



## Research Article

## Two new additions to the flora of Telangana, India.

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**Abstract:** *Ipomoea triloba* L. and *Merremia dissecta* (Jacq.) Hallier f. are reported here as an addition to the flora of Telangana. Detailed descriptions and photo plates are provided to facilitate its easy identification.

**Keywords:** Convolvulaceae, *Ipomoea*, *Merremia*, new additions, Rangareddy, Telangana

## Introduction

While exploring the weed flora of Greater Hyderabad, the authors came across and collected two species of Convolvulaceae viz., *Ipomoea triloba* L. and *Merremia dissecta* (Jacq.) Hallier f. Perusal of literatures revealed that, these two species has so far been not reported from Telangana (1). Hence, both the species are reported here as new additions to the flora of Telangana.

## Taxonomic Treatment

*Ipomoea triloba* L. Sp. Pl. 1:161.1753; Magesh et al. in Zoo's Print 5: 24.2012. *Ipomoea blancoi* Choisy in DC., Prodr. 9: 389.1845.

Annual twining herbs; stems twining or sometimes prostrate, 1-3 m long, glabrous or sparsely hairy at the nodes. Leaves broadly ovate to orbicular in outline, rarely narrower, 3-9 × 2-8-8.5 cm, margin entire or coarsely dentate to more or less deeply 3-lobed, cordate at base, basal lobes rounded or angular, acute at apex, glabrous; petiole slender, 2.5-8 cm, glabrous. Inflorescences axillary, dense umbellate cymes, one to several flowered; peduncle shorter to longer than the petiole, 2-10 cm, glabrous, angular, minutely verrucose towards the apex; branches of the cyme very short, 7-10 mm long. Pedicels more or less angular, minutely verrucose, glabrous, 5-7.5 mm long. Bracts minute, oblong-lanceolate, 1.5 mm long, slightly recurved at apex. Sepals slightly unequal, 8-10 × 3-4 mm, the outer ones a slightly shorter, narrowly oblong, fimbriate along margin, obtuse or acute, mucronulate at apex, sparsely pilose on the back; inner sepals somewhat broader, elliptic-oblong, acute, mucronulate, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Corolla funnel-shaped, 18-20 mm long, glabrous, pink or pale purple, sometimes with darker centre; tube c. 15 mm long, 5-lobed; lobes 4.5-5 × 4-4.5 mm, obtuse, mucronulate at apex. Stamens included c. 10 mm long; filaments, unequal, 7-9 mm long,

hairy at the base; anthers 1-1.2 × 0.5 mm long. Pistil included, c. 11 mm long; ovary 1.5 × 1.2 mm, hairy; style 9 mm long; stigma 2-lobed, 0.7 × 1 mm. Capsule sub-globular, 5-6 × 7-8 mm, bristly hairy, apiculate, 2-celled, 4-valved, 4-seeded; seeds dark brown, 3-5 × 3-4 mm long, glabrous (Fig.1).

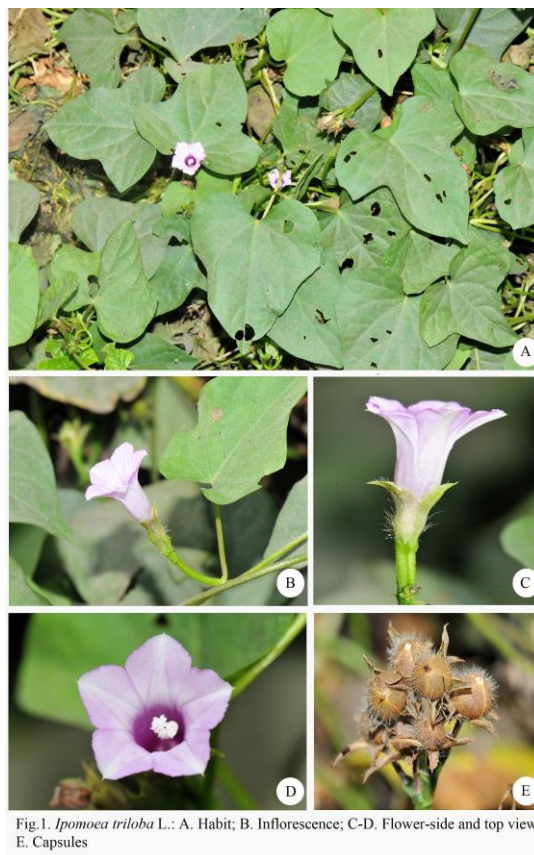


Fig.1. *Ipomoea triloba* L.: A. Habit; B. Inflorescence; C-D. Flower-side and top view; E. Capsules

**Flowering & Fruiting:** October-January.

**Habitat:** Common along waysides, waste places and hedges.

**Distribution:** World: Native of tropical America, now a circumtropical weed. India: Gujarat,

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Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and now from Telangana.

