

## **CENSUS OF THE FAMILY CONVULVULACEAE IN NANDURBAR DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present paper reports 32 species under 10 genera of Convolvulaceae from Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. *Ipomoea* is the largest genus with 17 species followed by *Convolvulus* with three species, *Merremia* with eight species of the family Convolvulaceae. The family comprises annual and perennial, prostrate, twinning and trailing herbs. While four taxa are shrubs. Habit, phenology and frequency of occurrence of the taxa investigated along with their updated nomenclature are presented.

**Keywords:** *Convolvulaceae, Nandurbar District*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Nandurbar district is situated in Northern part of the state of Maharashtra bordering the state Gujrat and Madhya Pradesh. It is the most tribal district of Khandesh. As near about 70 % of population is of tribal peoples. The tribes inhabiting the district are Bhil, Pawara, Tadvi, Mavachi, Kokani. They are mainly dependent on forest products and living in satpuda mountain. The family Convolvulaceae consists of 50 genera and more than 1200 species. They are generally herbaceous or shrubby climbers and rarely erect. Plants are usually laticiferous and have leaves simple, flowers hypogynous, pentamerous, regular and bisexual. The fruits are mostly loculicidal capsules, rarely fleshy or indehiscent. (Lawrence, 1951). The present authors while working on Convolvulaceae, collected plant species and information and plants were identified by using various floras (Cook, 1958), (Singh, 2000, 2001), (Patil, 2003).

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The plant materials were procured from various places like Toranmal, Amblibari, Leghapani and Kakarda and other places of Nandurbar districts. The field work carried out in different seasons encompassing every nook and corner of the district. The data pertaining to botanical name, habit, flowering and fruiting period and occurrence were particularly noted during the study. Plants were identified by using, The Flora of Presidency of Bombay (Cook, 1958), Flora of Maharashtra State (Singh and Karthikeyan, 2000, 2001), Flora of Dhule and Nandurbar Districts (Maharashtra), (Patil, 2003).

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

*Evolvulus* taxa is a small, prostrate herb with solitary flowers. Though inflorescence usually a compound biparous cyme in *Ipomoea pres-tigridis* due to the suppression of branches of the second and third becomes monochasial cyme or even capitates head like cyme. *Ipomoea batatas* Lamk., the sweet potato is cultivated in many parts of India for the starchy tuberous roots. *Ipomea quamoclit* with scarlet flowers is cultivated as ornamental garden plant; other garden plants belong to various species of *Ipomoea*, e.g. *Ipomea cairica*, *Ipomea aquatic*. *Argyria strigosa* and *Operculina turpethum* are quite rare in the district. The family has received fair attention in various domains of endomorphology, apart from its exomorphology.

However, the results of such researches are not collated and evaluated together. Instead, they have been sometimes assessed independently (Tayade and Patil, 2010, 2012). The present authors, while extending

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vegetative anatomical observations on the family, also assessed the Convolvulaceae and its alliance synthetically.

**Table I: Enumeration of convolvulaceae taxa**

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Habit	Flowering and Fruiting Period	Frequency occurrence
1.	<i>Argyreia sericea</i> Dalz.	Silky hairy twinning herb	Sep. - Dec.	Occasional, Endemic
2.	<i>Argyreia strigosa</i> (Roth) Roberts	Climbing herb	Sep. - Dec.	Rare
3.	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	Twinning herb	Oct. – Feb	Common weed
4.	<i>Convolvulus prostrates</i> Forsk.	Prostrate herb	Aug. – Dec.	Common
5.	<i>Convolvulus rottlerianus</i> Choisy.	Erect herb	Sept. – Nov.	Occasional
6.	<i>Evolvus alsinoides</i> (L.) L.	Trailing or ascending herb	Aug. – Dec.	Very common
7.	<i>Hewittia sublobata</i> (L.F.) O. Ktze.	Twinning or Prostrate herb	Sep. - Dec.	Occasional
8.	<i>Ipomoea aquatic</i> Forsk.	Twinning or Prostrate herb	Most period of Year	Occasional on margins of ponds, ditches
9.	<i>Ipomoea batata</i> (L.) Lamk	Creeping or twinning herb	Aug. – Oct.	Cultivated for tuberous roots
10.	<i>Ipomoea cairica</i> (L.) Sweet	Twinning herb	Almost throughout the year	Cultivated as an ornamental plant
11.	<i>Ipomoea cornea</i> Jacq.	Straggling or scandant shrub	More or less throughout the year	Common
12.	<i>Ipomoea dichroa</i> (Roem. and Schult) Choisy	Twinning herb	Aug. – Nov.	Occasional in open forest
13.	<i>Ipomoea eriocarpa</i> R.Br.	Hispid twinning herb	Sept. – Dec.	Occasional in open forest
14.	<i>Ipomoea heterifolia</i> L.	Glabrous twinning herb	Sept. – Dec.	Occasional along bank of rivers, stream, etc.
15.	<i>Ipomoea illusris</i> (Clarke) Prain.	Erect woody twinning herb	Oct. – Feb.	Common/Occasional in some places
16.	<i>Ipomoea nil</i> (L.) Roth.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Jan.	Common in hedges
17.	<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (L.) Ker.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Dec.	Common in hedges, along river bank
18.	<i>Ipomoea pres-tigridis</i> L.	Twinning or trailing herb	Aug. – Dec.	On hedges, among grasses.
19.	<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i> L.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Oct.	Planted in garden for ornamentation
20.	<i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i> Koen. ex Roxb.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Dec.	Occasional on hedges or among bushes
21.	<i>Ipomoea sindica</i> Stapf.	Trailing, Hirsute herb	Aug. – Dec.	Common in open forest, among grasses

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22.	<i>Ipomoea sinensis</i> (Desr.) Choisy	Twinning herb	Aug. – Dec.	Common on bushes, hedges, in open forest
23.	<i>Ipomoea triloba</i> L.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Nov.	Naturalised along the roads, on hedges
24.	<i>Ipomoea turbinata</i> Lagasca, Gen..	Twinning herb	Sept. – Nov.	Throughout on hedges, along roads
25.	<i>Merremia aegyptica</i> (L.) Urb.	Twinning herb	Sept. – Dec.	Among bushes and shrubs
26.	<i>Merremia dissecta</i> (Jacq.) Hall.	Twinning herb	Aug. – Dec.	Occasional on hedges, along road, in waste places, on bushes
27.	<i>Merremia emarginata</i> (Burm. F.) Hall	Prostrate herb	Aug. – Nov.	A weed in cultivated fields and wastelands
28.	<i>Operculina turpethum</i> (L.) S. Manso.	Twinning herb	Feb. – Apr.	It is very rare in the district
29.	<i>Porana paniculata</i> Roxb.	Twinning shrub	Oct. – Mar	Rare, Naturalized at some places
30.	<i>Rivea hypocrateriformis</i> (Desr.) Choisy	Woody twinning shrub	Aug. – Dec.	Fairly common along roads and boundaries of fields
31.	<i>Rivea ornata</i> Choisy.	Twinning shrub	Jul. – Oct.	It is rare but recorded at few places
32.	<i>Cuscuta chinensis</i> Lamk.	Parasitic herb	Sept. – Nov.	Common on herbs, shrubs and trees

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