

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Ficus capulata Haines (Moraceae) new record Chhindwara district, Satpura region of Madhya - Pradesh, India

■ Omkar Bawistale

SUMMARY

The main aim of present study is to explore the documentation of plant diversity of Chhindwara district, Satpura region Madhya Pradesh, India. In Madhya Pradesh about 48 genera and 1200 species; tropical and subtropical regions, few in temperate zone; 6 genera and 33 species of family Moraceae (Mudgal *et al.*, 1997 and Khanna *et al.*, 2001). *Ficus capulata* Haines (Moraceae) was collected and reported for the first time from Chhindwara district Madhya Pradesh India. The present work embodies a detailed description, GPS location; photographs facilitate identification and confirmation of the species in this area.

Key Words : *Ficus capulata*, New record, Chhindwara district, Satpura region, Madhya Pradesh, India

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The Satpura range is a range of hills in central India. The range rises in eastern Gujarat state near the Arabian Sea coast, running east through Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. The range parallels the Vindhya range to the north, and these two east-west ranges divided the Indo -Gangetic plain of northern India and Pakistan from the Deccan Plateau to the south.

Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh India

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housed number of tribal communities and their tribal's are poor living in hardship but many have good knowledge of plants. Chhindwara district situated in the Satpura region of Madhya-Pradesh state is dotted by dense forest, deep valleys and thundering water falls. Many a location like Tamia valley, Patalkot, Sillewani Ghat, water falls at Kukdi khapa and Lilahi provide a feast to the eyes of visitors. The district bears a fine and distinct culture. Chhindwara district was formed on 1st November 1956. It is located on the South-West region of 'Satpura Range of Mountains'. It is spread from 21^o28' to 22^o49' Deg. North (longitude) and 78^o10' to 79^o28' Deg. East (latitude) and spread over an area of 11,815 sq. km. This district is bound by the plains of Nagpur district (in Maharashtra

State) on the South, Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur district on the north, Betul district on west and Seoni district on the east. Chhindwara district ranks 10th in area in Madhya-Pradesh state and occupies 2.67% of the area of the state.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Fields trips were made in the Chhindwara district and valuable information was collected on the basis of interviews with experienced people of various communities and medicine men as Gond, Bharia and Pandas. *Ficus capulata* Haines (Moraceae) was collected and reported for the first time from Chhindwara district Madhya Pradesh India. The present work embodied a detailed description, GPS location; photographs facilitate identification and confirmation of the species by perusal of literature (Brandis, 1907; Duthie, 1903-1929; Mukherjee, 1984; Maheshwari, 1963; Ommachan, 1977 and Mudgal *et al.*, 1977).

Collection, identification and herbarium preparation:

Throughout the field trips, the plants were collected and brought to the laboratory. Collected specimens were pressed and dried for preparation of herbarium (Jain and Rao, 1976). Plants were identified with the help of flora of Madhya Pradesh and available literature (Kumar, 2005; Verma *et al.*, 1993; Mudgal *et al.*, 1977; Khanna *et al.*, 2001 and Jain and Rao, 1976) and compared with already identified plant specimens at herbarium of Department of Botany. Govt. Science College Sausar, District Chhindwara deposited there for future references.

Taxonomy:

Ficus capulata Haines in Kew Bull. 1914; 155; 1914.

Shrubs or small trees, 2-5 m high. Aerial roots not present. Leaves alternate, ovate, cuspidate-obtuse at apex, cordate at base, entire puberulous, basal nerves 5; petiolate 2-3 cm long; stipules 2 cm long. Receptacles in clusters, sessile, subglobose, purple on ripening, pubescent when young; basal bracts copular, 2-3 lobed. Male and gall flowers in one receptacles. Tepals 4. Female flower in separate receptacles. Tepals 3-4. Achenes tuberculate.

Local Name	: Akai-bat,
Fl and Fr.	: Feb. – Aug.
Distribution	: Amidst sand stone rocks.
Status	: Critical endangered, endemic

in area.

Specimen examined: Omkar Bawistale 1451,
Tamia forest, dist Chhindwara
GPS Location : 22°21' to 14°08' Deg. North
(longitude); 78°39' to
59.08'Deg. East (latitude);
955 Meter sea level.
Specimen examined: Omkar Bawistale 1451,
Ficus capulata Haines
Locality : Tamia forest, Dist
Chhindwara



Fig. 1 : Specimen examined: Omkar Bawistale 1451, *Ficus capulata* Haines

Research highlights :

- Threatened taxa of Chhindwara district, Satpura region of Madhya Pradesh India.
- Flora of Chhindwara district, Satpura region of Madhya Pradesh India.
- Biodiversity of Chhindwara district, Satpura region of Madhya Pradesh India.
- Identification and documentation of plants based on taxonomic classification.

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