

DOI No.: <http://doi.org/10.53550/EEC.2024.v30i01.074>

# Angiosperms, Fabaceae, *Mucuna championii* Benth. New record to India

Sagar Shinde<sup>1</sup>, Jagtap Suresh<sup>2</sup>, Deokule Subhash<sup>3</sup>, Mungikar Rahul<sup>4</sup> and Athoiba Singh<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Rajiv Gandhi Institute of IT and Biotechnology Pune-, Pune Satara Road, Pune – 411043, India*

<sup>2</sup>*Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Interactive Research School for Health Affairs (IRSHA), Pune Satara Road, Pune – 411043, India*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Botany, University of Pune, Pune - 411007, India.*

<sup>4</sup>*Srushti Conservation Foundation, Prabhat Road, Pune 411004, India*

(Received 4 October, 2023; Accepted 9 December, 2023)

## ABSTRACT

Reporting *Mucuna championii* Benth. for the first time in India, from Amravati District of Maharashtra. Initially reported from Hong Kong (Bentham, 1861). *Mucuna championii* Benth., a Chinese element, was initially collected (Flowers September 2012 and fruits in March 2013) and recently confirmed in September 2023 and represent as a new record to India, from the area of Melghat of District Amravati in Maharashtra.

**Key words:** *Mucuna championii*, New report, Maharashtra, India.

*Mucuna championii* Benth. in Hook. Kew Journ. 4: 49. 185. & Fl. of Hong Kong: 87. 1861.

A climber of 10-15 m. tall with grooved stem. Leaves trifoliolate, broadly ovate with acuminate apex and slightly cuneate base. Leaflets trilobed, 10 to 18 cm. long, chartaceous, old leaflets glabrous while young ones with fulvous hairs. Flowers pedicellate in dense compact racemes, 10 to 21cm long. Calyx with dense short light brown hairs, trilobed 6 to 9 mm. x 10 to 11 mm. long & cup shaped. Corolla dark red-brown to purple, standard 2 to 4 cm. equaling keel 4 to 4.5 cm., slightly curved at apex. Staminal tube 3 to 4 cm. Style hairy on lower side, ovary with dense golden pubescence. Pods thick walled, oblong, with acute down curved apex, round base, 15 to 17 x 1.5 to 2.0 cm. with deciduous pale brown bristles and 12 to 17, thin, oblique, wing-like, transverse, and reticulate lines; internal septa between the seeds are thick, oblique indentations. Seeds at

maturity brown- red, oblong, flattened 3 x 2 cm x 7 mm, shiny, smooth.

Total 11 plants were located which lies between latitudes 21° 15' – 21° 45' N, and longitudes 76° 57' – 77° 33' E.

**Flowering and fruiting:** August to October.

**Ecology:** Rare climber in the deep forest patches associated with *Litsea glutinosa*. (Lour.) C. B. Robinson.

**Distribution:** New of India recorded as rare in Pirkheda of Dhargad range in Melghat forests.

**Global distribution:** Hong Kong : Tai Po. Lam Tsuen Valley, Fung Yuen, Plover Cove, etc. (Bentham 1861).

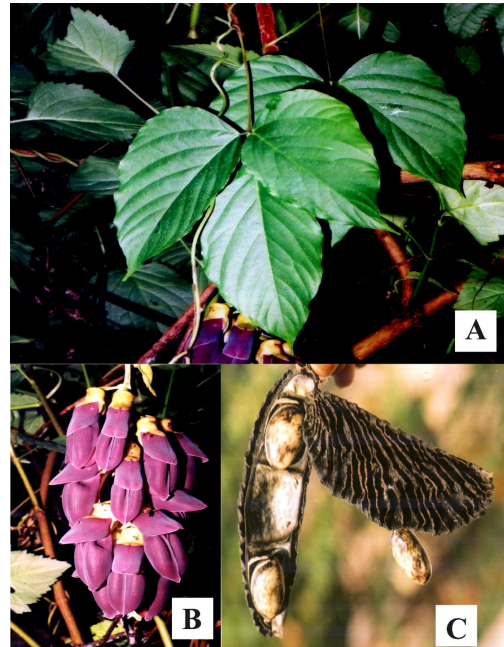
**Specimens examined:** India, Maharashtra, Amravati district, Melghat; Jagtap & Kolekar, 19-09-2012; 3430 (MPCC).



Fig. 1. Location map of the study area in Amravati district, Maharashtra, India

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Local informants Mr. Gokul Khandwaye and Shrinivas Ingole for assisting in field visits. Director, Project Tiger Melghat and the field staff are acknowledged for field arrangements.



*Mucuna championii* Benth.

A - Leaves, B - Inflorescence. C - Pod with seeds

### References

- Benthams, G. 1852. Florula Hongkongensis. Hooker's Journal of Botany and Kew garden Miscellany. 4: 49.
- Benthams, G. 1861. Flora Hongkongensis: A description of flowering plants and Ferns. Lovell Reeves, London. PP 87.
- Dunn, S. T. and Tutcher W. J. 1912. Flora of Kwangtung and Hongkong (China). Bulletin of Miscellaneous information Kew. *Addit. Ser.* 10 : 83.
- Sanjappa, M. 1992. Legumes of India. Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun. PP. 215 – 218.
- Wu, Z. Y., Raven, P. H. and Hong, D. Y., eds., 2010. Flora of China. Beijing: Science Press; St. Louis: Missouri Botanical Garden Press.10: 207-216.