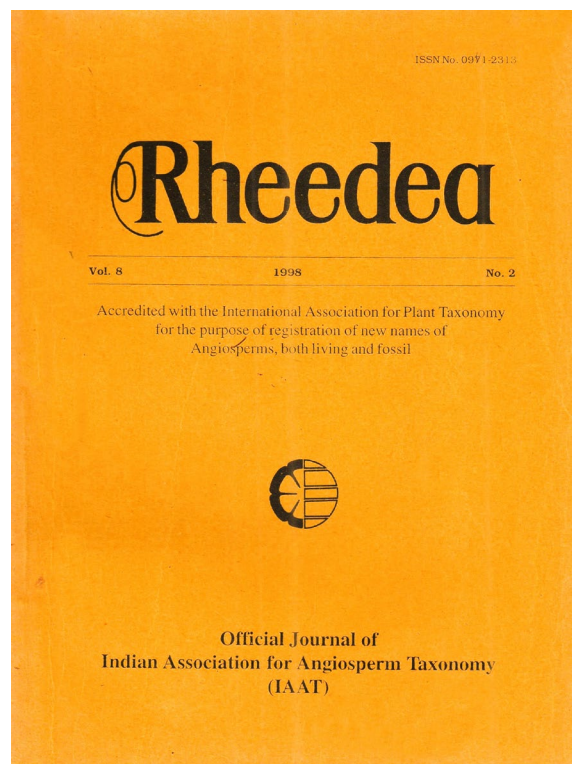




A New species of *Eriocaulon* L. (Eriocaulaceae) from India

Yadav S.R., Gaikwad S.P. & M.M. Sardesai



How to cite:

Yadav S.R., Gaikwad S.P. & M.M. Sardesai 1998. A New species of *Eriocaulon* L. (Eriocaulaceae) from India. *Rheedia* 8(2): 145–147.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedia.1998.08.02.01>

Published in print: 31.12.1998

Published Online: 01.01.2022

A New species of *Eriocaulon* L. (Eriocaulaceae) from India

S.R. Yadav, S.P. Gaikwad and M.M. Sardesai

Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur - 416 004, Maharashtra,
India

Abstract

Eriocaulon ratnagiricus, a new species belonging to the family Eriocaulaceae is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

During our intensive field visits for collection of aquatic plants, number of the specimens of *Eriocaulon* were collected from coastal plains of Konkan, Goa and Kanara. One of them from Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) is turn out to be a new species which is described here.

Eriocaulon ratnagiricus Yadav, Gaikwad & Sardesai *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1).

Similis *Eriocauli trilobi* sed differt anthesis albis.

Types: India, Maharashtra, Dharmshala, about 3 km from Ratnagiri on the way to Pavas, on laterite soil, 1st October 1996, *Gaikwad 1A* (holotype - CAL), *Gaikwad 1B* (isotype - BSI), *Gaikwad 1C* (isotype - K), *Gaikwad 1D* (isotype - BL), *Gaikwad 1E* (isotype - SUK).

Erect, acaulescent, tufted herbs, upto 2.5 cm height. Leaves 0.5-1 x 0.1-0.2 cm, rosulate, linear, acuminate, sheathing at the base, glabrous. Peduncles few, 2-2.2 cm long, ribbed, glabrous; sheath ca. 0.7 cm long, limb lanceolate, acute, entire, glabrous. Heads obovoid, ca. 1.5 mm in diameter, pale yellow, receptacle concave, glabrous. Involucral bracts ca. 1.25 x 1 mm, erect or spreading, oblong-obovate, obtuse or acute, chartaceous, glabrous, hyaline. Floral bracts ca. 1.0 x 0.5 mm, oblong-oblancoate, acute, sparsely hairy towards apex, hyaline. Male flower: minutely pedicillate; sepals ca. 1 x 1 mm, connate into spathe, 3-lobed, lobes obtuse, hairy at apex, hyaline; petals 3, minute, glabrous; anther 6, globose to obovoid, white; pollen black. Female flower: minutely pedicillate; sepals 3, free, subequal, linear-lanceolate, obtuse or acute, upto 1 mm long, hairy at apex; petals 3, unequal, free, obtuse or acute, linear-lanceolate, hyaline, with black gland at apex, hairy at tip; ovary sessile, ovoid to ellipsoid; style 3-fid. Seeds ca. 1.0 x 0.6 mm, oblong-ellipsoid, brown, dark brown at acute end; seed coat cells transversely elongated, aligned in vertical rows, appendages absent.

