

***Ipomoea capitellata* Choisy var. *multilobata* (Convolvulaceae):
A new variety recorded from Gujarat State, India**

¹M. C. Makwana, ²V. A. Patel and ³N. K. Patel

¹Department of Botany Sheth M. N. Science College, Patan-384265 (India)

²Department of Botany Smt. S. M. Panchal Science College, Talod-383215 (India)

³Department of Botany, Sheth M. N. Science College, Patan-384265 (India)

Abstract

Ipomoea capitellata Choisy var. *multilobata* Bhellum. a new variety of Convolvulaceae from the Gujarat state, India. The new species is morphologically different from its similar related species *Ipomoea pes-tirgidis* Linn. a specimen belonging to genus *Ipomoea* were collected. Hence, the presence forms a new distributional record for Gujarat state, India. A brief description, photograph and relevant notes are provided.

Key words : *Ipomoea capitellata* Choisy var. *multilobata* Bhellum., Convolvulaceae, New variety, Gujarat state, India.

Ipomoea L. is one of the largest genera of the family Convolvulaceae Juss., growing naturally in tropical, subtropical and temperate regions⁴. Members of the family are characterized by their twining and trailing herbaceous or perennial habit, where shrubs or trees are rare. About 650 species are reported worldwide in Convolvulaceae⁵ of which 64 species have reported from different biogeographical regions of India^{4,16}. Many of them have been used as ornamental plants with a popular English name 'Morning glory'⁹.

During assessment of the diversity of the climber in Gujarat, a specimen belonging to the genus *Ipomoea* were collected. On critical examination of the specimen, it was

identified *Ipomoea capitellata* Choisy var. *multilobata* Bhellum. A variety so far reported from Jammu and Kashmir state¹ and Southern Western Ghat¹⁴ in India. Exploration of floristic literature^{2,3,7,8,10-13,15} revealed that, this variety has not been recorded from whole Gujarat till date. The presence reported forms a new distributional record for Gujarat state. Therefore, it is reported here with brief description, photograph and other relevant details for easy identification of the taxa in the field.

Brief Description :

Plant is annual, stem straggling or twining with long spreading hairs, leaves 3.8-10 cm

¹*Research Scholar, ²Late Associate Professor, ³HOD

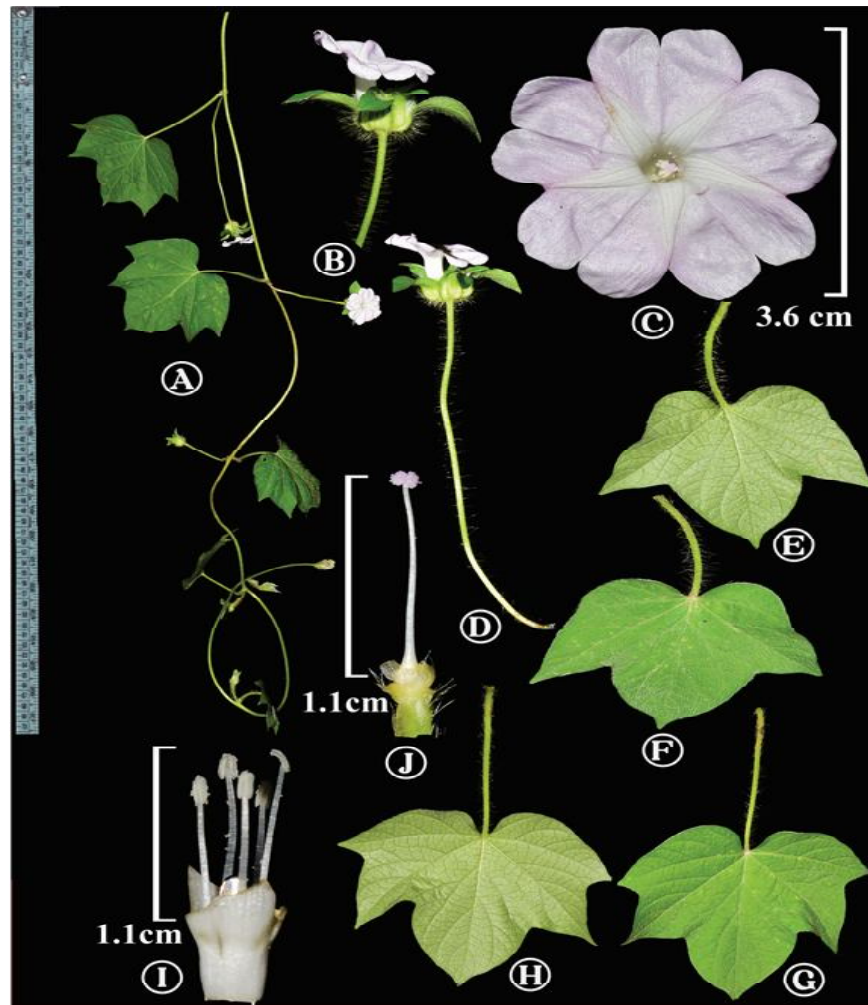


Figure: -1: *Ipomoea capitellata* Choisy var. *multilobata* Bhellum.

A. Twig B. & D. Flower side view C. Flower front view E. & G. Adaxial view of leaf
F. & H. Abaxial view of leaf I. Stamen J. Carpel

long usually a few to multilobed, lobes ovate, acute or acuminate, narrowed at the base, hirsute on both the surface, petiole 3.8-7.5 cm long. Flower very hairy, sessile, 3 or more in a head, peduncle 2.5-7.5 cm long, hairy outer bracts nearly 2.5 cm, inner ones 1 cm long, all ovate-oblong, sub-obtuse, hairy, sepals 8-13 mm long, densely hairy, ciliate with long stiff hairs,

outer sepals broader than the inner ovate-lanceolate, the inner three linear-oblong, acute, corolla 3 cm long tubular, campanulate, white or pale pink. Stamen 5, 1.1 cm long, anthers ovate or linear, longitudinally dehiscent, not twisted; pollen globular, finely spiny. Ovary 1.1 cm long, 2-4 loculed, 4 or 6 ovuled. style 1, filiform, included or exserted; stigma capitate.

Capsule 6 mm across, globose, glabrous, papery, concealed in the calyx, seed 5 mm long, grey, pubescent.

Flowering & Fruiting: August – October

Specimens examined: The specimens were collected from Matakgheda wetland of Amirgadh taluka, Bansakheda District of Gujarat state. The flowers open mostly in the evening.

Habitat: A Common twiner along hedges on the moist evergreen and mixed deciduous forests. The species can be easily recognized by its setose sepals and hairy capsules.

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