



## ***Striga angustifolia* (D.Don) Saldanha addition to the Flora of Churu District of Rajasthan (India)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The *Striga* genus belongs to the family Orobanchaceae. Previously many taxonomical works has been carried out by many botanists in Churu District of Rajasthan State but so far the *Striga* genus is not reported from Churu District. During present investigation extensive floristic survey were made and the *Striga angustifolia* (D. Don) Saldanha was reported first time from the Churu Distirct.

**Key Words:** Striga, Churu Distt., Arid region, desert.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The flora and floral composition of Indian Thar Desert of Rajasthan State has been studied in greater details by contributor like Adams (1899), Bakshi (1954), Blatter & Hallberg (1918-21), Sankhala (1951), Bhandari (1990), Bhandari & Singh (1974) and Kotia (2008).

Sharma (1965) have compiled the composition and structure of plant communities of Churu and its neighbouring area. Pandey *et al*, (1985) studied with the floristic analysis of Churu District, which account for 318 taxa belonging to 218 genera spread over 72 families, within this floristic composition the *S. angustifolia* (D. Don) Saldanha is not reported from the Churu District.

During present investigation observations were made for ecological and taxonomical studies. Recently botanical exploration were made in different villages i.e. Ratangarh, Rajgarh, Sardarshahar, Sujangarh and Taranagar of Churu District to observe the changes in floristic composition and collected various interesting plant specimens *viz.* rare and threatened species, after critical analysis the identity revealed that a species *S. angustifolia* (D.Don) Saldanha belonging to family

Orobanchaceae is new addition to the flora of Churu District of Rajasthan State.

### **Taxonomy and description:**

*Striga* a genus of Orobanchaceae family, and around 40 plant species are reported from the genus, generally the members known as "*witches weeds*", mainly distributed in Africa, Asia, Australia and some part of America region. The members of this genus are roots parasitic plants during initial phase they need live host plant but after maturation they become autotrophic in nature.

***Striga angustifolia*** (D.Don) Saldanha in Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind. 5 (1): 70 (1963).

*Buchnera asiatica* Linn. Sp. Pl. 635 (1753).

*Buchnera euphrasioides* Benth. *Scrophu.* Ind. 41 (1835).

*Striga euphrasioides* (Benth.) Benth. in Hook. Comp. Bot. Mag. 1: 364 (1836).

Plants terrestrial herb, up to 25cm high. Stem filiform, simple, scabrid. Leaves sessile, linear to lanceolate, 1 -5 x 0.1 - 0.4 cm, subacute, entire or with 1 or 2 teeth on each side, hispid. Flowers sessile (or a short pedicel in fruiting stage), one in axile of each bract, in long, lax, erect, uninterrupted spike; the bracts usually longer than the calyx. Calyx 8 – 12 mm long, campanulate with 15 strong, very acute, each with 3 ribs, one extending to the sides of calyx

teeth, the teeth thus strongly margined. Corolla up to 13 - 14 mm long, white, tube exerted, much incurved beneath, pubescent dorsally above near the neck, upper lip much shorter than the lower. Fruit a capsule, 7- 8 x 3 mm, oblong, ellipsoid, grooved on the sides, glabrous, the top of the valves deflexed after dehiscence.

**Fl. & Fr.: December - March**

**Ecological notes:** Presently plant recorded as root parasite in crop field with association *Pennisetum glaucum* (Linn) R. Br. even the previous workers recorded this species in wild growing along with grasses on the rocks. Although Bhandari (1978) could not find its connection with the host roots, probably it is parasitic in the younger stages only. Shetty and Singh (1987) reported this plant as common throughout the state in open grassy waste land and cultivated fields. Previously *S. agustifolia* is reported from single site of the Rajasthan desert in Barmer District this plant is second time reported from the Indian Thar Desert in Churu District of Rajasthan.

**Specimens examined:** RUBPL211564 collected from Shyampura (Depalsar) Village of Churu District by Dr P.R. Meghwal.



Figure-1: *Striga angustifolia* (D. Don) Saldanha

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