



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The genus *Syzygium* Gaertn. (Myrtaceae) in the Konkan and Western Ghats regions of Maharashtra, India

Paresh P. Bhalekar^{1,4}, Dasharath A. Rajapkar⁴, Sharad S. Kambale², Kumar Vinod C. Gosavi³ and Arun N. Chandore^{4*}

Abstract

A systematic taxonomic treatment of the genus the *Syzygium* Gaertn. comprising 16 accepted species occurring in the Konkan and the Western Ghats regions of Maharashtra, India is presented. An identification key, updated nomenclature, taxonomic accounts, phenology, distribution, taxonomic notes and photographs are provided for all collected species. *Syzygium toddalioides* (Wight) Walp. and cultivated species *S. myrtifolium* Walp. are reported first time from Maharashtra.

Keywords: Endemism, Maharashtra, Myrtaceae, *Syzygium*, Taxonomic study.

Introduction:

The genus *Syzygium* Gaertn. belongs to the family Myrtaceae and is one of the largest genera of tree species. The native range of this genus extends from the tropical and Subtropical Old World to Pacific and which includes about 1246 accepted species (POWO, 2025). In India, a total of 102 taxa, of which 44 taxa are endemic to the country

(Shareef and Kumar 2020) and the highest diversity occurs in the Western Ghats, Rathakrishnan (2020) prepared an annotated checklist of Myrtaceae and reported 93 species and 4 varieties of genus *Syzygium* from India. While recently 84 species of the genus have been reported from India (Dey *et al.* 2022; Dey *et al.* 2023). Total 15 species and one variety are reported from Maharashtra by Singh *et al.* (2001), while 15 species and two varieties are reported by Almeida (1996), which includes four cultivated species *i.e.* *Syzygium aromaticum* (L.) Merr. & L.M.Perry, *S. jambos* (L.) Alston, *S. malaccense* (L.) Merr. & L.M.Perry and *S. samarangense* (Blume) Merr. & L.M.Perry. Five species are endemic to India *i.e.* *Syzygium laetum* (Buch.-Ham.) Gandhi, *S. lanceolatum* (Lam.) Wight & Arn., *S. montanum* Gamble, *S. salicifolium* J.Graham and *S. stocksii* (Duthie) Gamble.

Syzygium phillyreoides (Trimen) Santapau is resurrected to *Eugenia*, *i.e.* *E. phillyreoides* Trimen. (Veldkamp 2013), *Syzygium laetum* var. *pauciflorum* (Walp.) M.R.Almeida, is synonymized into the species *i.e.* *S. laetum* (Buch.-Ham.) Gandhi (Govaerts *et al.* 2008) and *S. heyneanum* var. *alternans* (Duthie) B.G.Kulk. & Lakshmin. is also synonymized into *S. salicifolium* J.Graham (Govaerts *et al.* 2022). *Syzygium tamilnadense* Rathakr. and V.Chithra and *S. gadgilii* M.R.Almeida are synonymized into *Syzygium montanum* Gamble (Byng *et al.* 2015). Also, *S. alternans* Miq. ex Duthie and *S. heyneanum* (Duthie) Gamble are synonymized into the *S. salicifolium* J.Graham (Govaerts *et al.* 2008). Thus, a total 14 accepted species occur in Maharashtra as of now. *Syzygium claviflorum* (Roxb.) Wall. ex Steud. was reported from Maharashtra by Shareef and Kumar (2020) in their

¹Department of Botany, Dapoli Urban Bank Senior Science College, Dapoli- 415 712. District- Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, India

²Department of Botany, M.V.P. Samaj's Arts, Commerce and Science College, Tryambakeshwar- 422 212. District- Nashik, Maharashtra, India

³Department of Botany, HPT Arts and RYK Science College, Nashik- 422 005, Maharashtra, India

⁴Department of Botany, Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's, Loknete Ramsheth Thakur Arts, Science and Commerce College, Mokhada- 401 604. District-Palghar, Maharashtra, India

***Corresponding Author:** Arun N. Chandore, Department of Botany, Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's, Loknete Ramsheth Thakur Arts, Science and Commerce College, Mokhada- 401 604. District-Palghar, Maharashtra, India, E-Mail: arunchandore1@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Bhalekar, P.P., Rajapkar, D.A., Kambale, S.S., Gosavi, K.V.C., Chandore, A.N. (2026). The genus *Syzygium* Gaertn. (Myrtaceae) in the Konkan and Western Ghats regions of Maharashtra, India. *J.Indianbot.Soc.*, 106(3):348-354 Doi: 10.61289/jibs2026.05.10.0514

