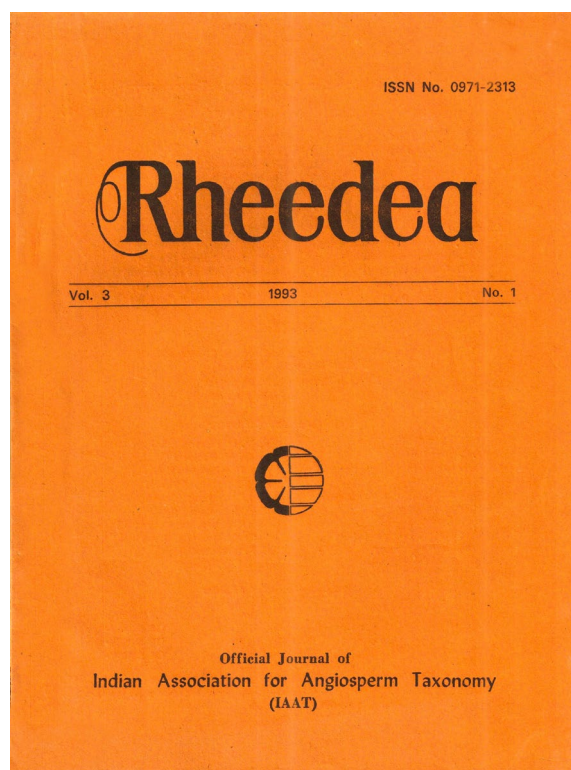




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A new species of *Euphorbia* (Euphorbiaceae)
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Abstract

Euphorbia sebastinei, a new species of *Euphorbia* belonging to the subgenus *Chamaesyce* from India, is described and illustrated.

Euphorbia sebastinei Binojkumar & Balakr. sp. nov.

Affinis *E. thymifolia* L., sed plantis decumbentis; nodis multo incrassatis, multiramis; limbis glandulorum glandibus magnioribus, prominentibus; capsulis extra involucrem maturescentibus; seminibus obscure sulcatis vel levigatis differt. Typus: India, Hyderabad, *Sebastine* 5975 (holotypus CAL; isotypi MH, K)

Annual decumbent herbs, 10-20cm high. Stems many from a thick rootstock, rigid; branches 3-6 together on each node, almost on all nodes; nodes thickened, annular; internodes 1-1.5cm long, terete. Leaves sessile, crowded towards the apex, oblong, elliptic-oblong, oblique at base, acute or apiculate at apex, serrate along margins, 5-10 × 3-5mm, pubescent on both the surfaces; nerves obscure; stipules triangular, lacinate, ca. 2mm long. Cyathia terminal, solitary or rarely 2; peduncles ca. 1mm long, hairy; involucre turbinate, ca. 1 × 1 mm, hairy; lobes triangular, toothed, exceeding the glands; glands 4, tiny, orbicular, rounded, limbs of glands obovoid, ca. 0.5 × 0.8 mm, irregularly wavy at apical margin. white or pink. Male flowers: pedicel ca. 0.5mm long; anther subglobose, transversely dehiscent; bracteoles filiform, ca. 0.7mm long. Female flowers: gynophore ca. 1.5mm long; ovary subglobose, ca. 1 × 1mm, hairy; styles 3, free from base, ca. 0.4mm long, each bifid at apex. Capsules ovoid, ca. 1.5 × 1.5mm, acutely keeled, hairy only on keels, maturing outside the cyathia. Seeds oblong, obtusely tetragonous, ca. 1 × 0.5mm, smooth or obscurely 2-3 grooved on faces (Fig. 1 A-G).

Euphorbia sebastinei differs from *E. thymifolia* L. by the decumbent habit, branches 3-6 from each node, limb of glands distinctly larger than glands, capsules maturing outside the involucre, and seeds smooth or obscurely furrowed. The latter species is prostrate in habit, branches absent or 1-2 from nodes, limbs of glands as much as or less than the glands, capsules mature within the involucre and seeds are closely furrowed.

