



THE NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF *Wrightia indica* Ngan, (APOCYNACEAE) FROM VELUGONDA HILLS OF NELLORE DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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Wrightia indica Ngan, from Velugonda hills of Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh, India, is described and illustrated.

Keywords : *Wrightia indica*, corollary corona, endemic

As a part of my project work on digitalization of floristic resources of Velugonda hills of Eastern Ghats, I collected few plants of lesser known species of *Wrightia indica* Ngan, of Apocynaceae, at high altitudes of Velugonda hills of Eastern Ghats in Sitarampuram –Porumamilla ghat. The genus *Wrightia* R.Br., has 29 species chiefly distributed in tropics. In India *Wrightia arborea* (Dennst.) Mabberley and *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R.Br. are well known and widely distributed. *Wrightia antidysenterica* (L.) R.Br., (Cultivated), *Wrightia coccinea* (Roxb. ex Hornem.) Sims, *Wrightia dolichocarpa* Bahadur & Bennet *Wrightia indica* Ngan, *Wrightia pubescens* R.Br., *Wrightia rheedii* Kostelka and *Wrightia sikkimensis* Gamble are less known species. *Wrightia indica* Ngan, is rare and considered as endemic to Tamilnadu, the plant is found in Nilagiris and Salem (BSI); Dharmapur (IBP) and Kunoor hills of Tamilnadu. A herbarium specimen is stored under the name of *Wrightia rothii* G. Don (Family Apocynaceae); in Natural History Museum (BM), BM001014086. No collections were noticed in A.P. But in my study I have located the species in Sitarampuram –Porumamilla ghat of Velugonda hills of E. Ghats, A.P. between 14.915°N -15.000°N and 78.888° - 79.298° E. After a detailed review of the literature it is known that there are no collections of *Wrightia indica* Ngan from Andhra Pradesh. Therefore it is the new distributional record of the species. To facilitate easy identification, a detailed

description and illustrations are provided. One important feature corolla in *Wrightia* is presence of corona, which is a variable structure and important feature in classification of the genus.

Wrightia indica Ngan, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 52: 140 1965. Vernacular name : Kodise pala (Telugu)

Description

Evergreen trees, 3-5 m tall, bark yellowish brown; young branchlets yellowish pubescent, glabrate with age. Leaves opposite, petiole 2-5mm long; lamina ovate, 5-10 × 3-4cm, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate, membranous, glabrous above, puberulous below; lateral veins 8-12 pairs united near the margins of the lamina. Flowers actinomorphic, 5-merous, white or creamy or yellowish inside, 1.5-2 cm across in 15-31 flowered terminal aggregate dichasial cymes; pedicel 0.5-0.8 cm long, puberulous. Calyx 5-merous, ovate, connate, imbricate, obtuse, 2-3 mm long. Corolla white, subrotate, tube 4-6 mm long, lobes oblong to sub-obovate, 1-1.5 cm long; corona in 3 rows, glabrous, outer row antipetalous 3 fid, 0.5-0.6 cm long, middle row alternipetalous, bifid, shorter than outer row, supplementary segments solitary simple. Stamens 5, inserted at the mouth of corolla tube; anthers sagittate, 6 mm long. Carpels connate, 2 mm long, ovary superior, oblong, many ovuled; style 5 mm long, stigma subcapitate; surrounded by anthers. Follicles not observed.



Fig. 1. *Wrightia indica* Ngan - a twig



Fig. 2 (A-E) : *Wrightia indica* Ngan, **A** - Twig **B** - Corolla lobe with corona **C** - Stamen **D** - T.S. of Ovary **E** - L.S. of flower

Flowering period : July-September.

Ecology : Dry deciduous forests in hill slopes.

It is a rare species of India. Only on careful examination few plants are found scattered in the hill side forest in the study area

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