



ROOTALA VERTICILLARIS L.: NEW REPORT FROM VIDHARBHA (MS)

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ABSTRACT

Rotala verticillaris L. (Lythraceae), collected from Bhandara district of Maharashtra State, is the first report for the state after Theodore Cooke in 1903 from Konkan. This species is distinct than others in whorled leaves (4- 8), usually 6, with bifid and / or truncate apex, flowers solitary in the axils of each leaf and capsules 3-valved.

Keywords: *Rotala verticillaris*, Bhandara, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Rotala verticillaris L. (Lythraceae), is annual or perhaps also sometimes perennial and native to India and ShriLanka. It is found in pools and along the marshy margins of ponds. It flowers as the water recedes (Cook 1996). It was earlier recorded in India from Deccan Peninsula (Hook. op. cit. in May 1879) and in Maharashtra from Konkan (Cooke op. cit in May 1903). It is endemic to southern India and Sri Lanka. In India, this species is confined to Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (Cook 1996), Karnataka (Sharma et al. 1984) and Maharashtra (Singh *et al.* 2001). This species is also **first time report for Vidharbha (East Maharashtra)**. The details are as follows. ***Rotala verticillaris*** L. Mant 2: 175. 1771 non Hiern, 1871; C.D.K. Cook in Boissiera 29: 23, f. 1 A-E. 1979; Gamble, Fl. Madras 1: 358. 1967 (Repr.). *Ammannia rotala* Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 567. 1879; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 539. 1958 (Repr.). Decumbent herbs, 6- 15 cm high, rarely branched, glabrous, rooting at the lower nodes. Leaves in whorls of 4- 8, usually 6, 0.75- 1.0 cm long, sessile, linear, narrow at the base, entire, apex truncate and / or bifid. Flowers solitary axillary or in axillary whorls (one flower in the axil of each leaf); sessile. Calyx tubular, 2.0- 2.5 mm long, thin, constricted at the mouth; teeth-4, 0.5 mm long, erect, triangular, acute; accessory teeth minute, obovate, slightly exceeding or equal to calyx teeth. Petals† pink, very small, fugacious or some times absent (Cooke op. cit.). Capsules ellipsoid, 1.5-2.0 mm long, 3- valved, slightly shorter than calyx. Seeds elliptic- obovoid, 0.3- 0.35 mm long, dark-brown, often excavated on the plane face.

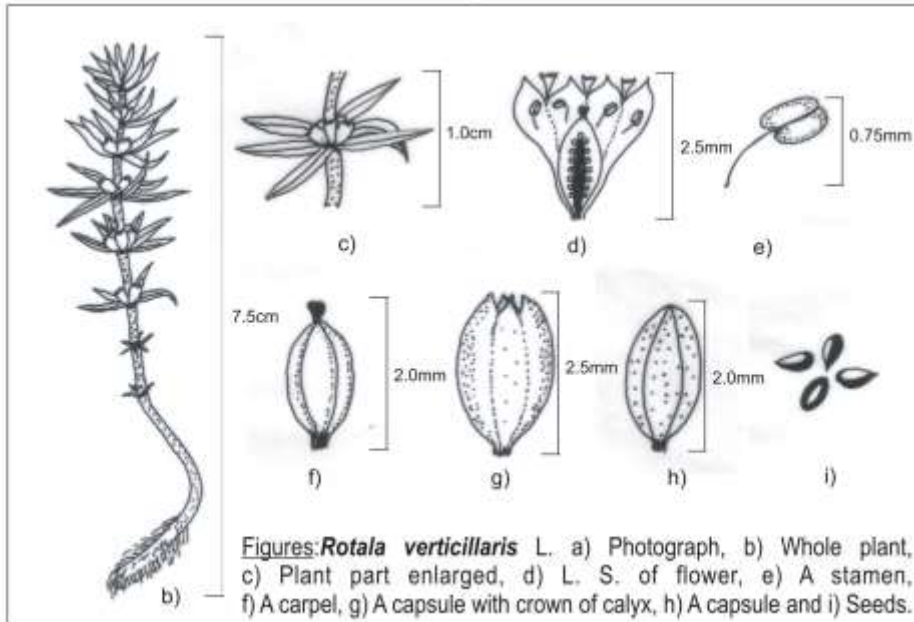


Rarely found in wet places near lakes. Fls. & Frs. Oct. – Dec. Rawanwadi, 704. Dated 5th Nov. 2007.

[†] | Author have examined several specimens but failed to observe the petals.



a)



Figures: *Rotala verticillaris* L. a) Photograph, b) Whole plant, c) Plant part enlarged, d) L. S. of flower, e) A stamen, f) A carpel, g) A capsule with crown of calyx, h) A capsule and i) Seeds.



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