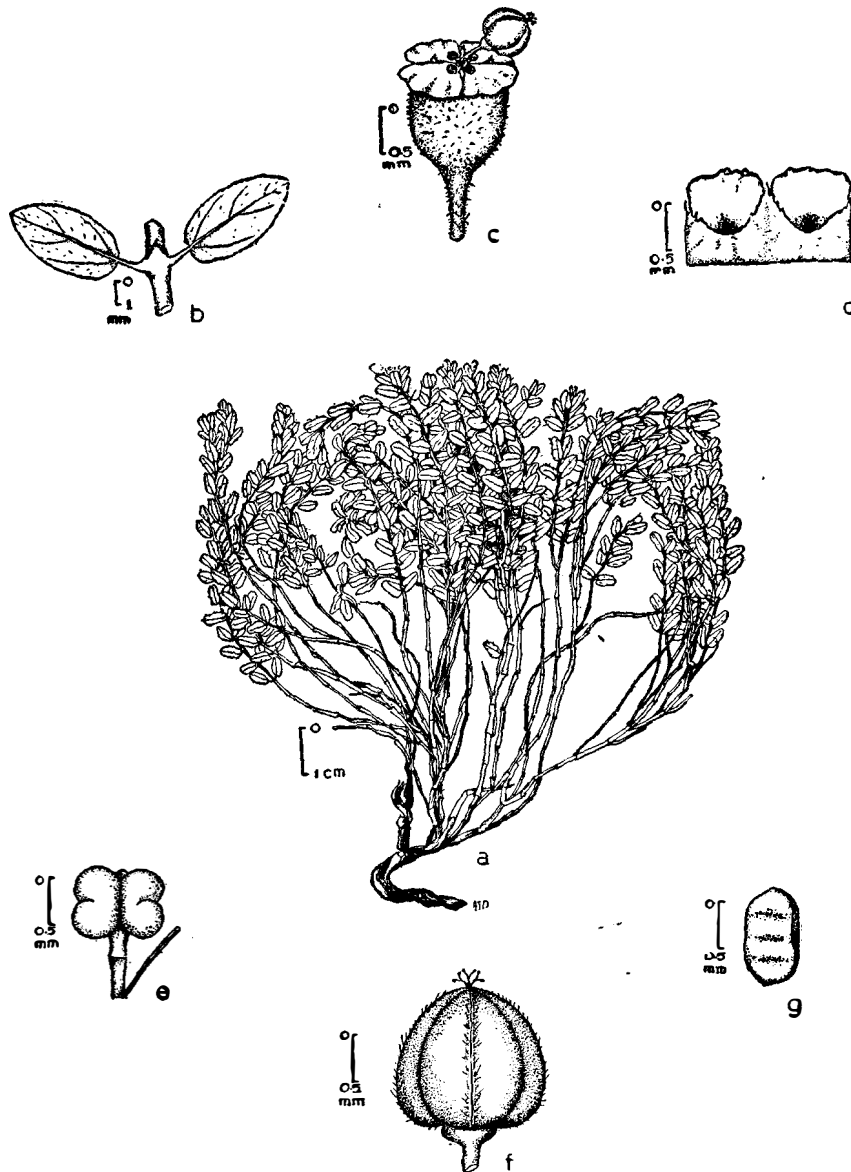


Fig. 1. *Euphorbia sebastinei*. a. flowering branch with leaves; b. nodal region showing stipule and leaves; c. cyathium; d. portion of involucre showing lobes, glands and limbs; e. male flower with bracteole; f. capsule; g. seed.

The specific epithet is in honour of late Dr. K. M. Sebastine, Regional Botanist of Southern Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore, for his contributions to the development of Madras Herbarium from 1956 to 1967.

Habitat and flowering :

Occurs in moist gravelly soil, at an altitude of 200-850m; flowering and fruiting throughout the year with the peak period in March-June.

Specimens examined:

INDIA, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, Mossi River bank, 833m, 26 June 1958, *K. M. Sebastine* 5975 (holotype in CAL, isotypes in MH, K); Maharashtra, Bombay, Ganeshkhind Garden, Kirleu, 14-6-1909. *Kulkarni* s. n. (CAL); Gujarat, Dwaraka, 17-4-1954, *Kaul* 9061 (LWG)

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