

Hibiscus lunariifolius AND *Naravelia zeylanica* NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS FOR TELANGANA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Hibiscus lunariifolius Willd. and *Naravelia zeylanica* (L.) DC. are reported as new distributional record for the newly formed state, Telangana. Detailed description, ecology and photographs are provided.

KEYWORDS : Eastern Ghats, Nallamala Hills, New Distributional Record

During recent floristic explorations in Nallamala hill of Eastern Ghats, the authors could collect some interesting specimens of genus, *Hibiscus* (Malvaceae) and *Naravelia* (Ranunculaceae). After critical examination they were identified as *Hibiscus lunariifolius* Willd. and *Naravelia zeylanica* (L.) DC.. Thorough perusal of literature (Ellis, 1987; Raghava and S. R. , 1989; Pullaiah and Chennaiah, 1997; Pullaiah and Muralidhara, 2002; Pullaiah & Karuppasamy, 2008; Pullaiah, 2015) revealed that the species are so far not been recorded from Telangana state. A detailed description and photographs of the species are provided here for easy identification both species.

Hibiscus lunariifolius Willd., Sp. Pl. 3:811. 1800; Fl. Pres. Madras 1:98, 1915; Fl. AP. 1:125. 1997. Figure 1.

Annual erect herbs, 2-4 m high; stems terete, simple-stellate hairy, glabrous at maturity. Leaves membranous, upper 3-lobed, lower 3-5-lobed, orbicular-ovate, 3-15 × 1-10 cm, acute-acuminate at apex, cordate-rounded at base, margins coarsely serrate-dentate, sparsely-densely hairy on both surfaces; hairs simple-stellate (3-brachiate); petioles 1-15 cm long, sparsely hairy; stipules subulate, 0.5-1.5 cm long, setaceous. Flowers axillary, solitary, rarely in racemes; pedicels 0.5-1 cm long, stout, densely pubescent. Epicalyx lobes 5, persistent, linear, alternating with calyx lobes, 1-2 × 0.1-0.2 cm, minutely hairy or glabrous. Calyx companulate, connate below the middle with wide round sinuses in between; black patch at above the sinus at both margins; lobes convolute, obovate, 0.5-1 × 0.3-0.6 cm, rounded at apex, densely pubescent outside, glabrous inside. Corolla yellow with dark purple

centre; petals obovate, 5-8 cm, sparsely pubescent outside, glabrous inside. Staminal column 2-3 cm long, antheriferous throughout. Ovary ovate-oblong, 0.5-0.8 cm long, pubescent; stigma densely pubescent. Capsules beaked, sub globes-obovate, 2-2.5 × 1.8-2 cm, rostrum 0.3-0.5cm long, densely hairy outside, glabrous inside; dehiscing into 5 valves; seeds reniform, 5-10 in each locule, 0.2-0.3 cm across, sparsely minute stellate scaly, blackish brown.

ECOLOGY

Rarely growing in edges of dry deciduous forests in shady localities.

Representative Specimens

Umamaheswaram, Mahabubnagar District.

Flowering & Fruiting

October-January.

Distribution

World: Africa, Malaysia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka; India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu); Telangana: Mahabubnagar district.

Naravelia zeylanica (L.) DC. Syst.1:167. 1817; Gamble 1:3(3). 1915; Fl. AP 1:64. 1997. *Atrage zeylanica* L., Sp. Pl. 542. 1753 (Figure 2).

Climbing shrubs, to 5 m high. Stems sparsely hairy. Leaves 3-foliolate; terminal leaflet modified as a tendril; lateral leaflets coriaceous, ovate-lanceolate, 4.5-8 × 3-5 cm, acute at apex, cordate at base, 5-nerved, glabrous above, pubescent below. Flowers axillary or terminal panicles, greenish-yellow; sepals 4-5, deciduous, green; petals 6-12, pale white-yellow; stamens 25-30, staminodes

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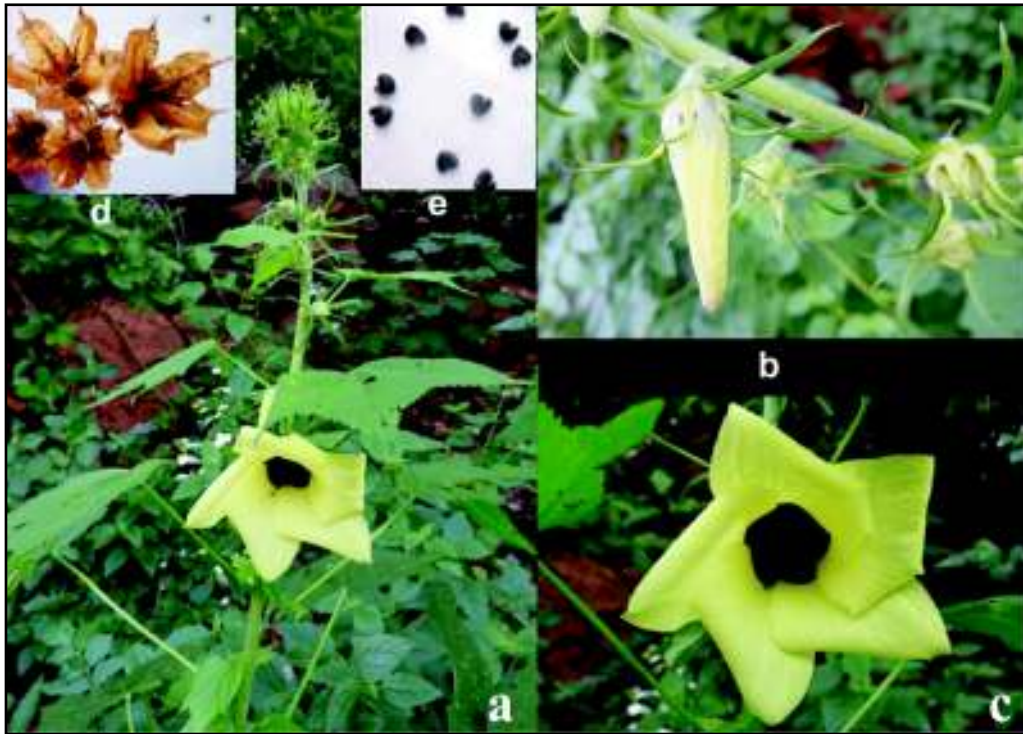


Figure 1 : *Hibiscus lunariifolius* Wild
a. Habit b. Flower bud c. Flower d. Fruits e. Seeds



Figure 2 : *Naravelia zeylanica* (L.) DC Plant with Fruits

petaloid, feathery, twisted in fruit; carpels-20, 1-ovuled. Achenes narrow, stalked, prolonged into a feathery style, style persists in fruit as a twisted pilose tail.

Habitat

Occasional in growing in shady localities of moist and dry deciduous forests.

Representative Specimens

Saleswaram, Mahabubnagar District, M. Sharath Goud & B. Sadasivaiah, 2122.

Flowering & Fruiting

October-April.

Distribution World

Java, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. India: Throughout; Telangana: Mahabubnagar district.

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