



***Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson (Acanthaceae): An addition to the Flora of Banaskantha, North Gujarat, India**

S.A. Patel^{1*}, M.C. Makwana¹, S.Y. Dabgar² and Y.B. Dabgar¹

¹ R. R. Mehta College of Science and C. L. Parikh College of Commerce, Palanpur, Gujarat

² St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Abstract: *Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson (Acanthaceae), is recorded here for first time in Banaskantha district based on review of research in North Gujarat. In North Gujarat this species has not been recorded in Flora of Banaskantha. A detailed description and photographic illustration are provided to facilitate easy and correct identification.

Keywords: *Hygrophila polysperma*; Acanthaceae; Banaskantha; North Gujarat; Addition

Introduction

The genus *Hygrophila* belonging to Acanthaceae contains approximately 80 species of which many are aquatic plants, most of occur in the tropics (Spencer and Bowes, 1985) of the world. In India *Hygrophila* represented by 9 species out of them 3 species *H. auriculata*, *H. salicifolia* and *H. serpyllum* were reported in Gujarat (Shah, 1978). *Hygrophila* commonly known as Swamp weeds.

During November 2019 research related floristic survey, at Ganji-ghoda village of Amirghadh taluka, in Banaskantha district (Figure 1) the authors collected unknown specimens of *Hygrophila* species. On critical study of these specimens using relevant taxonomic literature (Shah, 1978; Cooke, 1903), online e-floras (efloraofindia) and illustrations, the specimens were identified as *Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson. Exploration of floristic literature (Dabgar, 2008; Patel, 2008; Meena, 2012) revealed that this species has not been recorded from whole Banaskantha till date. Therefore, *Hygrophila polysperma* we report here the additional report of the state of Gujarat. A detailed taxonomic description and photographs of diagnostic characters (Figure 2) of the species is provided here to November 2019 this record

for Banaskantha and facilitate its easy field identification.

***Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson**, in Journ. Linn. Soc. 9:456. 1867; FBI 4:406; C 2:429; Ch & O 175.

Distribution: INDIA, Gujarat, Banaskantha.

Diffusely and profusely branched aquatic sometimes terrestrial annual herbs *Stem* some time submerged, hairy, cylindrical, reddish colours, node region swollen, 15 – 30 cm long, pubescent, stoloniferous, young branches erect (Figure 2: A & B). *Leaves* simple, opposite decussate, oblong, hairy, 2-4 cm × 1-1.5 cm, sessile to sub-sessile, entire margin, apex obtuse. *Inflorescence* axillary, 2.5 to 5 cm, many flowered. *Flower* bisexual, flower 0.6 to 0.8 cm, purple white colour, bracts 2, obovate, obtuse, 0.2-0.5 cm to 0.1-0.2 cm, bracts larger than the flower, flower opening time 10:00 to 10:45 am (Figure 2: C). *Sepal* 5 united at base, hairy, shorter than the bracts (Figure 2: D). *Petal* 5 united, 3+2, purple white, 0.4 to 0.6 cm, tube short, upper part short. *Stamen* 2, free, innate, 0.2 to 0.3 cm. *Ovary* 2 lobed, syncarpous, stigma clavate (Figure 2: C), 0.4 to 0.5 cm, ovary 0.1 to 0.2 cm. *Fruit* capsule, leculicidal, 0.4 to 0.7 cm, seed minute, globose (Figure 2: F).

*Corresponding Author:

S.A. Patel,

E-mail: sanjoo1990live@gmail.com



Figure 1. Study area;

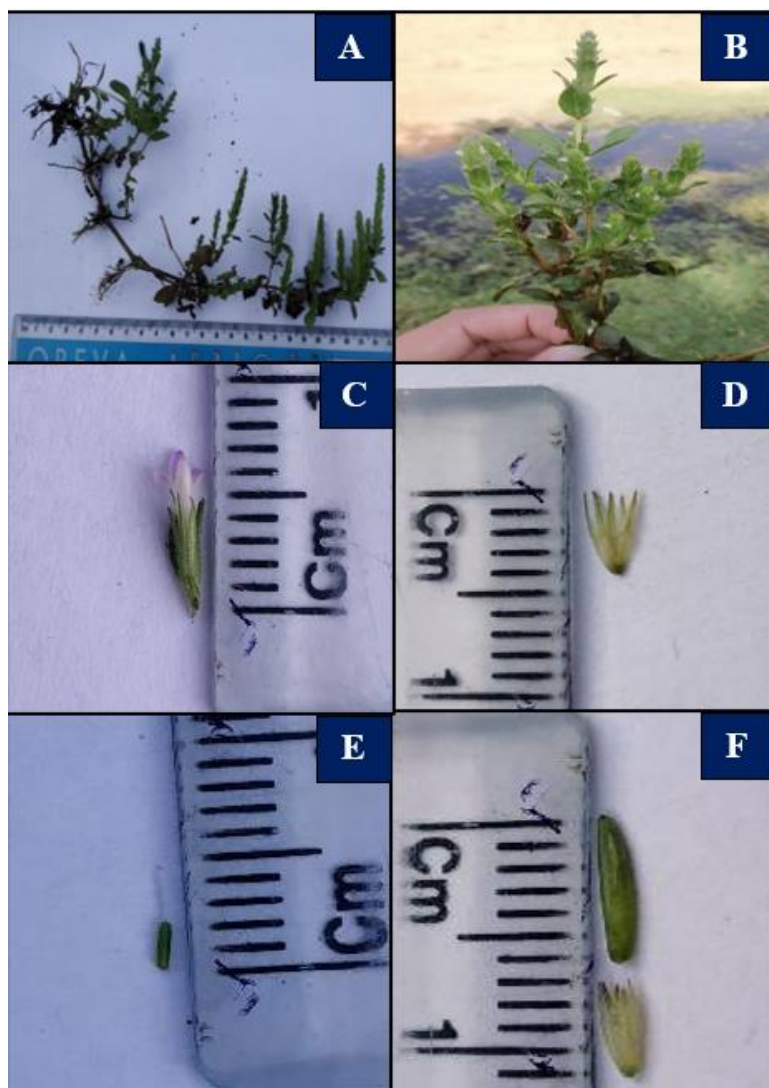


Figure 2. *Hygrophila polysperma* (Roxb.) T. Anderson

A. Plant size B. Vegetative Phase
C. Flower D. Calyx E. Stigma F. Fruit

Flowering and Fruiting time: October - February

Habitat: It is an aquatic, mostly submerged and sometime grown on moist soil.

Locality: Banaskantha, North Gujarat, India.

Latitude: 24.2958° N, **Longitude:** 72.6693° E.

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