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A New Record for Valsad District: *Arisaema murrayi* (J.Graham) Hook.

*Dilipkumar D. Patel, *Hirali D. Patel, **Zeel H. Vadhwana and
**Hitesh A. Solanki

Abstract:

Arisaema murrayi (J. Graham) Hook. of family Araceae has earlier been reported by Raghvan. The present paper deal with indigenous taxa of Angiosperm belonging to Araceae family is reported as an addition to Valsad district. The paper also envisages brief citation, detailed description, flowering and fruiting time, followed by ecological notes along with photographs are provided.

Key Words: *Arisaema murrayi* (J. Graham) Hook., new record, Gujarat.

Introduction:

The genus *Arisaema* is commonly known as cobra lily. About 150 species in Africa, Asia and America. There are 42 species so far recorded from India. Three species in Gujarat. *Arisaema murrayi* (J. Graham) Hook of family Araceae has earlier been reported by Raghvan in 1981 in Gujarat. Distribution was not known.

One of such extensions of Western Ghats is found in Dharampur forests of Bular (Valsad) Districts, Gujarat, which requires immediate monitoring and conservation status. Flowering plants of Gujarat had been studied earlier by Cook (1908), Saxton and Sedgwick (1918), Sutaria (1958), Vaidya and Vora (1964), Santapau and Janardhanan (1966), Bedi

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*B. K. M. Science College, Valsad

** Department of Botany, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad – 380 009

Email: husolanki@yahoo.com

(1968), Bhatt and Sabnis (1974), Parabia (1974) and Shah (1978); published a 'Flora of Gujarat State' in two volumes. Previously the area was explored by Inamdar (1968); Vora (1980) and Reddy (1987). The works of all these were mainly confined to floristic and taxonomic work. From 1987, till date, i.e., 2014-2015 almost 26 years, the area has remained devoid of any florists investigation. Floristic surveys take into consideration in determining the presence and location (documentation) of rare vegetation communities over areas for development as well as impact assessment. In our present research, we recorded almost 300 plants listed for the area. We recorded new plant species from Dharampur Taluka of Valsad District.

Arisaema murrayi (J.Graham) Hook., Bot. Mag. 74: t. 4388 1848.

Syn: *Arum murrayi* J. Graham Cat. Pl. Bombay 229 1839.

Tuberous perennial herb. Tubers large, giving out a solitary leaf. Leaves petiolate, petiole 25-35 cm long, greenish, mottled with red-brown. Leaflets 5-9, ovate or oblong-lanceolate, acuminate, 10-15 cm long. Spathe 8-12 cm long. Tube of the spathe broadly cylindric, with almost truncate base, green, striated, 2-2.5 cm in diameter. Limb as long as the tube, broadly ovate, cymbiform, acute; margins not recurved, except near the mouth of the tube. Spadix narrowed from the base upwards. Appendage curved, narrowed from the base to the tip, 2.5-4 cm long, sessile. Male flowers scattered, with few neuter above them. (Photograph 1).

Flowers & Fruits: June-October. (Photograph 2).

Herbarium specimen is submitted to Department of Botany, B. K. M. Science College, Valsad, Gujarat.



Photograph 1 : Plant



Photograph 2 : Plant with Flower

Its English name is Murray's Cobra Lily and in Marathi Pandhra sapkanda. It is perennial herb, tubers with root fibers from the upper side. In

Dharampur taluka it is distributed in Moti-Kosbadi, Nani-Kosbadi, Nani-Korwad, Moti-Korwad and Awadha range of forest. The present paper deal with indigenous taxa of Angiosperm belonging to Araceae family is reported as addition to the flora of Valsad District.

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