

A NEW LOCALITY RECORD FOR AN ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES *ENTADA RHEEDEI* SPRONG. (MIMOSACEAE) IN SANGLI DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA

Rekha R. Deokar^{2*}, Satish R. Mane¹, Shubhangi R. Kamble² and Sarjerao R. Patil³

¹Director of Physical Education, D. A. B. N. College, Chikhali, Shirala, Sangli, M.S, India.

²Assistant Professor, D.A.B.N.College, Chikhali, Shirala, Sangli, M.S, India.

³Principal, D. A. B. N. College, Chikhali, Shirala, Sangli, M.S, India.

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***Corresponding Author**

Dr. Rekha R. Deokar

Assistant Professor,
D.A.B.N. College,
Chikhali, Shirala, Sangli,
M.S, India.

ABSTRACT

Entada rheedei Sprong. (Mimosaceae) an endangered plant species is collected and reported first time from Mangale village of Shirala Tahasil which is situated on the bank of river Warana in Sangli district, Maharashtra. This makes another locality record for an endangered plant species *Entada rheedei* in Sangli district. The present investigation reports a detail taxonomic description along with colour photographs and ethno botanical information of the species to validate the new locality report and easy identification of the species.

KEYWORDS: *Entada rheedei* Sprong., endangered plant, locality record, Mangle.

INTRODUCTION

Sangli (16⁰51 N, 74⁰ 34E) is one of the district of Maharashtra in terms of area. It shows the richest vegetation at western zone because it shares its boundry with district Kolhapur and Ratnagiri in the west, district Satara in the North from Western Ghat. The elevations varies from 563 m amsl. The hilly tracts of district are totally covered by Sahyadri ranges and supports evergreen vegetation and offers congenial climatic conditions favourable for luxuriant growth of the vegetation including many rare, endangered species. While endangered liana species that is *Entada rheedii* Sprong. has been collected from Mangle village of Shirala Tahasil near the agricultural field which is quite near the Mangle to Kolhapur road on bank of Warana river at 16⁰88N, 74⁰ 14E (Fig.1).

As per previous reports *Entada rheedii* Sprong. is a woody climbing shrub that grows naturally in Africa, Tropical Asia, Australia and small part of the Pacific island.^[1] It is endemic woody liana distributed in the subtropical evergreen forests of Western Ghats of Karnataka, Kerala And Tamilnadu, Eastern Ghats of Andra Pradesh.^[2] It is recorded as endangered liana from Barki, Chandgad, Gaganbawada, Palsambe, Petgaon and Tilarinagar from Kolhapur district.^[3&4] It is also recorded from Chandoli Sanctuary of Sangli district.

The presence of this species in such locality shows high conservation value of Mangle village of Shirala Tahasil and presence of such species justify by the author above said the locality is an interesting record. Further the species has been reported as endangered by Singh and Karthikeyan.^[5]

The present study reveals with a brief introduction about taxon, morphological description and ethno botanical information of *Entada rheedii* Sprong.

Entada is a of flowering plant genus in the Fabaceae with subfamily Mimosoideae. It consists of about 30 species of trees, shrubs and tropical lianas. About 21 species are known from Africa, six from Asia, two from the American tropics and one with a pantropical distribution. Four species of *Entada* occurs in India.

Entada rheedii commonly known as the African Dream Herb or Snuff Box Sea Bean, and as the Cacoon Vine and Garambi in marathi. It is unarmed, lofty woody climbing shrub. leaves are bipinnate ending with a bifid tendril, 2-3 pinnae in pairs and stalked. Flowers are in panicle, yellow corolla, slightly curved woody pod, sutures are very thick, indented between the seeds and seeds are 6-15 per pod, compressed, smooth with shining brown colour (Fig. 2 a, b, c, d).

