

(II) ***Datura discolor* (Solanaceae): An addition to the flora of Maharashtra, India**

The genus *Datura* L. is represented by 14 species and native to south-west and south central of the USA, northern Mexico and Caribbean Islands (POWO, widely naturalized many parts of the world. In India, it is represented by 6 species (Swamy *et al.*, 2020). While revising the genus *Bothriochloa*, the first author collected an interesting *Datura* species in flower and fruit, which was later identified as *Datura discolor* Bernh. Scrutiny of literature revealed that this species reported from Andhra Pradesh (Swamy *et al.*, 2020) and Karnataka (Kumbhalkar and Nandikar, 2017). It has not been recorded in the flora of Maharashtra (Cooke, 1905; Singh *et al.*, 2001; Gaikwad and Garad, 2015) the present collection forms the first report of the species in the state and third from the Indian states after Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. A detailed description with photo plate Plate 1 A and B provided to facilitate easy identification.

Taxonomic treatment

Datura discolor Bernh. in Neues J. Pharm. Aerzte 26: 149. 1833; Kumbhalkar and Nandikar in *Curr. Sci.*, **113**(5): 855-856. 2017; Swamy *et al.* in *Nelumbo* **62**(1): 54-56.2020. *Datura thomaslii* Torr. in *Pacif. Railr. Rep. Parke, Bot.* **5**: 362. 1857. (Fig. 1).

Annual herb with spreading branches up to 1 m high; stem greenish-purple, terete, dense pubescent on younger parts, sparsely pubescent or glabrous on older parts. Leaves simple, alternate, sub-opposite at apex; petiole 1-3 cm long, lamina deltoid to apparently pedate, 2-7 × 5-9 cm, oblique-unequal at base, sinuate to dentate along margin, acuminate at apex, glabrescent above, densely pubescent beneath especially on nerves, rectipinnate, lateral nerves 4-5 per side. Flowers solitary, white, from the fork of branches; pedicel 1-1.5 cm long. Calyx tubular, tube 5-10 cm long, sparsely pubescent, angular fluted, 5-lobed; lobes 1-1.5 cm long, unequal, triangular, acuminate at apex. Corolla funnel shaped 11-16 cm long, white with streaks of lilac to purple throat. Stamens 5, epipetalous, included; filaments 5.5-8.5 cm long; anthers 0.4-0.7 cm long. Ovary 0.2-0.5 cm long; style 8.6-13.8 cm long with persistent calyx, greyish densely glandular pubescent, sparsely aculci-echinate spines; spines 60-80 up to 1.3 cm long, dense glandular pubescent, dehisced from top into 4 valves. Seeds ca. 0.26 × 0.3 cm, reniform with hilar residue, black, bullate-verucose.

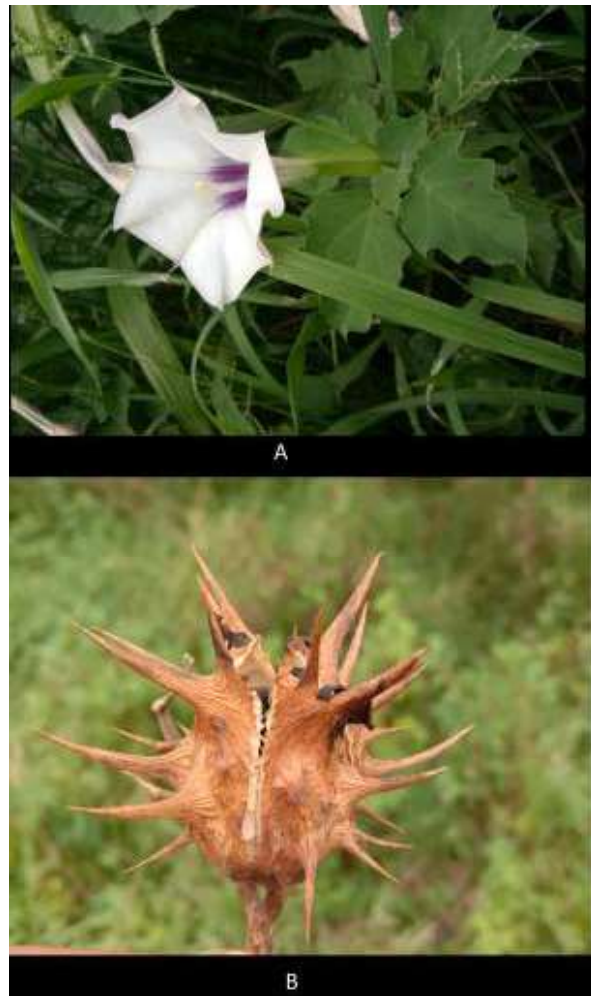


Fig. 1: A. Flowering branch B. Capsule

Flowering and fruiting: Almost major parts of the year.

Distribution: Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (Swamy *et al.*, 2020) and now from Maharashtra.

Habitat: Occasional in waste lands, along the road sides and in sugarcane fields; associated with *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. ex DC., *Hyptis suaveolens* (L.) Poit., *Senna tora* (L.) Roxb., and *Setaria verticillata* (L.) P.Beauv.

Specimens examined: India, Maharashtra, Satara District, Karad, Wathar, 17.185228° N, 74.182735° E, 566 m.s.l., 06.11.2020, Pooja R Mane 3894 (KMR)