

RESEARCH ARTICLE

***Elatostema* J.R. fort. & G. Fort. (Urticaceae): a new generic record to the flora of Telangana, India.**

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Abstract: The genus *Elatostema* J.R. Forst. & G. Fort. belongs to Urticaceae family is collected from Uma Maheshwaram sacred grove of Nallamala forest, Amarabad Tiger Reserve, Telangana and reported here as an addition to Flora of Telangana State.

Key words: *Elatostema*, Uma Maheshwaram, New Record, Telangana, Urticaceae.

Introduction

The genus *Elatostema* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst. belongs to the family Urticaceae and it is distinguished from the other genera of Urticaceae by having capitula inflorescences with receptacles and involucre (Yang *et al.* 2011). The genus comprises ca.350 species including herbs, small shrubs and subshrubs (Wang, 2012) that grow in deep shade in forests, gorges, stream sides and caves distributed in tropical to subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania. In India, the genus is represented by 49 taxa including 40 species and 9 varieties (Murti and Pusalkar 2020).

Materials and methods

While working on the documentation floristic composition of Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana state, the authors collected few interesting semi aquatic plant species of Urticaceae family on the rock crevices of Uma Maheshwaram sacred grove (16°22'15.89" N, 78°43'55.55" E), Nagar Kurnool district, Telangana state, in August 2019. After a critical study, the specimens were

identified as *Elatostema cuneatum* Wight based on available literature. The specimens were preserved in the herbarium of BRR Government College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar district.

Observations and results

The scrutiny of literature revealed that the family Urticaceae comprises only 4 genera in Telangana state namely *Boehmeria* Jacq., *Girardinia* Gaud., *Pilea* Lindl., *Pouzolzia* Gaud. (Pullaiah 2015, Reddy and Reddy 2016) and recently the genus *Laportia* was added as new distributional record to the flora of Telangana (Kalpana *et al.* 2016). The presence of genus *Elatostema* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst. is hitherto not found hence, it was reported here as new generic record to state along with detailed description, distribution, location map and plant photos for its easy identification.

Taxonomic treatment

Elatostemma cuneatum Wight Ic. 6: 35. t. 2091. f. 3: 1888. 1853 (*cuniata*); FBI 5: 568. 1888. Fischer 3: 1377. 1928.

Annual herbs, up to 10 cm high, more or less pubescent. Stem simple or scarcely branched, triangular, rooting at base. Leaves opposite, base cuneate, margin dentate or crenate, apex rounded

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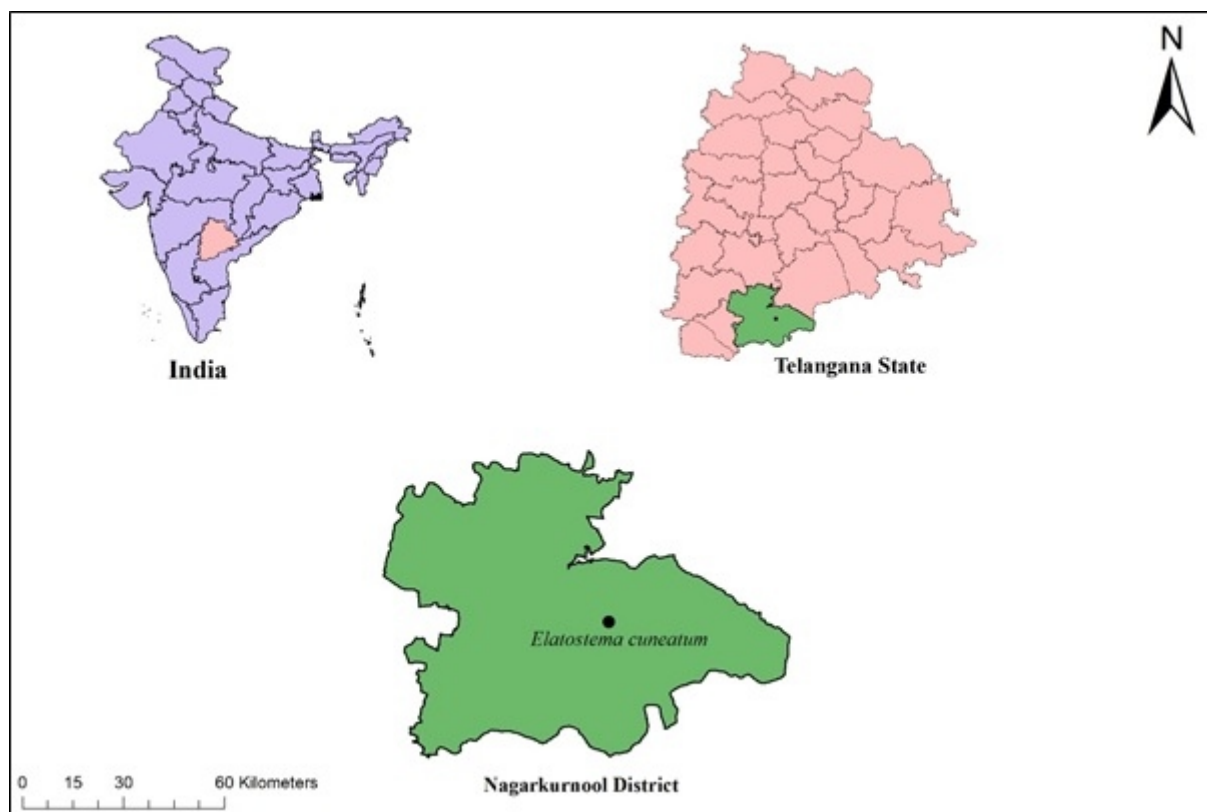


