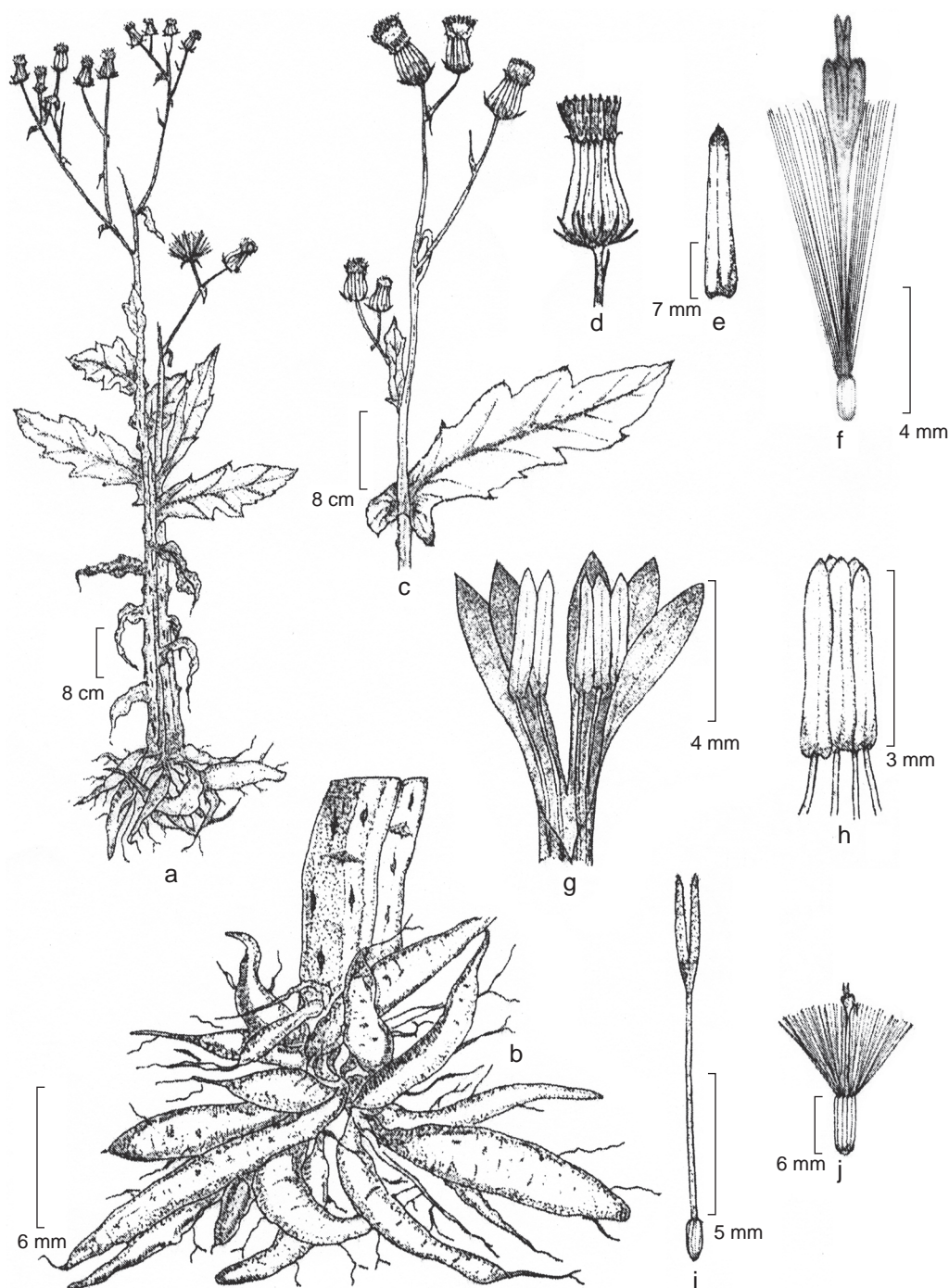


Figure 1. *Gynura amplexicaulis* Oliv. & Hiern.: a. Habit; b. Tuberos roots; c. A portion of twig; d. Head; e. Involucral bract; f. Disc floret; g. Corolla tube split open showing anthers; h. Stamens; i. Pistil; j. Achene with pappus.

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Received: 5.4.2009

Revised and Accepted: 20.8.2009