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None.

census of *Syzygium* in India. However, no authentic evidence, published records or herbarium specimens supporting its occurrence in Maharashtra are available. Therefore, *S. claviflorum* is excluded from the flora of Maharashtra in the present study. *Syzygium utilis* (Talbot) Rathakr. & N.C.Nair was originally described by Talbot in 1897 as a *Eugenia utilis* based on material collected from North Kanara. Subsequently, Cooke (1958) also mentioned only locality i.e. North Kanara, which is now part of Karnataka. Rathakrishnan and Nair (1983) transferred the species to *Syzygium* viz. *S. utilis* (Talbot) Rathakr. & N.C.Nair based on the accounts of Talbot (1897) and Cooke (1958), but listed its distribution as Maharashtra. This appears to have resulted from the inclusion of North Kanara in the former Bombay Presidency, as treated in Cooke's Flora of the Bombay Presidency, rather than from verified collections from Maharashtra. No authentic herbarium specimens, published records, or confirmed localities from Maharashtra have been traced. Therefore, *S. utilis* is also excluded from the flora of Maharashtra in the present study.

In the checklist of family Myrtaceae of India by Rathakrishnan (2020), they have provided *Syzygium toddalioides* (Wight) Walp. from Maharashtra state but there is no authentic evidence in the form of specimens from Maharashtra state Shareef (2020). Recently authors have collected this species from Kolhapur district of Maharashtra state. This is the first authentic collection from Maharashtra. *Syzygium myrtifolium* Walp. is a cultivated species which was not included in previous studies, therefore this species is also added in this study. Recently *Syzygium stocksii* (Duthie) Gamble recollected from Konkan region after a long gap of 150 years and attempts were made to conserve this species by using conventional methods.

The detailed systematic treatment of 16 species of genus *Syzygium* is provided for Maharashtra state. The present study provided key for identification of species, correct nomenclature of species includes basionym, synonyms (if any), taxonomic account, phenology, distributions, taxonomic notes and photographs of collected species from Konkan region and Western Ghats region of Maharashtra state.

Materials and Methods

Regular field visits were undertaken for the survey, collection and documentation of *Syzygium* species during different seasons. The collected specimens were dissected under stereo zoom microscope and photographs were taken using a digital camera. The collected specimens were identified by referring to various floras, and revisions (Cooke 1958; Duthie 1879; Hooker 1883; Singh *et al.* 2001; Shareef *et al.* 2010; Shareef and Kumar 2020). Herbarium specimens were prepared as per Jain & Rao (1977) standard methods and deposited in the Herbaria of the department of Botany,

Loknete Ramsheth Thakur Arts, Science and Commerce College, Mokhada (RAYAT). Taxonomic account of all collected species was prepared as per recent nomenclature of International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN) (Turland *et al.* 2018), International Plant Names Index (IPNI 2025) & Plants of the World Online (POWO 2025). Data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List (IUCN 2025) were used to determine the conservation status of the species.

Taxonomic treatment

Syzygium Gaertn., Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 166. 1788; *Jambos* Adans., Fam. Pl. 2: 88. 1763.

Trees and Shrubs. Leaves opposite, obovate-oblong, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, subcoriaceous, entire along margins, with oil glands. Flowers numerous, small, sessile (sometime pedicellate) in terminal lax cymes or in corymbs. Disk thickened. Petals calyptrate. Fruit subglobose, ellipsoidal to ovoid, purple, red or white fleshy, 1-seeded.

