



## Occurrence of *Riccia glauca* L. in Satpuda range of Maharashtra, India

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### Abstract

The paper report for the first time populations of *Riccia glauca* L. of the Ricciaceae from a new locality, Satpuda range in the Khandesh region of Maharashtra and second distributional records for Maharashtra. Khandesh region of Maharashtra part of Satpuda ranges exhibits unique topographical and climatic conditions that support rich bryoflora. This paper describes the *Riccia glauca* L. along with images and the distributional pattern in the Satpuda range of Khandesh region.

**Keywords:** *Riccia glauca* L., Satpuda range, Khandesh region.

### Introduction

Satpuda range of Khandesh region is an ignored geographical area by Indian bryologist. Khandesh region comprises of three districts Nandurbar, Dhule and Jalgaon. It lies between 20<sup>o</sup> 8' and 22<sup>o</sup> 7' North latitude and 73<sup>o</sup> 42' and 76<sup>o</sup> 28' East longitude. Khandesh covers an entire area of 26,703.36 sq. km extending nearly 257.44 Km along. Satpuda range of Khandesh region lies at the Northwestern corner of the Deccan plateau, in the valley of the Tapti river, and is restricted in the north by the Satpuda ranges, in the east by the

Berar (Vidarbha) region, in the south by the hills of Ajanta, belonging to the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, and in the West by the Northern most ranges of the Western Ghats, and outside that the coastal plain of Gujarat. Along the entire Northern frontier, the district is restricted by the Satpuda ranges, a mountainous tract from 48.27-64.36 km wide.

The genus *Riccia* (Mich.) L. (Order Marchantiales; family Ricciaceae) was recognized by Micheli in 1729 '*Nova Plantarum Genera*' in honour of an Italian Botanist, P.I. Ricci.

Thereafter it was validated by Linnaeus in 1753 (Bag *et al.*, 2007). *Riccia* is normally distributed thallose liverwort throughout the world. Genus *Riccia* is distinctive rosette making and diversified terrestrial liverwort (excepting some water forms), exhibits very simple and primitive morphological and anatomical characters. *Riccia* includes 150 species worldwide (Daniel *et al.*, 2014) at present 36 valid species of this genus are described from India (Singh, 2014) of these only 8 species are known to occur in Maharashtra (Shirke, 2002).

The climate of Satpuda range is supportive to the luxuriant growth of bryophytes. These species occurs in the rainy season and in winter season during the month of July-February, endures moderate winters and dies out on the onset of the summers. Mostly the *Riccia glauca* L. shows terricolous habitat. Very little information is available regarding bryoflora of Khandesh range of Maharashtra (Tanveer & Javed, 2018, 2021, Tanveer & Shakila 2021 and Tanveer *et al.*, 2022).

## Materials and Methods

Satpuda ranges, which is one of the major hotspot of plants in Khandesh region. While working on bryoflora of Khandesh region of Maharashtra State, we undertook frequent collection tours in every season during the month of October-December to collect Specimens. The outcome of the collection tour was the new taxa of *Riccia glauca* L. is the second distributional records for Maharashtra and first records for Khandesh region of Satpuda range. The morphotaxonomical and anatomical analysis of the population was pursued after selecting fresh and previously preserved plants in 4% formalin (Bowers, 1964). External features of thalli were studied under stereo microscope. Hand sections of thalli were mounted in glycerine and observed under light microscope. All taxa have been identified with the help of available literature (Kashyap, 1929, 1932; Bapna & Kachroo 2000 and Bagwan & Kore 2015) identification and confirmation of specimens by expert opinion. The voucher specimens are deposited at the Department of

Botany, H.J. Thim College of Arts and Science Mehrun Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

## Results and Discussion

Due to human interference, anthropogenic activities and grazing animals the bryoflora from Satpuda range of Khandesh get disturbed. Considering the ecological importance, sensitivity and vulnerability of bryophytes to changing environment, it is most essential to enlist bryophyte through periodical survey and revision. Therefore proper documentation is needed for conservation of these ecologically important plants before their extinction.

*Riccia* L. is the largest genus among the thallose Hepaticae in India and found on damp loamy and sandy soil in different localities of Satpuda range of Khandesh during study. *Riccia glauca* L. was collected from various habitats for the Second distributional records for Maharashtra and first time reported from Satpuda range of Khandesh region of Maharashtra. Data available about this species is meager but field surveys will play important role to enhance knowledge about the Indian bryology, particularly in Satpuda range of Khandesh region of Maharashtra. While exploring the study area *Riccia glauca* L. have been collected from satpuda range of Khandesh region detailed descriptions are given below:

***Riccia glauca* L.**, Sp. Pl.1139.1753. K. Mull., Rabenh. Krypt.Fl.183.f.97.123.1907; Hatt., Nat. Sci. Mus. Tokyo 14:142 f.1.g.h.z.1943; Kachroo, J. Univ. Gauhati5:131. f. 6A-B.1954.R. *major* Roth., Fl. Germ. 33: 432. 1903 (excl. Syn.) *R. venosa* Roth., Fl. Germ. 33: 432. 1903. *R.ruppinensis* Warnst, Krypl. F1.2. Pror. Brandenb. 1:71. 1903.Fig.1.

