

FICUS AMPLISSIMA J.E. SM. IN REES, CYCLOP. 14 (MORACEAE): A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD TO ADILABAD DISTRICT OF TELANGANA STATE, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

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

Keywords: *Ficus amplissima* J.E., Moraceae, New Distributional Record, Adilabad District, Telangana

INTRODUCTION

Genus *Ficus* L. belonging to the family Moraceae comprises 755 species (van Noort & Rasplus, 2020). Chaudhary *et al.*, (2012) reported 115 taxa (89 species and 26 infraspecific taxa) of *Ficus* in India. Pullaiah *et al.*, (2018) reported 27 taxa of *Ficus* belonging to 26 species, of which 24 species are wild and three (*Ficus benghalensis* var. *krishnae* F. carica, *F. elastica*) are cultivated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the floristic survey of Adilabad district, collection of an interesting specimen belonging to the family Moraceae has been collected while going through the cross examination with the other species of *Ficus*, the specimen identified as *F. amplissima* J.E. Sm. Scrutiny of literatures revealed that this species has been distributed in northern Australia and other parts of Asia. The species is endemic in India and is commonly occurs in foothills of Himalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra (Karuppusamy *et al.*, 2013).

The critical revise of this specimen and pertinent literatures (Santapau, 1948, Pullaiah *et al.*, 1992; Pullaiah and Chennaiah, 1997; Almeida, 1998; exposed that the identity of the specimen as *F. amplissima* J.E. Sm. The authors concluded it as *Ficus amplissima* J.E. Sm. which has reports new distributional record for the Adilabad district of Telangana State. A concise taxonomical description along with phenology, distribution, nomenclature and photographs are provided here. The processed specimen (Voucher No. 292) of the plant is deposited in the Department of Botany, Baliram Patil Arts, Commerce and Science College, Kinwat, Nanded District, Maharashtra, India.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Taxonomic Description:

Ficus amplissima J. E. Sm., Rees Cyclop. 14: Ficus no. 68. 1810; Miq., Hook. London J. Bot. 6: 580. 1847 & Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugd.-Bat. 3: 287. 1867; King, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. (Calcutta) 1: 179. 1888; Corner, Gard. Bull. Singapore 18: 84. 1961 & in Dass & Forsb., Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 3: 242. 1981; Santapau & Janardhanan, Fl. Saurashtra 46. 1967; Singh *et al.*, Fl. Bihar 475. 2001.
F. indica Willd., Sp. Pl. 4: 1146. 1806.

Distributional Record (Open Access)

F. tsiela Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham., Trans. Linn. Soc. London 15: 149. 1826; Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3: 549. 1832; Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 2: 668. 1843; King in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 515. 1888; Brandis, Indian Trees 603. 1906.

Urostigma pseudotjiela Miq., Hook, London. J. Bot. 6: 566. 1847.

Ficus amplissima is a large evergreen or semi-deciduous tree with a widely spreading crown of over 10 m (33 ft). It can grow up to a height of 25 m (82 ft) in natural conditions and has a moderate to dense spread of aerial roots which are generally wrapped around top of the trunk. It has a trunk diameter of up to 2 m (6 ft 7 in). The leaves are broadly ovate elliptic-lanceolate to ovate-oblong in shape with a blunt or acute tip and an entire margin; the leaf base is acute-cuneate or rounded in shape. They are 5–14 cm (2.0–5.5 in) long and 2.5–9 cm (0.98–3.54 in) broad, with a 1.5–5 cm petiole. They are simple and occur alternately on branch, having a slender and grooved shape above and a glabrous, glandular shape at the apex below. The lamina is glabrous and coriaceous; trinerved from base, the midrib is raised above the leaf plane and lateral nerves are present in 8-10 parallel pairs, appearing prominently slender; the tertiary nerves are obscured and reticulate. The fruits are small stalkless figs 1–1.5 cm in diameter, light green initially, ripening to syconium red or purple, with smooth achenes. The bark of the trunk is thornless and greenish-gray with a blaze yellow reflection, with a smooth texture. It exudes a milky white latex exudate profusely. Branches and branchlets are terete in shape with a glabrous or puberulous surface covered with annular scars and a pale yellow tinge. Kavitha *et al.*, (2018).

Ficus amplissima typically begins as an epiphyte in the branch of a tree that grows aerial roots that can provide nutrients when they reach soil. The aerial roots can surround the trunk of the host tree, which, combined with the growth of *F. amplissima* in the branches, can eventually kill the host tree. "Tropical Plants Database" (2018).



Figure No. 1: *Ficus amplissima* J. E. Sm. Habit., Flowering twigs and Inflorescence.

Flowering & Fruiting: September and December

Specimens Examined: Adilabad Mahur road near Laximpur check post, Adilabad District, Telangana State, India.

G.P.S. Location: N “19702833”, E 78338573”

Collected by: E. Srinivas Reddy and Madhu on dated 02 November 2024. (Voucher No. 292).

Traditional uses:

It has been traditionally used in Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani medicine for the treatment of diabetes. The bark of the tree is a natural anti-diabetic and anti-oxidant medicine, reducing blood glucose levels. Arunachalam *et al.*, (2013). The phenol in leaves gives the foliage anti-inflammatory and wound healing properties. In native medicine, leaf juice is applied on chronic wounds and the latex is applied on fresh wounds. Arunachalam *et al.*, (2013). The figs are chewed and their juice is sucked to treat mouth ulcers. The leaves and branches of *F. amplissima* are used as fodder for cows, goats, and sheep. The wood is ideal for burning, India and thus is widely used as a fuelwood in rural areas. The raw or ripened fruits are used

to make pickles. The trunk produces hard and high quality timber that is used to build furniture. It is also used by rural farmers to make agriculture. Biodiversity Portal, 2018.

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