Etymology

Syzygium: *Syzygium* comes from the Greek "syn" (together) and "zygon" (yoke), meaning "yoked together", referring to the way its flowers are arranged. [*Syzygium*: paired, from the form of branching and opposite leaves]

Taxonomic key

- 1a. Flowers more than 2.0 cm across.....2
- 1b. Flowers less than 2.0 cm across.....3
- 2a. Calyx tube hemispheric; stamens yellowish-white.....
.....*S. hemisphericum*
- 2b. Calyx tube long cylindric; stamens crimson.....
.....*S. laetum*
- 3a. Petals usually 12.....*S. lanceolatum*
- 3b. Petals 4–5.....4
- 4a. Calyx tube more than 0.5 cm long5
- 4b. Calyx tube less than 0.5 cm long.....6
- 5a. Fruit purplish black when ripe; 1–3 flowered.....*S. taddalioides*
- 5b. Fruit white when ripe; more than 3 flowered.....*S. zeylanicum*
- 6a. Branchlets tetra-gonous; calyx tube turbinate.....7
- 6b. Branchlets terete; calyx tube not as above.....9
- 7a. Leaves more than 5 cm broad; leaf-nerves distant.....8
- 7b. Leaves up to 3.8 cm broad; leaf-nerves close.....*S. rubicundum*
- 8a. Leaves coriaceous; inflorescence branches stout.....
.....*S. montanum*
- 8b. Leaves membranous; inflorescence branches slender...
.....*S. stocksii*
- 9a. Leaves less than 3 cm broad; calyx tube funnel shaped...
.....*S. salicifolium*

- 9b. Leaves more than 3 cm broad; calyx not as above. 10
 10a. Petiole less than 2.0 cm long; calyx tube cup shaped. ...
 *S. caryophyllatum*
 10b. Petiole more than 2.0 cm long; calyx tube turbinate. ...
 *S. cumini*

Systematic treatment

Syzygium caryophyllatum

(L.) Alston, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 6. Suppl., 116. 1931; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 9. 2001. *Myrtus caryophyllata* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 472. 1753. *Eugenia corymbosa* Lam., Encycl. 3(1): 199. 1789; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 491. 1903. *E. caryophyllaea* Wight, Ill. 2: 15. 1850; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 490. 1878. (Fig. 1A).

Shrubs; 3-5 m high. Branches compressed. Leaves 4.8-9.4 cm long and 2.4-4.6 cm wide, subcoriaceous, obovate-oblong, obtuse at apex, tapering at base, bright-green and shining above, paler and inconspicuously dotted beneath; main nerves numerous, fine, uniting in a distinct intra-marginal nerve; petioles 0.3-0.6 cm long. Flower 0.4-0.7 cm across, numerous, sessile, cyme terminal lax, corymbose. Calyx 0.3 cm long, tube cup shaped, glabrous; segment 4, shallow, sub-acute, often scarcely distinguishable. Petals 4-5, white, calyptrate. Fruits c. 1.2 cm across, depressed-globose, dark purple, verruculose, 1-seeded, shining, juicy, edible.

- **Local name:** Bhedshi.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March-May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 14 April 2024, A.N.Chandore 3508 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 708 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** Wight, Ic. t. 540. 1842.
- **Localities:** Ratnagiri: Rajapur, Dapoli; Sindhudurg: Kudal
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *caryophyllatum*, from the Greek word *caryon* (nut) and *phyllon* (leaf), means nut-leaved or bearing nuts, referring to the clove-like fragrance of the flower buds.
- **Note:** Grows along the banks of streams and rivers in semi evergreen forest. This species can be easily identified by its compressed branches, flower with 4-5 petals, calyptrate; petiole up to 0.6 cm long and calyx tube cup shaped.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is West & South India, Sri Lanka. Grow primarily in the seasonally dry tropical biome (POWO 2025).

Syzygium cumini

(L.) Skeels, Bull. Bur. Pl. Industr. U.S.D.A. 25: 248. 1912; K.M.Matthew, Illus. Fl. Tamilnadu Carnatic 2: t 271. 1982; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 10. 2001. *Myrtus cumini* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 471. 1753. *Eugenia jambolana* Lam., Encycl. 3.1: 198. 1789; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 499. 1879; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 491. 1903. (Fig. 1B).