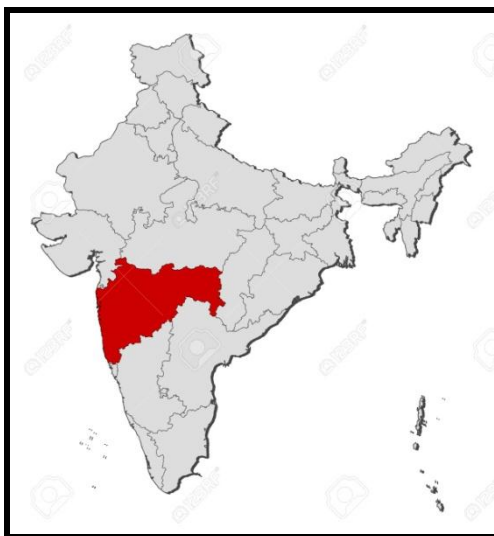
Habitat: An endangered climber found in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from freshwater swamp along streams and rivers, at elevations up to 900 meters.

Specimen examined: Mangle (16°88N, 74°14E), Tal. Shirala, Dist. Sangli, M.S. (India) near the agricultural field which is quite near the Mangle to Kolhapur road on bank of Warana.

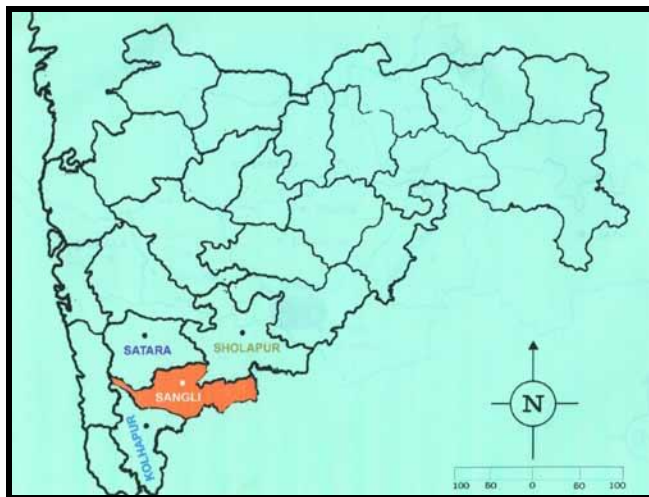
Ethno botanical Uses

The seeds of *E reedii* are used by the folkloric medicinal practitioner, locally known as 'Vaidus and Hekims and were found to cause vivid dreaming^[6] and reported to be useful as

narcotic emetic, febrifuge, alexiteric and antiperiodic.^[7] It has been reported for useful in the treatment of jaundice, diarrhea, musculo-skeletal problems and mumps.^[6] They are also used as remedy for cerebral hemorrhage and oral contraceptive.^[7] On the other hand, the seed kemels of *E. rheedii* are also reported to have cell viability and HIV infectivity.^[7] Brak of *E. rheedii* contains saponin, which is used as a substitute of soap.^[8] In Tanzania, the bark infusion is used to cure scabies.^[6] In South-East Asia, bark and seeds are used to relieve pains and itch.^[6] As a good fiber, bark of *E. reedii* is used for tying and marking fish lines.^[6] The bark and seeds are rich sources of saponins which are used as a soap for cleaning clothes, washing the hair and skin etc. The large seeds are used as beads, the smooth shining seeds are used for games. Some tribes believe the seeds possess magical abilities to bring the owner good luck; the seeds are strung together and used as jewelry^[9]; and the bark is be cleaned and processed into cordage that was then twisted into rope.^[10]



Bharat (India)