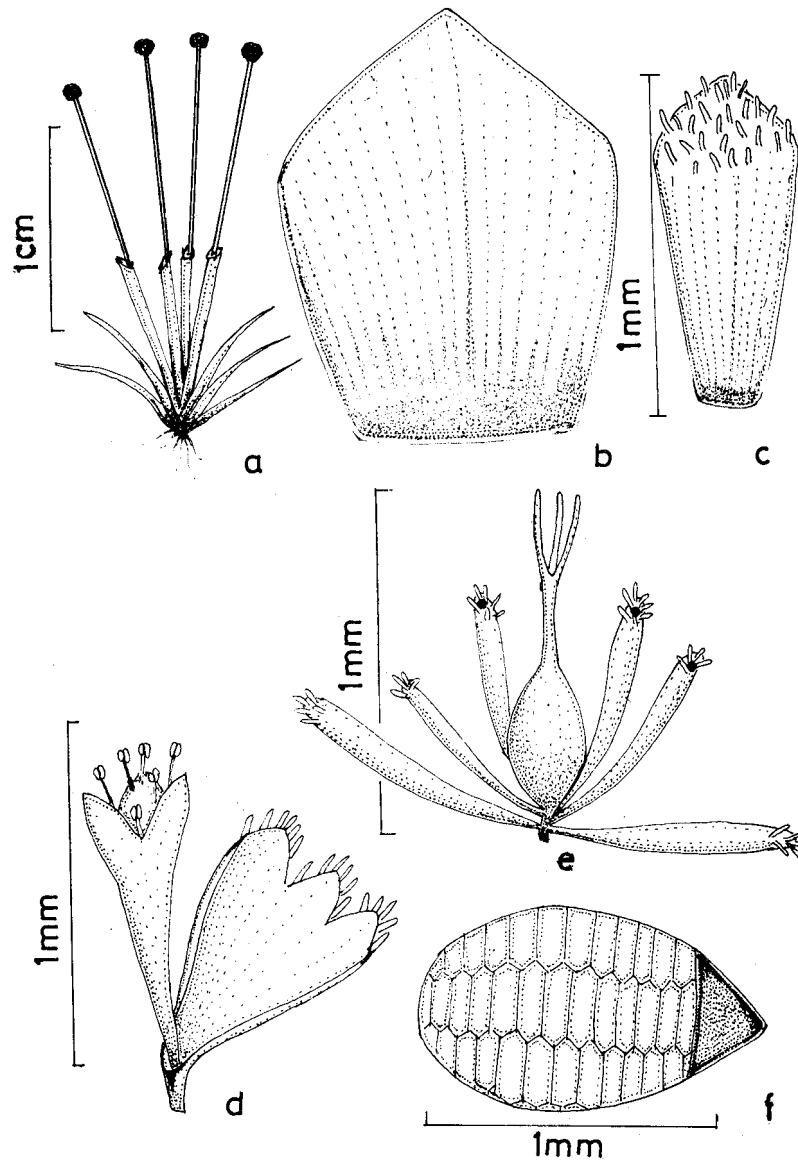
S.R. Yadav *et al.*

Fig. 1. *Eriocaulon ratnagiricus* Yadav, Gaikwad & Sardesai *sp. nov.* a. Entire plant; b. Involucral bract; c. Floral bract; d. Male flower; e. Female flower; f. Seed.

A new species of *Eriocaulon* L.

Habitat: *E. ratnagiricus* is restricted to a small area of about 4 sq.km. where it is rare and sparsely distributed. It grows on lateritic plateaus along temporary pond margins and in wet grounds. It resembles with *E. palghatense* Ansari & Balakr. and *E. trilobum* Buch-Ham. ex Koernicke in its general appearance but readily distinguished by its pale yellow heads. Its typical associates include *Dipacadi concanense* (Dalz.) Baker, *Drosera indica* L., *Wiesneria triandra* (Dalz.) Micheli, *Camptorriza indica* Yadav, Singh *et* Mathew and species of *Utricularia*, *Eriocaulon* and *Glyphochloa*.

Flowering and fruiting: September - October.

Note: The *E. ratnagiricus* resembles with *E. trilobum* but differs in its linear-lanceolate sepals of female flower, white anther and seeds without appendages. According to Sylvia Phillips (personal communication) "it is most puzzling species which has white anther, dark pollen grain".

Acknowledgements

Authors are thankful to Dr. Sylvia Phillips, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, U.K., for her critical comments on identity of the species, to Mr. M.R. Almeida, Bombay for Latin diagnosis and to DST, Govt. of India, for financial assistance.