Tree; 6-14 m high. Branches terete. Leaves 06-16 cm long and 03-08 cm wide, coriaceous, elliptic-oblong or broadly

ovate elliptic, acute, sub-obtuse or shortly acuminate at apex, cuneate at base, smooth and shining, pellucid-dotted; main nerves many, slender, reticulations numerous between the main nerves; petioles 2.0-2.8 cm long. Flowers white, 0.4-0.7 cm across, fragrant, sessile or shortly pedicelled, axillary cymes. Calyx tube c. 0.5 cm long, shortly turbinate; segment obscure. Petals calyptrate. Fruit 1.4-2.2 cm long and 1.0-1.4 cm wide, subglobose, ellipsoidal to ovoid, purple, fleshy, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Jambhul.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March-May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 01 May 2024, A.N.Chandore 3338 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 538 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** K.M.Matthew, *op. cit.*
- **Localities:** Common in all districts.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *cumini* from latin *cuminum*, refers to the spicy smell of the crushed leaves of the plant.
- **Note:** Grows in secondary forest, often planted in garden and roadside. This species can be easily identified by its leaves more than 3 cm broad; calyx tube less than 0.5 cm long, turbinate. Throughout the state plant found in both wild and cultivated. The fruits of cultivated plants are often large and are eaten by local people.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is Tropical & Subtropical Asia to N. Queensland. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome. It has environmental uses and social uses, as a medicine and invertebrate food and for fuel and food (POWO 2025).

Syzygium hemisphericum

(Wight) Alston, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 6(2): 115. 1931; K.M.Matthew, Illus. Fl. Tamilnadu Carnatic 2: t 271. 1982; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 10. 2001. *Eugenia hemispherica* Wight, Ill. Ind. Bot. 2. 14. 1841; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 477. 1878; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 488. 1903. (Fig. 1C).

Tree; 4-6 m high. Bark yellowish-grey, branches tetragonous. Leaves 7.0-14 cm long and 1.8-5.6 cm wide, ovate-lanceolate or sometimes oblanceolate, acuminate at apex, minutely dotted, glabrous and shining, tapering at base; nerves inconspicuous above, more prominent beneath; petioles 0.6-1.2 cm long. Flowers c. 3 cm across, fragrant in axillary and terminal panicle cymes. Calyx tube 0.6-1.0 cm long, slightly rugose outside; tube shortly hemispheric, 0.6-0.8 cm long; segment rounded, reflexed and with membranous margins. Disk thickened. Petals c. 0.8 cm long, broadly ovate or sub-orbicular, concave, acute, gland-dotted, reflexed, cream-colored or with a pink tinge. Stamens white. Fruit globose, 1.4-2.0 cm across, crowned with persistent the calyx tube, greenish white when ripe. Seed c. 1.2 cm across, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Goljamb.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 14 May 2024, A.N.Chandore 3509 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 709 (RAYAT!).
- **Illustration:** Wight, *op. cit.*
- **Localities:** Ratnagiri: Rajapur; Kolhapur: Barki, Radhanagari ghat.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *hemisphericum* for its hemispherical flower.
- **Note:** Grows along banks of streams, rivers and sometimes plateau. This species can be easily identified by its flower with hemispheric calyx tube and white stamens, greenish white when ripe, globose.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is South India, Sri Lanka, Indo-China. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome (POWO 2025).

Syzygium lanceolatum

(Lam.) Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Orient. 1: 330. 1834; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 13. 2001. *Eugenia lanceolata* Lam., Encycl. 3(1): 200. 1789; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 489. 1903. *E. wightiana* Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. t. 529; Illustr. ii. 15. 1842; Duthie in Hook.f. Fl. Brit. India 2:485. 1878.

Trees; 5-7 m high; bark grey. Branches slender, terete, smooth. Leaves 6.2-12 cm long and 3.2-4 cm wide, inconspicuously pellucid dotted, elliptic-lanceolate, coriaceous, punctate, caudate-acuminate at apex, tapering at base, main nerve numerous; petiole 0.3-0.6 cm long. Flowers white, c. 1.2 cm across, in subsessile, few-flowered, axillary cymes or on leafless branches. Calyx 1.2-1.5 cm long, tube clavate, elongate, glandular outside, segments 4-5, rounded. Petals white numerous, often as many as 12, suborbicular, calyptrate. Fruit 1.8-2.5 cm across, ellipsoid, reddish dark brown, crowned with the thickened calyx-segments, 1-seeded.

- **Flowering and fruiting:** February–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Tamilnadu, Madurai District, 21 January 1988, V. Lakshmanan 87648 (BSISC!).
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *lanceolatum* for its lance head-shaped calyx tube.
- **Note:** This species is reported from Konkan by Cooke (1958). Sindhudurg: Amboli (Almeida 1984). This species can be easily identified by leaves elliptic-lanceolate flower white, petals usually 12.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is W. India. It is a tree and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome (POWO 2025). Endemic to Western Ghats.

