

Hybanthus stellarioides (Violaceae), a new record for Maharashtra

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Abstract: During the survey of flora of Aghashiv Hills of Karad resulted into collection of *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst., which forms a new distributional record to Maharashtra State.

Keywords: *Hybanthus stellarioides*, new record, Agashiva Hills, Maharashtra, India.

Introduction:

The genus *Hybanthus* Jacq. has about 100 species distributed throughout tropics. In India, four species were reported viz. *H. enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell., *H. travancoricus* Melch., *H. vatsavayii* C.S. Reddy and *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Recently, *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. has been reported to be a new record for India by Venkat Ramana *et al.* (2011). An extensive and intensive survey of flora of Aghashiv Hills of Karad resulted into collection of *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst., which forms a new distributional record to Maharashtra State.

Hybanthus stellarioides (Domin) P.I. Forst., Muellera 8(1): 18. 1993. *H. enneaspermus* var. *stellarioides* Domin, Bibl. Bot. 89(4): 983. 1928. *H. Enneaspermus* subsp. *stellarioides* (Domin) E.M. Benn., Nuytsia 1(3): 229. 1972; George, Fl. Australia 8: 103. 1982.

Annual, 15 – 30 cm tall. Stem erect, hairy; Leaves simple, alternate, linear or linear to lanceolate, 1.5 - 7 x 0.1- 0.5 cm, attenuate at base, acute at apex, sparsely hairy; stipules, 1 – 2 mm long, linear densely hairy; Flowers solitary, axillary; peduncle filiform 5- 7 mm long; pedicels 1- 2 mm long; bracts triangular, margin ciliate. Sepals 5, ovate-lanceolate, subequal, 2.5 – 4 mm long, acuminate, hairy. Petals 5, unequal; upper oblong, 3 – 4 mm long, pale yellow; lateral 2 falcate, 2 – 3 mm long, pale yellow; lower spatulate limb with a claw; 5 - 10 mm, bright orange; claw 3 - 4 mm long. Stamens 5, 2.5 - 3 mm; filaments free; anterior 2 filaments with hairy appendages; anthers connate, 2 of them villous, others glabrous. Ovary glabrous; ovules 6 – 9; style suberect; stigma flat. Capsules 3-angled, 4 – 6 mm long, 3-valved, with remnant petals; seeds 6 – 9, ellipsoid, 1.5- 2 mm long, longitudinally ribbed, glabrous, pale yellow.

Table 1: Difference between *Hybanthus stellarioides* and *Hybanthus enneaspermus*

| Sr. No. | <i>Hybanthus stellarioides</i> | <i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> |
|---------|--|--|
| 1 | Un-branched erect stem with antrorse divaricate hairs | Profusely branched herb with woody base, branches ascending with spreading hairs |
| 2 | Leaves linear or linear-lanceolate, margins entire with occasional tooth, recurved | Oblong-lanceolate, margins subentire to crenate-serrate |
| 3 | Stipules 1 – 2 mm long, densely hairy | stipules 3 – 4 mm long, sparsely hairy |
| 4 | Corolla bright orange, turning blood red | Corolla rose-coloured, turning dark purplish |
| 5 | anthers connate | free |