

## ***HABENARIA MARGINATA* COLEBR.: A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FOR SAURASHTRA REGION, GUJARAT STATE**

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The present paper deals with new distribution record of *Habenaria* from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, to the flora of Saurashtra region, Gujarat. During the field study of flowering plants from Girnar forest, the plant specimens were collected, identified with the help of different floras and recent literature. The study provides a detailed taxonomic description, photographs and relevant information based on collected specimens.

**Keyword:** *Habenaria marginata*, new distribution record, Saurashtra region, Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.

The region Saurashtra includes 10 districts, in which the majority of the district covered with dry deciduous forest, grassland and scrub forest. The Girnar hills lie between the parallels of latitude North 21°31' 48" and meridians of longitude East 70°31' 48". From the ten biogeographic zones of India, Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary is classified in the semi-arid zone (Wainer, 2015). *Habenaria marginata* Colebr. was not recorded from Saurashtra region (Santapau (1953), Santapau & Raizada (1954), Cooke (1958), Patel (1971), Shah (1978), Raghvan *et al.* (1981), Bole and Pathak (1988), Nagar (2005), Sisodiya (2007) and Bhatt (2018). Therefore, it is reported as a new distribution for the Saurashtra region, Gujarat. A detailed taxonomic treatment of species has been given on the fresh specimen along with photographs. The voucher specimen is deposited at the Department of Life Sciences, Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University, Junagadh, Gujarat.

### **TAXONOMIC TREATMENT**

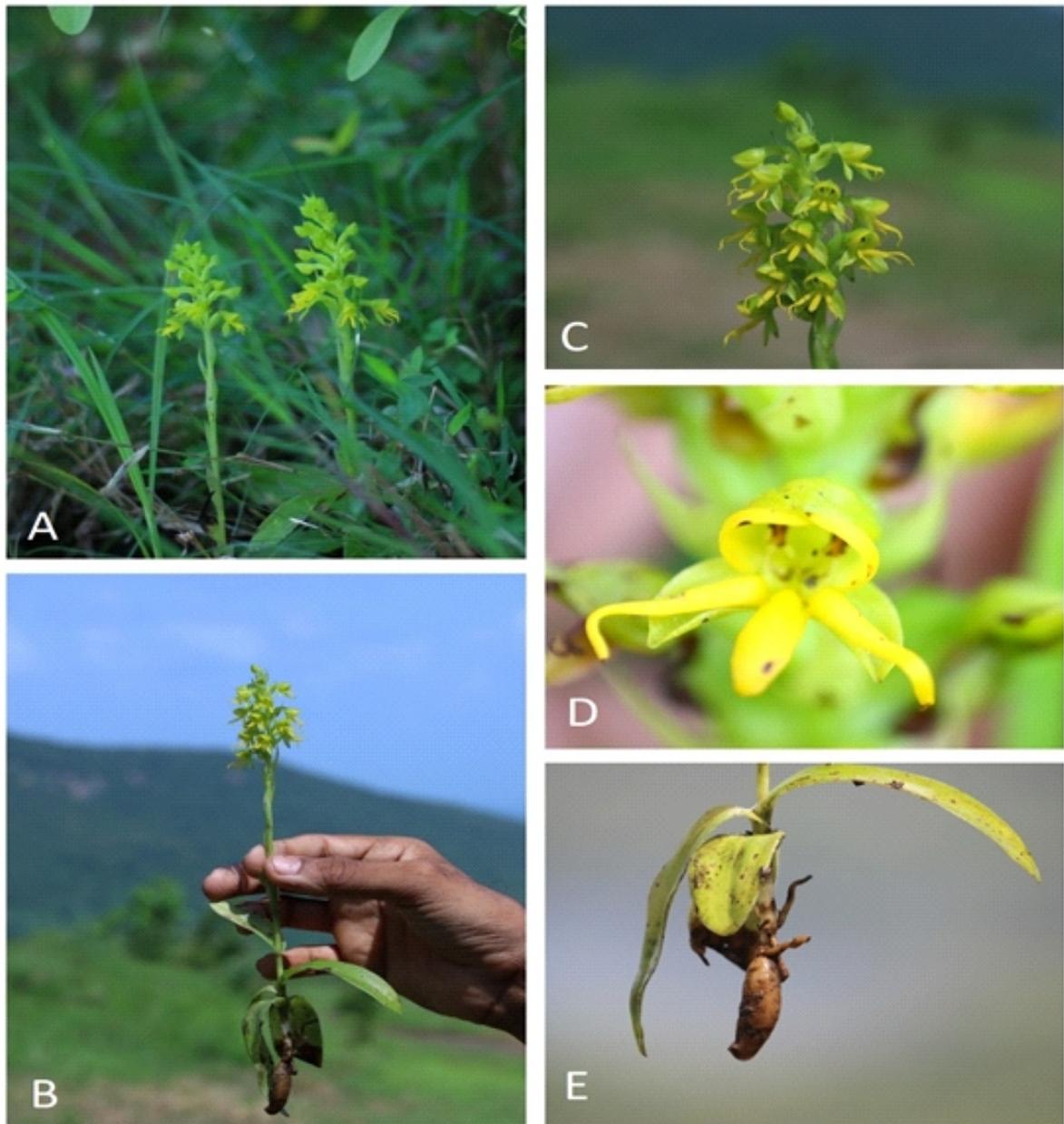
***Habenaria marginata*** Colebr., Exot. Fl. t. 136, 1824; Hook.f. Brit. India 6: 150, 1890; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay. 3: 226. 1958 (Repr.); Santapau and Kapadia, Orchids Bombay, 33. t. 5, f. 17. 1966; Shah, Fl. Gujarat 2: 658, 1978. *H. flavescens* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 150,