Syzygium laetum

(Buch.-Ham.) Gandhi, Fl. Hassan Dist. 282. 1976; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 11. 2001. *Syzygium laetum* var. *pauciflorum* (Duthie) M.R.Almeida, Fl.

Maharashtra 2: 272. 1998. *Eugenia laeta* Buch.-Ham., Mem. Wern. Nat. Hist. Soc. v. 338. 1826; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2:479. 1878; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 488. 1903. (Fig. 1D).

Trees; 6-10 m high. Branches slender, terete, smooth. Leaves 6.4-9.4 cm long and 2.0-3.8 cm wide, lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, subcoriaceous, glabrous, tapering at base, acuminate at apex, entire along margins; main nerves 12-15 pairs; petioles 0.3-0.4 cm long. Flowers red or yellow, 1.2-2.4 cm across, solitary or few flowers in terminal or axillary cymes. Pedicels attached to below the calyx. Calyx c. 2.2 cm long; tube narrow, conical, faintly striate, expanded at the mouth; segment 4, about c. 0.3 cm long, rounded, reflexed in flower. Petals white, 1.2-1.5 cm long, orbicular, subacute, glandular and conspicuously veined; buds globose, stamens crimson. Fruits 2.4 cm long and 1.6 cm wide, oblong-ellipsoid, glabrous, reddish-brown, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Dev Jambhul.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Kolhapur District, Ugawai, 14 May 2024, A.N.Chandore 3523 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 723 (RAYAT!).
- **Illustration:** Wight, *op. cit.*
- **Localities:** Kolhapur: Ugawai: Sindhudurg.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *laetum* refers to its bright color flower.
- **Note:** Plant grows in sacred grove and in evergreen forests. This species can be easily identified by flower red or yellow, stamens crimson & fruits reddish-brown.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is W. India. It is a shrub or tree and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome (POWO 2025). Endemic to Western Ghats.

Syzygium montanum

Gamble, Fl. Madras 1(3): 479. 1919. *Syzygium tamilnadense* Rathakr. & Chithra, Fl. Tamil Nadu Ind., Ser I: Analysis 1: 158. 1983; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 16. 2001. *Syzygium gadgilii* M.R.Almeida, Fl. Maharashtra 2: 273. 1998. nom. illeg. *Eugenia montana* Wight, Ic. t. 1060. 1846. 1775; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 488. 1878.

Trees, 6–10 m high. Branchlets stout, quadrangular and narrowly winged, glabrous; bark brown, peeling off. Leaves 6.2–12 × 3–6 cm, elliptic to broad elliptic or obovate, obtuse to rounded at the apex; cuneate at the base, entire along the margins, pellucid gland dotted, coriaceous, glabrous; midrib distinctly canaliculate above; intramarginal nerve present, nerve 12 pair. Petiole 0.4-1.2 cm long, canaliculated above. Flowers 0.3–0.4 cm across, white, in terminal corymbose-cymes. Calyx tube funnel-shaped. Petals calyptrate. Fruit 0.8 cm across, globose, purplish, crowned with persistent calyx; 1-seeded.

- **Flowering and fruiting:** February–June.
- **Specimens examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg District, Sawantwadi, 18 February 1981, B.G.Kulkarni 128807 (BSI!);

- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *montanum* comes from the Latin word 'mons' which means mountain.
- **Note:** '*Syzygium tamilnadense*' is reported from Sindhudurg by Kulkarni (2001). *Syzygium gadgilii* is reported from Victoria Garden by Almeida (1998). '*Syzygium montanum*' is reported from Kudal -Wasuli area of Sindhudurg district by Kulkarni (1988).
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is India (Tamil Nadu). It is a tree and grows primarily in the wet tropical biome (POWO 2025). Endemic to India.

Syzygium rubicundum

Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Orient. 1: 330. 1834; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 15. 2001. *Eugenia rubicunda* Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. t. 538; Illustr. 2: 15; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 495. 1878; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 490. 1903. *E. lissophylla* (Thw.) Duthie in Hook. f. *op. cit.* (Fig. 1F).

