



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ARGEMONE OCHROLEUCA SWEET. (PAPAVERACEAE), A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD FROM PALAMU DIVISION OF JHARKHAND, (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with an addition of new taxa of flowering plant to the flora of Palamu division of Jharkhand State. Updated information on nomenclature, correct description and locality is provided. This is a new distributional record for this area.

Key words:

Argemone ochroleuca Sweet., Palamu Division, Jharkhand, New distributional record.

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INTRODUCTION

Jharkhand is a recently formed State of India, which is separated from original Bihar State. One of the important division of Jharkhand is Palamu with three districts i. e. Palamu, Garhwa and Latehar. The whole division is having rich forest area with Angiospermic diversity. The floristic studies in this area are very few (Haines, 1925, Sarma and Sarkar, 2002). Some additions are being made to the flora of this area (Jasbir Bagga, 2016 and 2017).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During a recent exploration forest of Palamu district, the occurrence of a new exotic taxa *Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet. (Papaveraceae) was noted. The colonies of this plant were seen at Khohari, Chainpur, Daltonganj (Palamu), along with *Argemone Mexicana* L. (the common yellow flowered, prickly poppy). The plants were collected and identified by pertinent literature (Almeida-1998, S.Reddy and Patnaik- 2002, Bhuktar and Sardesai-2009). After critical investigations the plant is identified as *A. ochroleuca* Sweet., the voucher specimens were deposited in the herbarium of department of Botany, N.P. University, Daltonganj, Jharkhand and Department

of Botany, Baliram Patil College, Kinwat, Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra, India. Correct and updated citation, a short description along with phenology, G.P.S. and photograph (Plate-1) are presented herewith.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description: *Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet. Brit. Fl. Gard 242. (1829). Ownbey in Mem. Tom. Bot. Club 21 (1):1-149. 1955; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi. 55, (1965); Nair in Rec. Bot. Surv.India 21 (1); 7-8, 1978, Debnath and Nayar, Fl. India 2-5, 1993. (Papaveraceae), Diwakar et al. (2002), in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 26 (1): 117-118. An erect prickly glaucous herb, usually 35-40 cm tall; young stem whitish purple or violaceous, fading with age; prickles 6-9 mm long, with broader base. Leaves sessile, amplexicaul, basal leaves forming a rosette, upper alternate, variegated with white, 10-30 cm long, 4-10 cm broad, sinuate-pinnatifid; segments incised dentate, with sharp yellowish spines on the margin, midrib and the veins beneath; midrib and the veins on the lower side purplish blue; Flowers solitary axillary, white or creamish white, becoming yellowish on fading, 2.5-3 cm across, sessile or on a short pedicel, subtended by 2-3 foliaceous bracts; bracts 2-4 cm long c. 5 mm broad. Sepals 3, obovate oblong, with horn as long as the body, 8-10 mm long, 5-7 mm broad. Petals 6, obovate, 2.8-3 cm long, c. 1.8 mm broad. There are numerous stamens, stamens 7-10 mm

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long; anthers oblong, recurved. Ovary ovate, 8-10 mm long, 5 mm broad, covered with long pointed spines. Stigma deeply dissected, 5 lobed, reddish brown with an obscure style. Capsule oblong, 3-4 cm long, 1.5-2 cm broad, covered with sharp, erect prickles. Seeds numerous black, rounded, 1.5-2 mm in diameter, with fine reticulae.

Distribution: Specimens examined- colonies of this plant near dried water bodies and waste lands of Khohari, Chainpur, Daltonganj (Palamu), Jharkhand, India.

G.P.S.-Latitude: 24°0033'N & **Longitude:** 84°0005'E at Khohari (Chainpur) of Palamu District, State Jharkhand, India.

Phenology: Flowering and fruiting between February to May.

Remark: This species is native of Mexico and it is very much similar to *Argemone mexicana* L. it has been detected in Punjab and Delhi (Maheshwari, 1963), In south it is observed in Andhra Pradesh and other parts (Ganesh Babu et al., 2006 and Reddy & Pattanaik, 2007) and in Maharashtra, it is detected in Marathwada region (Bhuktar and Sardesai, 2009).



Plate 1. Photo of *Argemone ochroleuca* Sweet

This differs from *Argemone mexicana* L. in leaf morphology, bigger size of flowers with white to creamish petals along with narrow but spreading lobes of stigma.

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