1890. *H. promensis* Lindl., Gen. Sp. Orchid. Pl. 320, 1835. *Orchis clavata* Heyne ex Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 150, 1890.

Terrestrial herbs, 8–36 cm tall. Tubers 1–2, 2.5–5 × 0.6–1.2 cm, ovoid or ellipsoidal. Leaves 2–5, 3–9 × 1.5–3 cm, clustered at base, fleshy, oblong, oblong–elliptic, obtuse, margins typically whitish–yellow. Inflorescence 4–26 cm long including scape, laxly or densely many-flowered spike. Flowers 1.2–1.6 cm long, bracteate, sessile. Bracts 1–2 × 0.3–0.5 cm, lower ones longer than ovary, upper ones shorter, ovate–lanceolate, acute. Sepals unequal, pale green, acute; dorsal sepal ca. 0.8 × 0.6 cm; concave, broadly ovate; lateral sepals ca. 0.7 × 0.3 cm, drooping, obliquely oblong–lanceolate. Petals ca. 0.7 × 0.4 cm, yellow with a green tinge on portions overlapped by dorsal sepal, oblong–lanceolate, falcate from a broad base, acute. Lip ca. 1.1 cm long, yellow, fleshy, trifurcate; lateral lobes ca. 1.1 × 0.1 cm, more or less spreading, straight, with inward hook-shaped curve at apex, linear–lanceolate; mid-lobe 0.6–1 cm long, clavate towards the rounded apex. Spur ca. 1.0 cm long, more or less equaling ovary, yellowish–green, clavate, laterally compressed towards obtuse apex. Column ca. 0.3 × 0.3 cm, faintly greenish–white. Pollinia deep cadmium yellow, ovoid, with a small curved caudicle and



**Figure1:** Map showing Saurashtra region in Gujarat



**Figure 2 (A-E):** *Habenaria marginata* Colebr. (A) Habitat, (B) Whole plant, (C) Inflorescence, (D) Flower and (E) Tuber

a small oblong gland. Capsules ca. 1.2 cm long, fusiform, obscurely beaked, ribbed.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** August–December.

**Location:** Girnar hill's in Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary. GPS: N 21° 31' 53".76 E 70° 31' 39".36

**Habitat:** Found among grasslands at hilly forest and under the shade of moist deciduous forests.

**Specimen Voucher Number:** SGWS-109

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