

Ocimum filamentosum Forssk. (Lamiaceae): A new distributional record for Rajasthan, India

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ABSTRACT: *Ocimum filamentosum* Forssk. (Lamiaceae) collected from Bassi Wild Life Sanctuary, Chittorgarh District of Rajasthan, is reported as a new addition to the Flora of Rajasthan. Detailed description and photo plate is provided for easy identification.

KEY WORDS: Lamiaceae, New distributional record, *Ocimum filamentosum*, Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ocimum* L. comprises about 65 species (Mabberley, 2017), distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical regions of the world, the main centre of distribution being tropical and subtropical regions of Africa (Paton, 1992) with a secondary centre in tropical Asia (India) and tropical parts of America (Brazil) (Sobti and Pushpagandan, 1982; Misra and Das, 2015). In India the genus is represented by about seven species viz., *O. africanum* Lour., *O. americanum* L., *O. basilicum* L., *O. filamentosum* Forssk., *O. gratissimum* L., *O. kilimandscharicum* Gurke and *O. tenuiflorum* L. (Kumar et al., 2018).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

While exploring the floristic wealth of the Bassi Wild Life Sanctuary, Chittorgarh District, Rajasthan, the authors collected an *Ocimum* species in flowering and fruiting, which was later identified as *Ocimum filamentosum* Forssk. (Lamiaceae). Scrutiny of literatures revealed that this species has been reported from Central India to Peninsular India (Hooker, 1885; Gamble, 1924) but not from Rajasthan (Shetty and Singh, 1991). Hence, it is reported here as an addition to the flora of Rajasthan. A detailed description and photo plate is provided to facilitate identification. Voucher specimens are deposited at Botanical Survey of India, Arid Zone Regional Centre (BSJO), Jodhpur.

DESCRIPTION

Ocimum filamentosum Forssk, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 108. 1775. *O. adscendens* Willd., Sp. Pl. 3 (1): 166. 1800; Hook. Fl., Brit. India 4: 609.1885; Gamble, Fl. Madras 2: 1112. 1924. *Becium*

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filamentosum (Forssk.) Chiov. in Nuovo Giorn. Bot. Ital. n.s., 26: 162. 1919. (Fig.1).

Perennial, erect, mildly aromatic herbs, 30-50 cm high; branches ascending; branchlets sub-tetragonous, puberulous or antrorsely hispid hairy. Leaves elliptic-ovate, obovate-lanceolate, 1-4 × 1-3 cm, cuneate or attenuate at base, serrate or repand along margin, obtuse at apex, chartaceous, glabrous; lateral nerves about 4 pairs, impressed beneath; petiole 1-1.5 cm long, puberulous. Racemes lax; whorls few-flowered, distant, axis hispidly hairy; bracts sessile, lanceolate, 5 - 6 mm long, pubescent, with sessile glands on both surfaces, each bract subtending 3-flowers. Calyx campanulate, 3.5-4 mm long, bilipped, mucronate, purple tinged at apex, enlarged and papery in fruit, upper lip obovate; lower lip as long as or slightly longer than upper lip; midlobe and lateral lobes short or indistinct, puberulous outside, glabrous inside. Corolla pinkish-white, ca. 10 mm long; tube ca. 5 mm long; limb bilipped; upper lip spreading, ca. 5 mm long; middle and lateral lobes obsolete; lower lip deflexed, 3-5 mm long. Stamens 4, didynamous, twice as long as corolla, upper pair toothed above the base; anther 1-celled, oblong. Ovary ca. 0.7 mm long; style ca. 1.9 cm long; stigma bifid. Nutlets reddish brown, orbicular, ca. 1.3 mm in diameter, compressed, smooth.

Flowering and Fruiting: July – October.

Distribution: India: Central India to Peninsular India (Hooker, 1885; Gamble, 1924) and now from Rajasthan. World: Africa, Arabia, Burma, India and Sri Lanka (Suddee et al., 2005).

Habitat: Occasional, in open forest areas and on sandy lands, associated with *Alloteropsis cimicina* (L.) Stapf, *Andrographis echinoides* (L.) Nees, *Brachiararia ramosa* (L.) Stapf, *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L. and *Senna tora* (L.) Roxb.

Specimen examined: Rajasthan, Chittorgarh District, Bassi Wild Life Sanctuary, Near Modiya mahadev, 24° 59' 35.73" N, 74° 52' 30.62" E, 502 m.s.l., 18.08.2017, P. Hari Krishna & Ramesh Kumar 35344 (BSJO).