**Specimen examined:** Telangana, Rangareddy district, Near Herbal Garden, on the way to Aramghar, 17.312964° N, 78.423869° E, 539 m.a.s.l., 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, *J. Swamy* (4342), (BSID).

***Merremia dissecta*** (Jacq.) Hallier f., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 16 (4-5): 552. 1893; Gamble, Fl. Madras 928. 1923; *Convolvulus dissectus* Jacq., Obs. Bot. 2: 4. 28. 1767. *Ipomoea sinuata* Ortega in Nov. Rar. Pl. Descr. Dec. 84.1798; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 214. 1883.

Herbaceous twiner; stems slender, terete, striate, patently hirsute, glabrescent. Leaves alternate, palmately divided nearly to the base, with 5–7 lanceolate, mucronulate, sinuate, coarsely dentate to irregularly pinnately lobed segments, glabrous, the middle segment 4–7.5 cm long, 1–2.5 cm broad, the lateral ones and especially the basal ones smaller; petiole up to 7 cm long, patently hirsute. Inflorescence axillary, 1-to few-flowered, cymose; peduncles 5–10 cm long, patently hirsute, glabrescent in the upper portion hirsute; pedicels 1.5–2.5 cm long, thickened above, glabrous, minutely verrucose at the top. Flower-buds 1.5–2.5 cm long, narrow-ovoid, acute at apex. Sepals sub-equal, 2–2.5 cm long, ovate or oblong, mucronulate at apex, glabrous, herbaceous with narrow scarious margin, afterwards enlarged and coriaceous in fruit. Corolla 3–4 cm long, funnel-shaped, white, with a rose or purple throat, the limb with 5 distinct bands. Stamens 5, unequal, included; filaments 5–7 mm long, filiform, villous at base, glabrous towards apex; anthers up to 5 mm long, spirally twisted above the half. Disk cup-shaped. Pistil c. 2 cm long; ovary c. 1.5 x 1.5 mm long glabrous, 2-celled; style c. 8 mm long; stigma bilobed, globose. Capsule globose, 1–2 cm in diameter, glabrous, 4-valved, 4-seeded; seeds c. 1.2 x 0.8 mm, black, glabrous. (Fig. 2).

**Flowering & Fruiting:** August-January.

**Habitat:** Occasionally found in waste places and hedges.

**Distribution:** World: Probably indigenous to America (Southern United States, Central America, West Indies, South America to Argentina and Uruguay), becoming naturalized in Africa (Upper Guinea, Cordofan and Seychelles), Australia (Queensland), Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan and Saudi Arabia) as a garden escape (2). India: Throughout in warm places.

**Specimen examined:** Telangana, Rangareddy district, Professor Jaya Shankar Telangana State Agricultural University, 17.3377778° N, 78.4144444° E, 530 m.a.s.l., 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2016, *J. Swamy* (4339), (BSID).

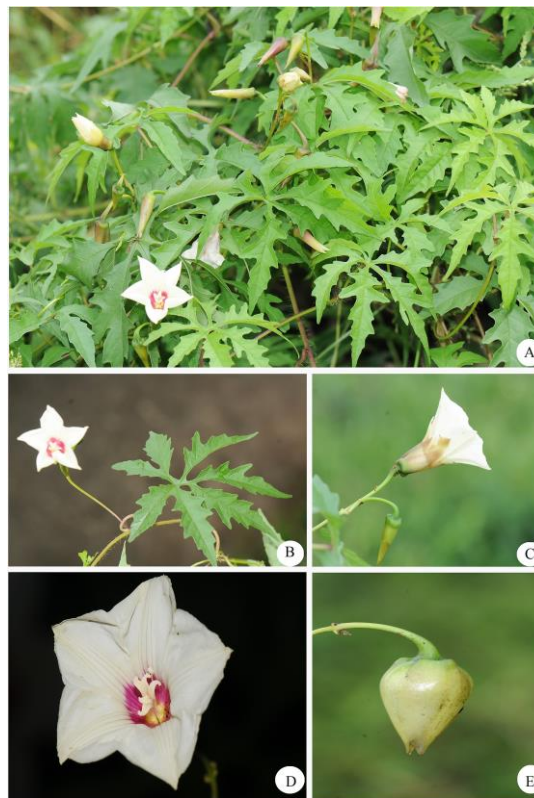


Fig.2. *Merremia dissecta* (Jacq.) Hallier f. : A. Habit; B-C. Inflorescence; D. Flower; E. Capsule

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**Conflict of interest:** Nil