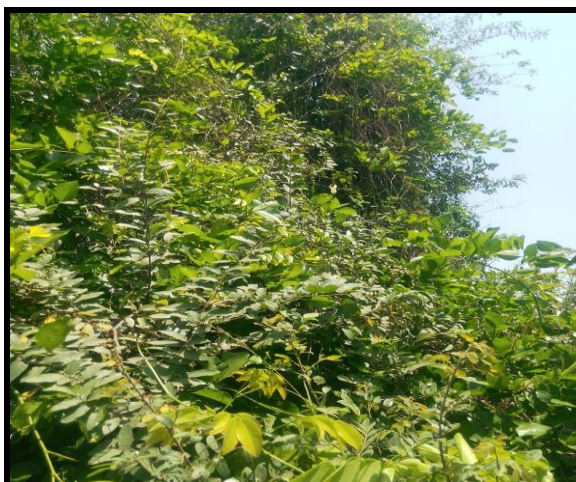
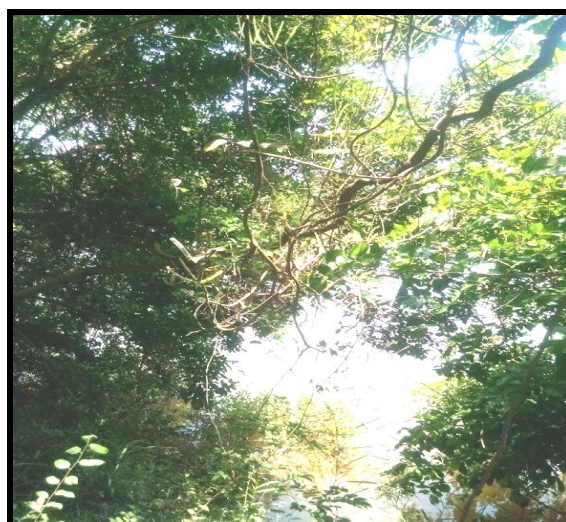
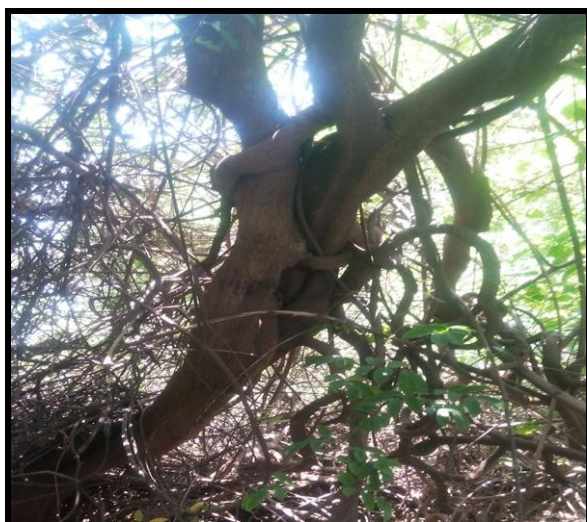
Maharashtra



Sangli district



Shirala Tahasil



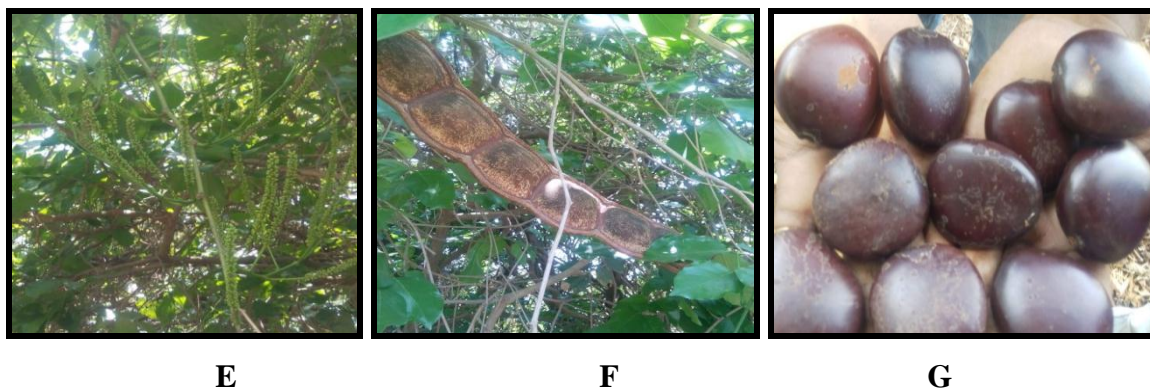


Fig. 2. Photograph of *Entada rheedii*.

A, B, C, - Habit, D – Flowers, E – Inflorescence, F – Legume, G – Seeds.

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