

Notes on Extended Distribution of *Eranthemum roseum* (Acanthaceae) in the State of West Bengal, India

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Received : 20.07.2024; **Revised** : 25.08.2024; **Accepted** : 15.09.2024

ABSTRACT

Eranthemum roseum belonging to the family Acanthaceae, recently collected from the Gopegarh located in Paschim Medinipur and Gadrasi Hill located in Jhargram district of West Bengal in Eastern India is reported here as a new distributional record for the State of West Bengal, India. A detailed taxonomic account, including description, colour photographs and notes are provided to facilitate easy identification.

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KEY WORDS : Acanthaceae, *Eranthemum roseum*, Gadrasi Hill, Gopegarh, New Record, West Bengal.

Introduction

Acanthaceae is one of the large plant families. The genus *Eranthemum* belongs to the family Acanthaceae is represented by 14 species in India^{1,2} and 06 species in West Bengal⁶. During a field tour to Gopegarh and Gadrasi Hill of West Bengal, an interesting specimen was collected. After critical examination of the specimens, scrutiny of relevant literatures^{3,6-8} and consultation of protologues and types, its identity was confirmed as *Eranthemum roseum* is a new distributional record for the state flora of West

Bengal. However, workers collected and deposited a specimen of family Acanthaceae as *Eranthemum roseum* in the herbarium of Sidho Kanho Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal (Fig. 1). After critical examination of the specimen it was found to be *Pachystachys velutina* wrongly identified and enlisted as *E. roseum* in the Diversity of angiosperms and their conservation status in Susunia hill and adjacent regions, Bankura District, West Bengal, India. Hence, the present collection formed as a new distribution record for West Bengal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS : The authors are thankful to the Director Botanical Survey of India for providing necessary facilities. Authors are equally thankful to the West Bengal State Forest Department for the permission, co-operation and facilities provided during the fieldwork. The help of Sri Swarup Maity in developing the Map is also duly acknowledged.



Fig. 1: *Eranthemum roseum* a. Flowering twig; b. Bracts; c. Bracteoles; d. Flower; d. Calyx; f. Corolla split open; g. Corolla lobes split open with stamens; h. Stamens and i. Pistil.



SIDHO KANHO BIRSA UNIVERSITY

Pachystachys velutina

Fild No. 10, Date 2.3.2019

Locality- Susunia

Order - Lamiales

Family - Acanthaceae

Collected By- Soma shree Patra

Identified by - Dr S.K. Mandal

Fig. 2 : Herbarium specimen of *Pachystachys velutina* collected by Soumashree Patra wrongly identified and reported of *Eranthemum roseum*

Materials and Methods

Specimen was collected during field trips (2021–22) and herbarium sheet was prepared as per standard methods⁵. For confirming the specimen, collected plant was studied at CAL. The plant specimen has been deposited in the Central National Herbarium (CAL) for future references. Field photographs of the live specimen were taken with Cannon DSRL camera and maps are prepared using Google Earth and ArcGIS.

Taxonomic treatment

Eranthemum roseum (Fig.1)

Annual, erect herbs, up to 1.2 m high. Stem and branches 4-angular, glandular-puberulous. Leaves ovate-elliptic, 3.5–13.0 × 1.5–6.5 cm, cuneate to acuminate at base, roughly undulate at margins, acuminate to apiculate at apex, glabrous above, ciliate below. Inflorescences terminal or axillary, linear, sub-interrupted, up to 13 cm long spikes, whitish-blue. Bracts imbricate, lanceolate, obovate, 1.0–1.5 cm long, obtuse, rugose, faintly strigose, glandular pubescent, white with green nerves; bracteoles linear-lanceolate, ciliate. Calyx scarious, white, pubescent; lobes lanceolate. Corolla lobes ovate, 1.0–1.25 cm long; tube 2.5–4.25 cm long. Stamens 2, glabrous. Capsules clavate-oblong, 1.0–1.5 cm long, glabrous. Seeds ellipsoid, compressed, brown.

Flowering & Fruiting

July–September.

Habitat & Ecology

Terrestrial. Under growth of trees and large shrubs particularly in moist beds or riverbanks in gravelly areas.

Soil type

Fertile alluvial soil.

Conservation Status

Not Evaluated⁴.

Specimens examined

INDIA, West Bengal, Jhargram, Gadrasingi hill and West Mednipur, Gopegarh.

Distribution

India: Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and **West Bengal (present collection)**. Bangladesh.

Notes

The species commonly found in semi shades in association with other plants such as *Shorea robusta*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Madhuca longifolia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Clerodendrum viscosum*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica* and *Chromolaena odorata* etc.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest: Authors do not have any conflict of interests to declare.

Ethical issues: None.

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