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Morpho taxonomic studies of some selected members of Family Acanthaceae from Shri Shivaji College Campus, Parbhani (M.S)

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Abstract

In Parbhani this family is represented by Genus *Adhatoda*, *Barleria*, *Ecbolium*, *Justicia* is commonly reported from Shri Shivaji College (SCP) campus Parbhani. The current paper Focus on morphotaxonomic studies of these genera. The present study deals with the morpho-taxonomic investigation of selected members of the family Acanthaceae recorded from the campus of Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani (Maharashtra). A systematic field survey was conducted during the academic year 2022–23 to document and identify species belonging to this family. Plant specimens were collected, examined, and identified using standard floras and taxonomic literature. The study revealed the occurrence of four genera namely *Adhatoda*, *Barleria*, *Ecbolium*, and *Justicia*, comprising five species within the study area. Detailed morphological and taxonomic characteristics such as habit, leaf arrangement, floral structure, and fruit morphology were analyzed for proper identification and classification. The findings highlight the botanical diversity of the college campus and emphasize the importance of morpho-taxonomic studies in plant identification, conservation, and documentation of local flora. The study contributes to the understanding of plant biodiversity and provides baseline data for future taxonomic and ecological research in the region.

Keywords: Morphology, taxonomy, Acanthaceae, *Adhatoda*, *Barleria*, *Ecbolium*, *Justicia*

Introduction:

Shri Shivaji College is located at Latitude-19.25 and Longitude 76.78 in Parbhani district. It has diversity of Phanerogams belonging to Angiosperms, Gymnosperms and Cryptogams includes some of the members of Bryophyte and Pteridophytes. The Angiospermic plants more than 100 species were recorded from study area belonging to 40 Families of Angiosperms (Sabiha V Syed, 2018). The current survey was made in the Academic year 2022–23 for members of Family Acanthaceae out of 250 genera from SCP Campus 04 genera with 05 species were recorded current paper Focus on morpho taxonomic studies on some of the selected genera of Acanthaceae including: *Adhatoda*, *Barleria*, *Ecbolium*, *Justicia*, of these selected plants from SCP Campus, Parbhani. The members mostly herbs, shrubs; leaves opposite decussate, exstipulate, inflorescence cymose, flowers bracteate, bracteolate, zygomorphic, hermaphrodite, hypogynous; calyx five or 4 gamosepalous, corolla pentapartite, gamopetalous, often bilipped; stamens 4 to 2 didynamous, polyandrous, epipetalous; carpels two, syncarpous, ovary superior, axile placentation, style simple, stigma bilobed; fruit loculicidal capsule, seeds non-endospermic with junculators.

Material and Method

The survey of selected area was conducted by visiting several times in the year 2022–23. Plants belonging to Acanthaceae were collected and identified with the help of floras and Books like Naik 1998, Bhandari 1929, Kokate et.al 1990, Chopra 1996.

Results and Discussion

The present research work is based on the local knowledge of most commonly used plants of Acanthaceae family. In our present study total 04 genera, 05 species were morphotaxonomically identified & each plant species is provided with its scientific name, local name is described as follow.

1) Botanical name: *Adhatoda zylanica medic* **Common name:** Adulsa

Taxonomic description: - It is a firm, evergreen, much-spread enduring bush, 1.226m tall leaves with inverse, elliptic-lanceolate or praise lanceolate, 5 to 30cm long, bushy, light green color above, dim underneath. Blossoms huge, white with red or yellow-banished throats, borne incompact, axillary, pedunculate demonstrates hatred for with enormous bracts. Natural products (container) clavate, longitudinally directed, 1.9 to 2.2cm long and 0.8cm wide, pubescent. Seeds globular.

2) **Botanical name:** *Barleria prionitis* L. **Common name:-Kate Koranti**

Taxonomic description: - It is a much branched shrubs or undershrub, 0.5-1.5m tall, armed with white, sharp thorns often forming clusters; stem glabrous. Leaves elliptic-oblong, 9-15 and 4-6cm, tapering at base, entire, acuminate and often bristles-tipped, glabrous above, pubescent beneath especially when young; sharp thorns. Flower solitary, axillary or terminal short spikes, bracts foliaceous, oblong-lanceolate, acute, bracteoles linear-subulate, 10-12mm long, outer sepals unequal, oblong lanceolate, 8-12mm long, the inner ones narrower and shorter than outer sepals, corolla orange yellow in colour, tube broad, 2-2.5cm long. Seeds 4, appressed hairy.

3) **Botanical name:-*Ecbolium viride*** **Common name:-Hirwi Aboli**

Taxonomic description: - Woody undershrub, with long creeping rhizome; stem terete, thickened above the nodes. Leaves opposite, 3-4 x 2-2.5 cm. Flowers terminal spikes; bracts shortly aristate, broadly ovate, minutely dentate, shortly acuminate, 2 x 1.5 cm. Calyx 5-partite, connate below. Corolla tube very long and slender, bluish-green; limb 2-lipped, the upper lip narrow, shortly 2-fid, the lower 3-lobed with broad pendent lobes. Stamens 2, attached near the top of the tube; anthers 2 celled, parallel. Fruit an ovoid compressed capsule narrowed into a solid stalk; seeds on curved retinacula.

4) **Botanical name:- *Justicia diffusa* Willd** **Common name:-Santapau**

Taxonomic description: - Small, decumbent herbs; stem 10-30cm tall, slightly Woody below, much branched, sub quadrangular. Leaves broadly elliptic, 1.5-3.5 to 0.8-1.5 cm, acute; petioles 5-10mm long. Flowers in axillary and terminal narrow spikes 3-15cm; bract ovate, 1-1.5mm long acuminate, Calyx 2.5-3mm long, 4 partite to the base teeth lanceolate, acute. Corolla pink, 3.5-4mm long, 2 lipped; lobes short, obtuse. Capsules elliptic oblong, 4-5mm long, pointed grooved on the back, glabrous. Seeds 4, orbicular, 1mm in diameter.

5) **Botanical name: - *Justicia procumbens*** **Common name:-Rostellaria procumbens**

Taxonomic description: - Diffuse herbs, profusely branched. Leaves 4-6 x 2-3 cm, ovate, acute at both ends, hispid, nerves 5 pairs; petiole 1 cm long. Spikes 1-2.5 x 1 cm, terminal, oblong; bracts 5 x 1.5 mm, with green midrib; bracteoles linear. Flowers many; calyx lobes 3.5 mm long, lanceolate, ciliate; corolla 7 mm long, hairy with pink lines, upper lip 2-lobed. Capsule 5 x 2 mm, glabrous. Seeds 1x 1 mm. brown color.



1) *Adhatoda zylanica*



2) *Barleria prionitis*



3) *Ecbolium viride*



4) *Justicia diffusa*



5) *Justicia procumbens*

Photos of some selected members of Acanthaceae

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