Short Communication


ON THE OCCURRENCE OF TRIUMFETTA TUNGARENSIS BILLORE IN NEPAL AND OTHER PARTS OF INDIA

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Triumfetta tungarensis Billore earlier described from Tungar hill near Bombay is now recorded from Nepal and other areas in India

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An interesting species of Triumfetta L. i.e. T. tungarensis Billore was described on the basis of a solitary collection from Mazivili Reserve forest of Mandvi forest range in Thana district of Maharashtra state. This species often confused in the field and herbaria with the highly variable species T. rhomboidea Jacq. or at times with T. pentandra A. Rich. The characteristic flowers with dimorphic petals enlarging at maturity, stamens with bearded filaments, dense indumentum and comparatively robust habit distinguishes it from other species of Triumfetta L. reported from India (Billore, 1982).

A critical study of selected seventeen specimens of T. rhomboidea Jacq. etc. at the central National Herbarium (CNH), Calcutta (CAL) and the Blatter Herbarium, Bombay (BLAT) during September 1985 and May 1986 respectively revealed that T. tungarensis Billore is also found in some other localities in south-western India i.e. in parts of Maharashtra, Gujrat and Kerala states and also in Nepal along the Himalayas, besides its type locality. Thus, the record and locations of the specimens of T. tungarensis Billore further establishes the occurrence of this new species in the Indian sub-continent and also indicate the possibility of its wide distribution.

The present record from the Himalayas in Nepal is based on a specimen No. 29423 in the CNH, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta (CAL) collected by the renowned British Botanist I.H. Burkill in 1907. The specimen was labelled as "T. rhomboidea Jacq. var". This indicates that even Burkill also considered it different from T. rhomboidea. The details of the inscriptions on the specimen and citations on the label are given below.

i) On Field No.: "F.No. 29423, Herb. REP."
ii) On Herbarium sheet (bottom): "Occures first just as the edge of the forest growing 4 ft. high".

The specimens studied at the Blatter Herbarium, St. Xavier's College, Bombay and the details of the additional localities from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala are given here under:-


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The collections cited above from Parol, Tungar, Thane district (N. Y. Das 4480, 4481 4482) its type locality can be designated as paratypes. A study of the specimens cited above from Maharashtra, Gujarat & Kerala has not only established the occurrence of this species in western India, but has also provided additional data with regards to its habitat, habit, occurrence, and the structure of mature fruit:-

It is observed that this species also grows on plateau, open fields/grounds, along streams and along forest roads etc. It is a robust, tall herb/undershurb ranging from 4-6 ft. high. It is perhaps the largest species among the *Triumfetta* species in India. The mature fruit (1.4 to 1.8 cm) is brownish, usually ovoid or obovoid 4-6x4-5mm, spines ±2mm long with a curved tip and pedicel 4-8 mm curved.

This species can be located in other parts of the Indian sub-continent, particularly the adjoining areas of Central Himalayas, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala.

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**REFERENCE**

Billore K V 1982 A New Species of *Triumfetta* Linn from Maharashtra India. *Jour Econ Tax Bot* 3 621.