Thallus monoecious, usually in rosettes 10-20 mm in diameter, thalli green or glaucous green upto 10 mm long and 2-2.5 mm broad, 1-3 times dichotomously branched, mid dorsal groove prominent, apex emarginate or truncate, epidermal cells 5-7 angled, rounded and pyriform; thallus 2-4 times as broad as high; air spaces in longitudinal rows, separating walls usually one

cell thick densely chlorophyllose, in the wings, air spaces small, oblique; scales hyaline, evanescent, Rhizoids smooth and tuberculate; spores subspherical, brown to dark brown, 75-95  $\mu\text{m}$ , tri-radiate mark distinct, reticulate and granular papillose on distal face, 6-8 reticulation across, wing wide crenate 6  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Locality:** Rare. In Khandesh region collected from wet patches, along hill slopes.

**Habitat:** Terricolous

**Distribution in Maharashtra:** Second distributional records for Maharashtra and first record for Satpuda range of Maharashtra.

**Field notes:** Broad thallus on moist soil help to identification in field.

**GPS reading:** N 21°22'22.21" E 75°31'16.99" (Elevation 452.7m).

**Specimen examined:** India: Maharashtra: Jalgaon Dist., Devjiri forest, TAK 107; Manudevi, TAK 137; Nandurbar Dist., Molgi, TAK 167.

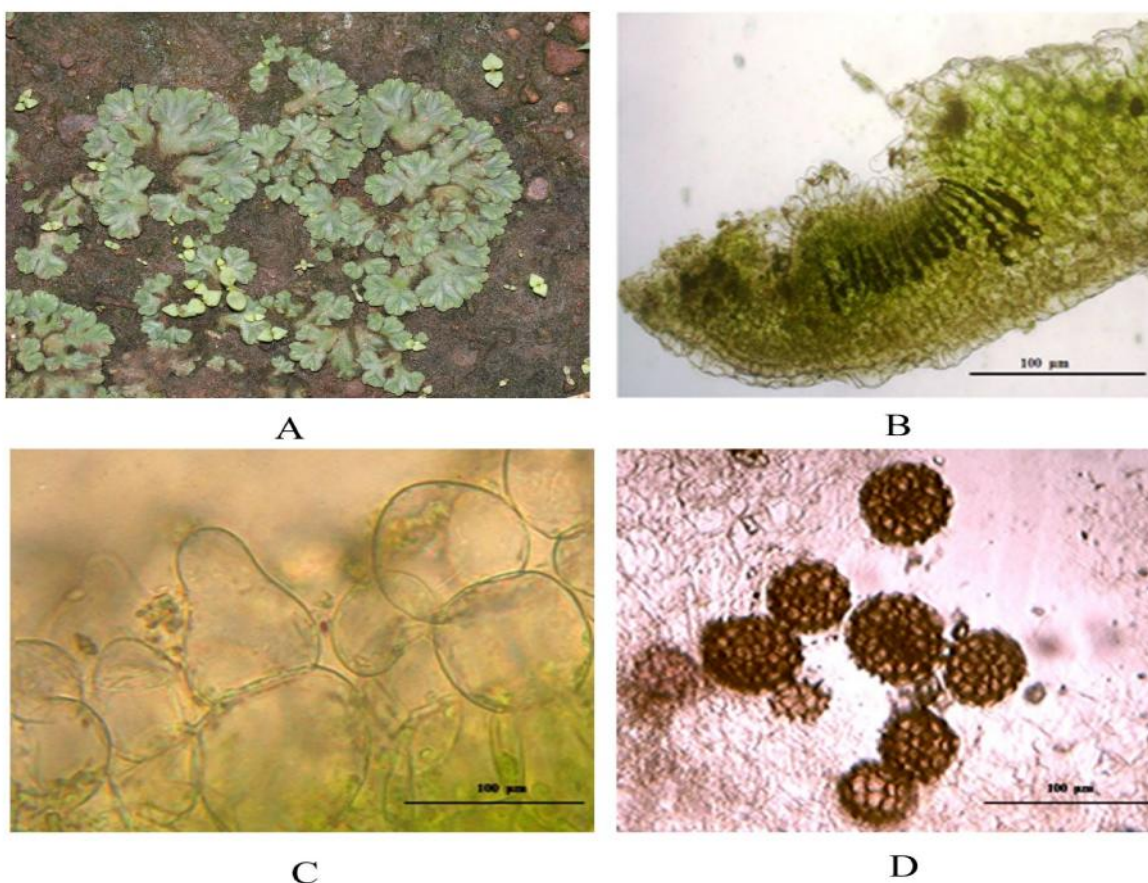


Fig. 1: *Riccia glauca* L. A. Habitat, B. T.S. of Thallus, C. Epidermal cell, D. Spores

## Acknowledgments

The authors wish to express their gratitude to Dr. Afroz Alam, Department of Bioscience, Banasthali University, Rajasthan, who confirmed

the identity of the species and also providing the literature. Thanks are also due to the Principal, H. J. Thim College, Jalgaon, for providing laboratory and library facilities.

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### How to cite this article:

Tanveer A. Khan and Shakila A. Bagwan. (2023). Occurrence of *Riccia glauca* L. in Satpuda range of Maharashtra, India. *Int. J. Adv. Res. Biol. Sci.* 10(2): 38-41.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijarbs.2023.10.02.005>