



Research Article

***Typhonium inopinatum* Prain (Araceae): An addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh, India.**

Prameela Rapaka^{1*}, J. Swamy² and M. Venkaiah³

¹Department of Botany, M.R. Degree College, Vizianagaram-535002, Andhra Pradesh, India.

²Botanical Survey of India, Deccan Regional Centre, Hyderabad-500048, Telangana, India.

³Department of Botany, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam-530003, Andhra Pradesh, India.

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Abstract: *Typhonium inopinatum* Prain (Araceae) is reported here as an addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh, collected from Vizianagaram district. A detailed description and colour photographs are provided to facilitate identification.

Keywords: Addition, Andhra Pradesh, Araceae, *Typhonium*, Vizianagaram

Introduction

Typhonium Schott comprises c. 69 species distributed in Mongolia to Tropical Asia and Australia (1). In India the genus is represented by 10 species and 3 varieties (2). During botanical explorations in Vizianagaram district, the authors have collected a *Typhonium* species in flower from two localities viz., Bogguladibba and collectrate area in vizianagaram town, which was later identified as *Typhonium inopinatum* Prain. Scrutiny of literatures revealed that this species has been so far reported from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal (3), Maharashtra (4,5) and recently reported from South India (6) not from Andhra Pradesh. Hence, it is reported here as a new addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh (7, 8). A detailed description and colour photographs are provided to facilitate identification.

Taxonomic treatment

Typhonium inopinatum Prain in King & Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal Pt. 2. Nat. Hist. 67: 301. 1898 & Bengal Pl. 1107. 1903; Engl., Pflanzenr. 73 (IV. 23F):116. 1920; Anand Kumar *et al.* in Rheedeia 24 (2): 120. 2014; Jagannath & Chaturvedi in Biosci. Disc. 6 (2): 89. 2015; Rasingam & Swamy in Indian J. Forest. 40 (4): 401-402. 2017. T. khandwaense Mujaffar *et al.*, Biosci. Disc. 4: 25. 2013.

Tuberous perennial herbs to 10–45 cm high; tubers sub-cylindric, globose, 1–3 × 0.8–1.5 cm. Leaves ovate to triangular or hastate, 5–14 × 4–10 cm; basal lobes orbicular, margin entire, acute to acuminate at apex; secondary veins 6–10 per side; petioles 25–30 cm long, green. Inflorescence solitary, monoecious; peduncles much shorter than petioles, c. 2.5 cm long. Spathes globose to ovoid, convolute tube and an apical limb with a constriction between the two, greenish with light purple externally; tube 0.8–1.5 cm long; limb narrowly ovate to lanceolate, 5.5–7 × 1.2–2 cm, margins entire, acuminate, recurved, coiled apically, glabrous, green with dark purple internally. Spadix 4.3–9 cm long; basal pistillate zone followed by a zone of sterile flowers, a naked zone or interstice, a staminate zone and a terminal barren appendix. Both pistillate and sterile flower zones are enclosed by basal tube of spathe. Pistillate zone conical, 3–3.5 mm long, greenish; flowers sessile, 1–1.5 mm long; ovary ellipsoid, 1–1.3 mm long, glabrous; style very short; stigma disc-shaped, glabrous. Sterile flower zone yellow, 2–4.5 mm long; sterile flowers filiform, entire, decurved, each 2.5–4 mm long, partially covering pistillate flower zone. Naked zone 6–9 mm long. Staminate zone cylindric, 5–9 × 2–3 mm, pale yellow; flowers sessile, 0.5–1 mm long with 2 thecae; dehiscence by apical short slits or pores. Appendix 4–6 cm long, yellow, yellowish-brown. (Fig. 1)

*Corresponding Author:


Dr. R. Prameela,

Head, Department of Botany,

M.R. Degree college,

Vizianagaram-535002, Andhra Pradesh, India.

E-mail: prameelachris@yahoo.com

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Flowering & fruiting: May – November.

Habitat: Rarely found in shady habitats and open wet sandy soils.

Distribution: India: Andhra Pradesh (present report), Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Myanmar and Thailand.

Specimen examined: Andhra Pradesh, Vizianagaram district, Vizianagaram town, Boggula dibba, N 18.11388889° E 83.39194444°, 74 m, 3rd September 2017 R.Prameela & J.Swamy 009256 (BSID); Vizianagaram town, Collectroate area, N 18.11873889° E 83.38611111°, 76 m, 3rd September, 2017, R. Prameela & J.Swamy 009257 (BSID).

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