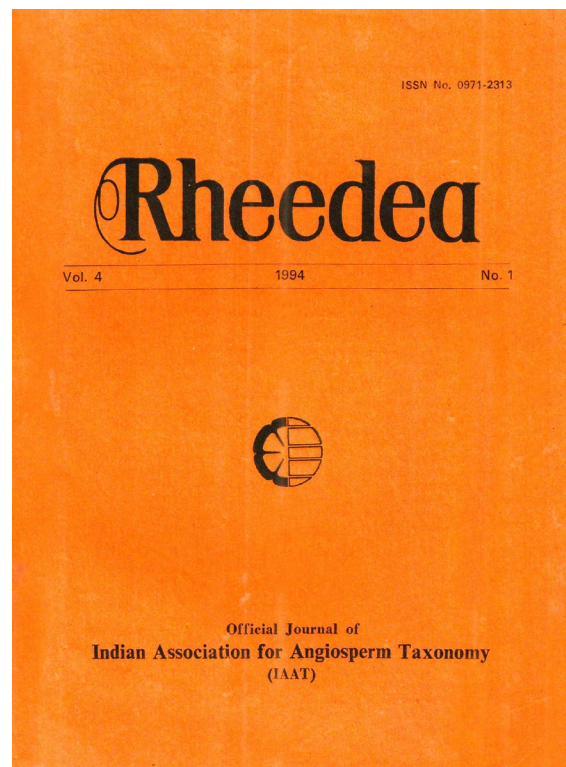




A new species of *Euphorbia* subgenus *Chamaesyce* (Euphorbiaceae) from South India

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A new species of *Euphorbia* subgenus *Chamaesyce*
(Euphorbiaceae) from South India

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Abstract

Euphorbia lawsonii Binojk. & Dwarakan, from South India is described.

During the revisionary work on Indian *Euphorbia*, the authors found a few interesting specimens at MH collected by M. A. Lawson in 1887 from Karnataka. One of our recent collections from Tamil Nadu was also found to match Lawson's collection. A detailed study revealed that it is an undescribed species, belonging to the subgenus *Chamaesyce*. It is described in this paper.

Euphorbia lawsonii Binojk. & Dwarakan, *sp. nov.*

Fig. 1A-G.

Species nova affinis *E. heyneana* Sprengel, sed plantis decumbentis; caulibus lignosis, dichotome ramosissimis; foliis magnioribus, ad 12 × 7 mm; cyathiis in nodos supremos vel culmo supremos limitatis; limbis glandiis magnioribus.

Type: India, Karnataka, Bellary, Nov. 1887. *Lawson s.n.* (CAL holotype).

Herbs decumbent, *ca* 20 cm high, puberulous. Stem dichotomously branched; nodes annular, slightly thickened; internodes 1—2 cm long ribbed. Leaves opposite, petiolate, ovate to suborbicular, oblique at base, entire or minutely serrulate, obtuse at apex, 5—12 × 5—7 mm; nerves obscure on upper surface, slightly distinct on lower surface, hirsute; petiole *ca* 1 mm long; stipules triangular, lacinate, *ca* 0.2 × 0.1 mm. Cyathia terminal, 1—2, with or without microphyllous leaves; involucre turbinate, 1—1.2 mm long; lobes triangular, lacinate, *ca* 0.2 mm long; glands 4, subrotund, *ca* 0.1 × 0.1 mm, pink; limb of glands orbicular, *ca* 2 × 4 mm, entire. *Male flowers:* peduncle *ca* 1 mm long; anther subglobose, transversely dehiscent; bracteoles filliform, *ca* 1 mm long. *Female flowers:* *gynophore ca* 0.5 mm long ovary globose, *ca* 1 mm across, pubescent; styles 3, free from base, each bifid up