Tree; 06-12 m high. Leaves 3.8-8.8 cm long and 1.2-3.8 cm wide, variable, oblong-lanceolate, elliptic, acuminate at apex, glabrous on both surfaces, shining above, pale beneath, tapering at base; main nerves very numerous, fine, parallel, uniting in a distinct intra-marginal nerve near the margin; petioles 0.3-0.4 cm long. Flowers 0.4-0.6 cm across, pinkish-white, sessile, usually 3 together at the ends of the quadrangular branches. Calyx tube c. 0.3 cm long, shortly turbinate, rugose outside; segment 4, very short, rounded or almost obsolete. Petals calyptrate. Fruit round, size of a small pea, black when ripe, glabrous, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Lendi jambul.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 01 May 2024, A.N.Chandore 3339 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 539 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** Wight, *op. cit.*
- **Locality:** Ratnagiri: Rajapur.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *rubicundum* derived from *rubicunde*, from latin *rubicundus*, means red color, may be due to the color of an inflorescence.
- **Note:** Grows in the forest. This species can be easily identified by its tetragonous branchlets, leaf-nerves close, parallel, flowers pinkish-white.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is SW. India, Sri Lanka. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome (POWO 2025).

Syzygium salicifolium

J.Graham, Cat. Pl. Bomb. 73. 1839. *Eugenia heyneana* Duthie, Fl. Brit. India 2.6: 500. 1879; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 493. 1903. *Syzygium heyneanum* (Duthie) Wall. ex Gamble, Fl. Madras 1.3: 482. 1919; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 11. 2001. (Fig. 1G).

Shrub; 3-5 m high, growing in the banks of stream and river. Leaves 05-10 cm long and 1.4-2.4 cm wide, elliptic-

lanceolate, sub-obtuse, glabrous and shining, pellucid-dotted, acute at apex, tapering at base; main nerves very numerous, fine, uniting in an intra-marginal nerve; petiole 0.3-0.8 cm long. Flowers c. 0.6 cm across, white, sessile or shortly pedicelled, in small heads at the ends of the branches of cymes, rarely axillary. Calyx tube 0.3-0.4 cm long, externally rugulose, funnel-shaped. Petals calyptrate. Fruit oblong-ellipsoid, c. 1.2 cm across, reddish-brown at ripe, crowned with the cup-shaped calyx-limb, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Bed, Pan-Jambhal.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 02 May 2024, A.N.Chandore 3340 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 540 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** Wight, *lc.* t. 539. 1842.
- **Localities:** Ratnagiri: Rajapur, Khed; Sindhudurg: Kudal, Malwan.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *salicifolium* is refers to *Salix*-like leaves.
- **Note:** Growing in the banks of streams and rivers. This species can be easily identified by habit shrub, leaves less than 3 cm broad, calyx tube funnel-shaped. The species included in Least Concern (LC) category of IUCN red list (2025).
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is India. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome. Endemic to India.

Syzygium stocksii

(Duthie) Gamble, Fl. Madras 1(3): 481. 1919; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 15. 2001. *Eugenia stocksii* Duthie, Fl. Brit. India 2. 6:498. 1879; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 522. 1958 (Repr. ed.). *Syzygium travancoricum* Gamble, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1918. 7: 240. 1918. (Fig. 1H).

Tree; 08-14 m high, young branches quadrangular, winged. Leaves 10-15 cm long and 3.4-6.4 cm wide, thin, lanceolate-oblong rounded or shortly and obtusely acuminate at apex, narrowed at base, glabrous, finely dotted with opaque dots; main nerves 12-16 pairs, slender, curving upwards and becoming faint towards the margin, not uniting into an intra-marginal nerve; petioles 1.2-1.5 cm long. Flowers white, c. 0.4 cm across, numerous, in branched cymes which are axillary and from the leafless axils. Peduncles 2.4-4.8 cm long. Calyx tube 0.2-0.3 cm long, funnel-shaped, rugose outside; segment 4, short, subacute or rounded. Petals calyptrate, gland-dotted. Fruits 0.4-0.6 cm across, blackish purple at ripening, 1-seeded, edible.

- **Local name:** Konkan Jambhul.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Ratnagiri District, Rajapur, 13 April 2024, A.N.Chandore 3423 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 623 (RAYAT!)
- **Localities:** Ratnagiri: Rajapur; Hativale, Girmadevi, Katradevi.

