



SOME OBSERVATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND NEW HOST PLANT FOR *Corallocarpus conocarpus* IN GUJARAT, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Corallocarpus conocarpus (Dalz. & Gibs.) Hook. f. ex Clark, a threatened climber species of plant [1] under cucurbitaceae family of angiosperm, found in the arid and semi arid parts of world. *Corallocarpus conocarpus* is monoecious, size of the leaf varies from 5-7cm in length and 4-6 cm width, ash color beneath, 3-5 deep lobes with hairy structure; tendrils are simple, slender and glabrous. Male flowers occur in crowded racemes on axillary peduncles while female flower are usually fascicled or sub-spicate. The flowers are yellowish green in color, fruits are orange red in color while cup-shaped base of fruits are green. The shape of seeds is pyriform, dark brown in color and each mature fruit contain 3-4 seeds. The above species is also one of the three medicinal plant species of India under the genus *Corallocarpus* [2]. The other species are; *C. epigaea* and *C. epigaeus* have wide distributional range in India. *Corallocarpus conocarpus* is distributed in arid and semi-arid parts of India, Pakistan and in tropical Africa. In India, it is recorded from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan states [2-4]. In Gujarat, this species reported from Kachchh, Junagadh and Jamnagar district [5-6]. In the present study, the species was recorded first time in Dhanduka block (22° 16' 42".7N & 72° 13' 30.8"E) of Ahmedabad district, Gujarat (Figure 1).

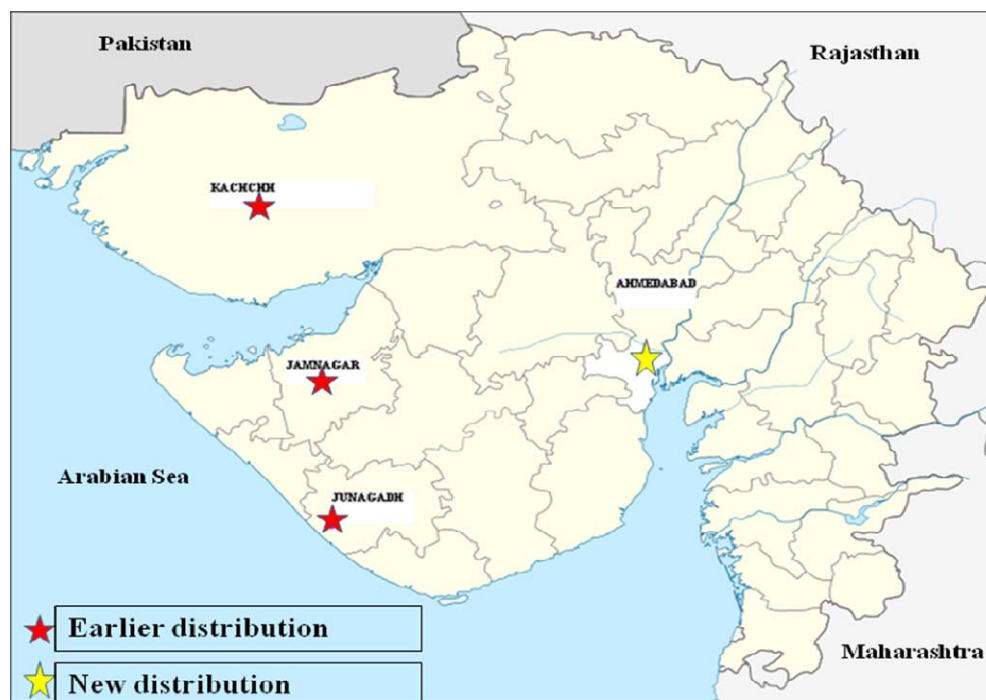


Figure 1. Distribution of *Corallocarpus conocarpus* in Gujarat

The species like *Coccinia grandis*, *Pentatropis spiralis*, *Salvadora persica*, *Indigofera cordifolia*, *Dicanthium annualtum* and *Grewia tenex* are the associated plant species of *Corallocarpus conocarpus*. This species normally prefer thorny plant species as a host plant for protection from grazing animal and thorns of the host plant helps in climbing. The commonly recorded host plants of this species are *Capparis deciduas*, *Euphorbia caducifolia* and *Zizyphus nummularia*. During the present survey, the species *Corallocarpus conocarpus* was recorded to found in new host plant, *Prosopis Juliflora*, an invasive alien species of Gujarat state (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *Corallocarpus conocarpus* (in box) with its new host plant species, *Prosopis juliflora*.

The density of this species was found to be 0.57 individual per hectare in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat during the present study. The density of this species in Ahmedabad district is less in compare to the Jamnagar-Porbandar (4.8 Individuals/ha) and Kachchh (2 individuals/ha) [1]. The species is normally found in moderately undulating to flat terrain with sandy soil substratum, while in the present study this species recorded in clay soil. The previous studies, this species recorded mainly from protected or reserve forest areas, while the study it was also recorded from agricultural areas. In the case of substratum preference, 25% of recorded individuals of the present study found in rocky substratum while 75% from open soil. About 85% of individuals recorded from undulating terrain and rest of 15 % from flat terrain.

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