

***Sphaeromorphaea Australis* (Less.) Kitam., an addition to the flora of Andhra Pradesh, India**

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Introduction

Sphaeromorphaea australis (Less.) Kitam. (Asteraceae), a native of Western Australia, becomes naturalised in India, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. Hooker (1882) mentioned its distribution in Western Peninsula, Prain(1903) recorded it from West Bengal, Haines (1922) from Bihar (Giridih area, Manbhum), now in Jharkhand, Saxena and Brahmam (1995) from Orissa. But so far this species has not been reported from any other states of India. During the work on the genus *Sphaeromorphaea* DC. of India the authors have gone through a collection of this species from Vishakhapatnam, a coastal area of Andhra Pradesh which turns out to be a new record for the Andhra Pradesh state. An illustrated account of the species along with phenology and distribution is presented.

***Sphaeromorphaea australis* (Lees,) Kitam.,** in Acta Phyto. Geobot. 6: 80.1937; R.R. Rao *et al.*, Fl. ind. enum. – Asterc. 73.1988; Naithani in Hajra *et al.*, Flora India 12:58.1995. *Epaltes australis* Less., Linnaea 5: 148. 1830 *et Syn. Comp.* 206. 1832; S. Karthikeyan *et al.*, Fl. Pl. India 1:228.2009. *Sphaeromorphaea russelliana* DC., Prodr. 6:140.1838. 'Spreading Nut-heads' (English)

Image 1

Annual prostrate herbs, rootstock woody, ca. 11cm long. Stems much branched, branches straggling, flexuous, woody toward base. Cauline leaves oblanceolate - oblong, 1 - 2 × 0.5 - 0.8 cm, apex acute, base narrowed into petiole, margin irregularly toothed or lyrate. sparsely pilose on both surfaces. Capitula globose, 4 - 9 mm in diam., peduncles 2 - 7 mm, bracteate or not. Involucre depressed hemispheric, ca. 6 × 1 mm; phyllaries in 1 or 2 series, outer ones shorter, ovate, ca. 2 × 1.5 mm apex acute, others oblong, ca 2.7 × 2 mm, scarious, apex obtuse. Marginal florets (disc) female, ca. 2 mm; corolla of marginal florets ca. 0.7 mm; corolla of central florets ca. 1.3 mm, 4 -dentate. Style long, filiform, ca. 1.4 mm. Achenes cylindric, ca. 1 mm, ribbed, hairy at base. Pappus absent.

Flowering & Fruiting: May - August

Distribution: India: Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal: China, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, Australia.

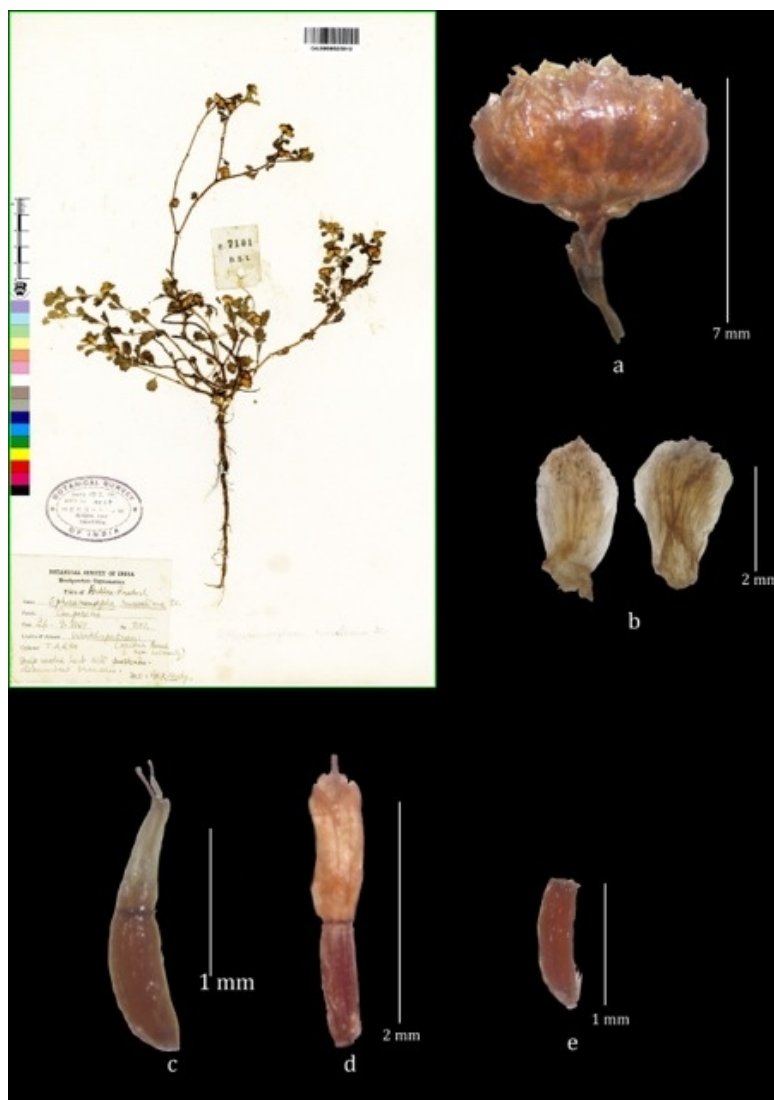


Image 1. *Sphaeromorphaea australis* (Less.) Kitam. a. Capitula; b. Phyllaries; c. Disc floret; d. Ray floret; e. Achene. (Rao 7101)

Notes: It's an aromatic short lived herb usually grows in damp places.

Specimen examined: INDIA: Andhra Pradesh: Waltair beach, near University, Vishakhapatnam, 24.9.69, T. A, Rao, 7101 (CAL). Philippine Islands: Manila, Luzon, Jan. 1915, Merrill 773 (CAL). Australia: Tallebudgen(?), Rev. B. Scortechini s.n. (CAL)

Reference

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