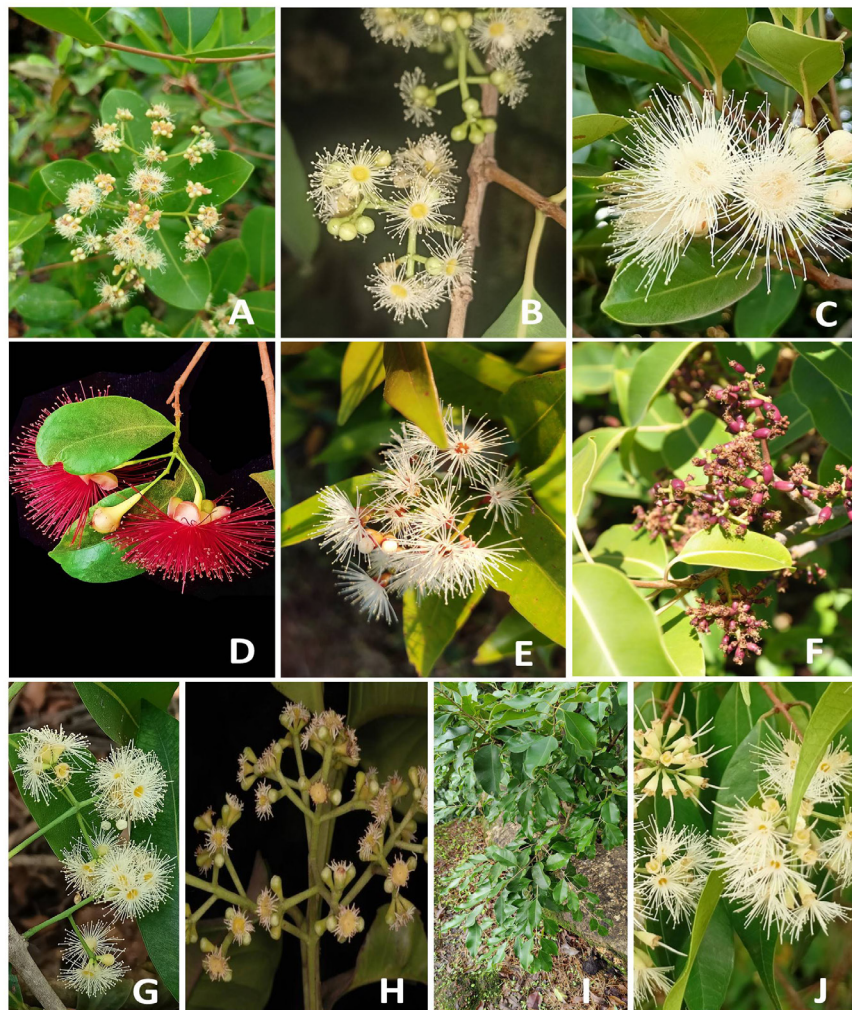


Figure 1: **A.** *Syzygium caryophyllatum* (L.) Alston; **B.** *S. cumini* (L.) Skeels; **C.** *S. hemisphericum* (Wight) Alston; **D.** *S. laetum* (Buch.-Ham.) Gandhi; **E.** *Syzygium myrtifolium* Walp. **F.** *S. rubicundum* Wight & Arn.; **G.** *S. salicifolium* J.Graham; **H.** *S. stocksii* (Duthie) Gamble; **I.** *S. toddalioides* (Wight) Walp. and *J. S. zeylanicum* (L.) DC.

- Etymology: Specific epithet *stocksii* is to honor of the British Botanist J. E. Stocks (1822–1854).
- **Note:** Rare plant grows in banks of stream and rivers in evergreen forests. This species can be easily identified by leaves membranous, branches quadrangular, winged, slender & small fruits.

Syzygium stocksii (Duthie) Gamble is a species belongs to the family Myrtaceae and it is rare and endemic species to India. This species was described by Duthie in 1879 as a *Eugenia stocksii* from evergreen forest of Konkan region based on plant collection of Stocks. After that no one has collected this plant species from Konkan region (Cooke, 1905); therefore, it is placed in endangered category of IUCN red data list (IUCN, 2022-1). Recently we have collected this species from Konkan region after a long gap of 150 years and attempts were made to conservation of this species. Presently this species included in Vulnerable (VU) category of IUCN red list (2025).