Figure 1: Map showing the location of *Elatostema cuneatum* Wight in Telangana State

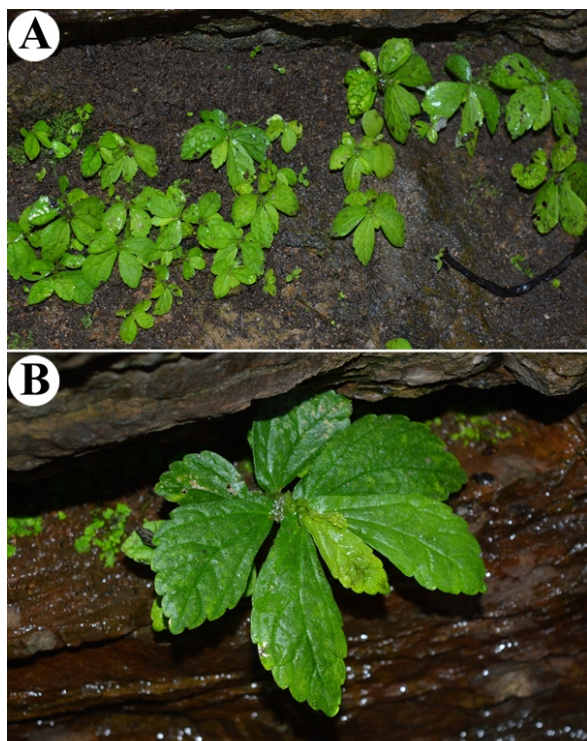


Figure 2: *Elatostema cuneatum* Wight, **A.** Habitat of plant on wet rock, **B.** Habit of plant.

or sub-acute, the upper surface with numerous cystoliths; 3-nerved from base; sub-sessile; stipules minute, ovate, acute. Inflorescence axillary, flowers sessile, in heads. Male flowers many in axils of upper leaves in heads, pedicel short, tepals ovate, obtuse, glabrous, stamens 4. Female flowers few in the centre of heads, involucre bracts 3-4, ovate-acuminate or ovate-oblong, ciliate. Tepals 3-4, dentate. Achenes ellipsoid, reddish brown or yellowish.

Distribution:

- (i) Global: China, Japan, Korea, India, Laos, Vietnam, and Indonesia.
- (ii) India: Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana (present study) Uttarakhand, West Bengal, South Andaman Islands, Ross Island.

Flowering and Fruiting: August-December.

Specimen examined: India, Telangana state, agar

Kurnool district, Uma Maheshwaram, B. Sadasivaiah, 2131 (Date 19.08.2019).

Ecology: Rare in moist localities under shades of rock boulders near water falls along with Pteridophytes and Bryophytes

Acknowledgement

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