A new species of *Euphorbia*

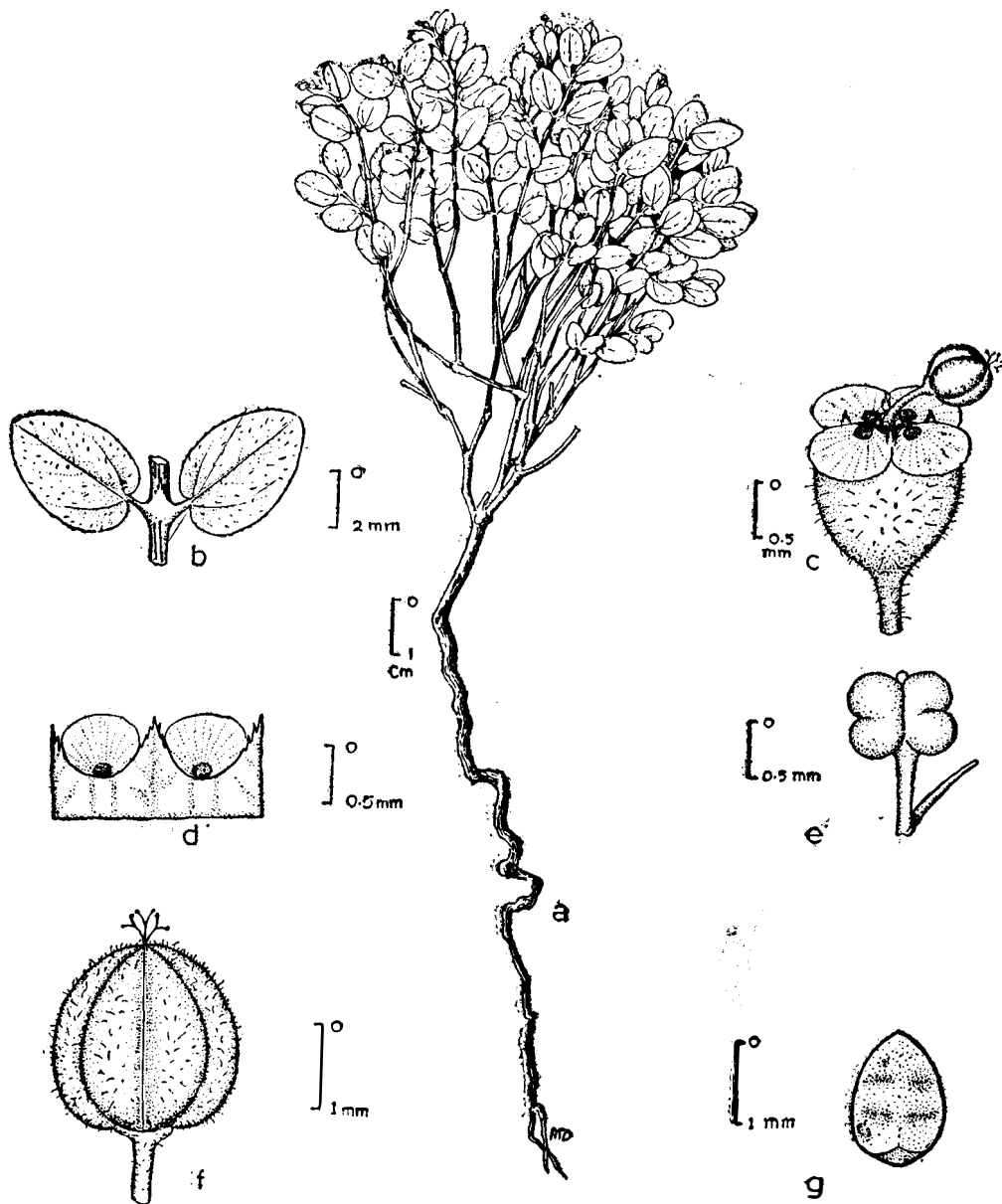


Fig. 1. *Euphorbia lawsonii* Binojk. & Dwarakan sp. nov.: a. Habit; b. Nodal region showing stipule; c. Cyathium; d. Portion of involucre showing lobes, glands and limbs; e. Male flower with bracteole; f. Capsule; g. Seed.

M. S. Binojkumar and P. Dwarakan

to half of the length; stigma capitate. Capsules *ca* 2 × 2 mm, obtusely keeled, pubescent. Seeds ovoid, tetragonous, *ca* 1.5 × 0.7 mm, transversely or irregularly grooved.

Habitat and flowering: In moist areas of evergreen forests at altitudes between 500 to 1200 m. Rare. Flowering and fruiting in November - April.

This new species can be differentiated by the following characters from its allied species, *E. heyneana* Sprengel.

<i>E. lawsonii</i>	<i>E. heyneana</i>
1. Plants decumbent, pubescent, stems thickened.	Plants prostrate, glabrous; stems slender.
2. Leaves ovate to suborbicular, obtuse at apex. 5—12 by 5—7 mm.	Leaves elliptic-oblong, obtuse to acute at apex, 2—8 by 1.5—5 mm.
3. Cyathia with or without microphyllous branches and leaves usually only at apex of stems.	Cyathia in microphyllous branches, intermingled with 2—3 microphyllous leaves, usually in almost all nodes.
4. Limb of glands broader than the glands.	Limb of glands as broad as the glands.
5. Capsules densely hairy	Capsules glabrous or sparsely hairy.
6. Seeds distinctly tetragonous, with 2—3 clear grooves, transversely or irregularly arranged.	Seeds obscurely tetragonous, smooth with 1—2 obscure grooves.

Other specimen examined: Tamil Nadu, Salem Dt. Kolli hills, 1100 m, 28.4.91, Dwarakan 513 (MH).

The species is named after Mr M. A. Lawson, on whose collection, the new taxon is based.

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