The other syntype noted in the protologue of *Eugenia stocksii*, *Beddome* s.n. from Wynaad, has not been found. *Syzygium travancoricum* is conspecific with *S. stocksii*, as both share long petioles, elliptic leaves and highly branched inflorescences (Byng *et al.* 2015).

Global distribution

The native range of this species is S. W. India. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome. Endemic to South West India and in Maharashtra.

Syzygium toddalioides

(Wight) Walp., Repert. Bot. Syst. 2: 179. 1843. *Eugenia toddalioides* Wight in Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 2: t. 542. 1842; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 489. 1903. (Fig. 1I).

Tree; 4-6 m high, growing along plateau. Young branches slender, subterete, smooth, shallowly grooved. Leaves 5.0-9.0 cm long and 2.4-5.0 cm wide, lanceolate, long slender acumen at apex, pellucid dotted, glabrous

and shining, tapering at base; main nerves very numerous, dense, parallel, uniting in an intra-marginal nerve, mid-vein impressed; petiole 0.6-1.6 cm long, strong odor. Flowers c. 1.2 cm across, di or trichotomous axillary or extra axillary cyme, 1-3 flowered. Calyx tube 0.5-0.6 cm long, slender, broader than pedicels, dilated into large cup shaped limb; segment 4 short, rounded. Petals 0.4 cm across, orbicular, tender, free. Fruit purplish black at ripe, ellipsoid-ovoid, c. 1.4 cm across, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** No.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** January–March.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Kolhapur District, Barki, 30 May 2025, A.N.Chandore 3528 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 728 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** Fl. of China Vol. 13. 360. Fig. 360-1.
- **Locality:** Kolhapur; Barki.
- **Etymology:** *toddalioides* means “Toddalia-like” or “related to *Toddalia*” genus belong to family Rutaceae.
- **Note:** Growing along the plateau. This species can be easily identified by leaves with strong odour and branches with 1-3 flowered.
- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is E. Himalaya to China (S. Yunnan) and Indo-China. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome.

Syzygium zeylanicum

(L.) DC., Prodr. [A. P. de Candolle] 3: 260. 1828; B.G.Kulk. in N.P.Singh *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra, Dicot. 2: 16. 2001. *Myrtus zeylanica* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 472. 1753. *Eugenia zeylanica* (L.) Wight, Ill. Ind. Bot. 2: 15. 1850; Duthie in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 485. 1878. *Eugenia spicata* Lam., Encycl. 3(1): 201. 1789; T.Cooke, Fl. Bombay 1: 489. 1903. (Fig. 1J).

Tree; 4-8 m high. Branchlets slender, obsoletely 4-angled or terete. Leaves 3.4-8.2 cm long and 1.2-3.6 cm wide, ovate-elliptic to linear-lanceolate, coriaceous usually caudate-acuminate, smooth and shining on both surface, tide shining slightly recurved at margins, acute at base; nerves numerous, inconspicuous, uniting at the apex. Petioles 0.2-0.6 cm long. Flowers white, c. 2 cm across, conspicuous, inflorescences in axillary or terminal panicle cymes. Calyx tube funnel-shaped, up to 0.5 cm long, glandular outside, segment 4-5, broadly ovate or rotundate, concave, erect. Petals 4-5, orbicular, calyptrate. Fruits 0.4-0.5 cm across, globose, pure white at ripening, 1-seeded.

- **Local name:** Bhedas, Safed Jambhul.
- **Flowering and fruiting:** March–May.
- **Specimens Examined:** INDIA, Maharashtra, Sindhudurg District, Sawantwadi, 16 July 2021, A.N.Chandore 3522 (RAYAT!); P.P.Bhalekar 722 (RAYAT!)
- **Illustration:** Wight, *op. cit.*
- **Locality Sindhudurg:** Sawantwadi.
- **Etymology:** Specific epithet *zeylanicum* is after the Ceylon, Sri Lanka.
- **Note:** Plant grows along banks of stream and rivers in

evergreen forests. This species can be easily identified by calyx tube longer than broad and pure white fruits when ripe.

- **Global distribution:** The native range of this species is E. Madagascar, Indian Subcontinent to China (S. Guangxi, W. Guangdong) and Malesia. Grow primarily in the wet tropical biome.

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