



***Tylophora rotundifolia* (Asclepiadaceae) in Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, India**

Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary (74°25'-74°40'E and 24°04"-24°23'N), is situated in the Chittorhgarh and Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan, India. It covers an area of 423 km². According to Champion and Seth (1968), the forest of the sanctuary is tropical deciduous, dominated by Sagwan (*Tectona grandis* L.f.), Mahuwa (*Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmel.), Charoli (*Buchanania lanzan* Spreng.), Sadar (*Terminalia tomentosa* Wight & Arn.), Kohda (*Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn.), Baheda (*Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.), Timru (*Diospyros melanoxylon* Willd.), Rohan (*Soyimida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A. Juss.), Belpatra (*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corrêa), Salar (*Boswellia serrata* Roxb.), Aam (*Mangifera indica* L.), Amla (*Embllica officinalis* Gaertn.), Haldu (*Adina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Brandis), Bargad (*Ficus benghalensis* L.), Dhawada (*Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guillem. & Perr.) etc. Dry bamboo brakes of *Dendrocalamus strictus* Nees are seen in valleys having deep soil and good moisture regime. The annual rainfall of the area is 793 mm. During May, the daily temperature reaches 45 °C. January is the coldest month when January mercury drops as low as 5°C during night time.

On 26 August 2012, while studying flora of Sitamata sanctuary in Punga Talab (Jhakhm Range) area, a patch of *Tylophora rotundifolia* Ham. ex Weight was noticed in the Chiklad Reserve Forest. The patch was present southeast of *Bhata Wala Pani* anicut. It was a twining herbaceous plant, growing under the thickets of *Holarrhena pubescens* Wall. & G. Don bushes. Its leaves were 3.0–6.0 cm long, 2.3–5.0 cm broad, coriaceous, broadly ovate, rounded, glabrous above and pubescent below; petioles short, 3–6 mm long. Flowers were in many-flowered umbellate cymes. Follicles were

solitary, bluntly tapering on both sides, smooth, and light pinkish-chocolaty in colour (Fig. 1).

Many workers like Bhandari (1990), Prasad *et al.* (1996), Sharma (2002), Sharma and Tiagi (1979), Shetty and Panday (1983), Shetty and Singh (1987–1993), Singh (1983), Singh and Shrivastava (2007), Tiagi and Aery (2007), and Yadav and Meena (2011) have studied the flora of Rajasthan but none have recorded this species from any part of the state. This species have been recorded by Almeida (2001) from Maharashtra. Since forests of southern Rajasthan, especially of the Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary are quite dense and moist which are supporting many peninsular elements like Teak (*Tectona grandis* L.f.), Indian Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista philippensis* (Elliot)) etc. (Koli *et al.*, 2013). The congenial habitat of Sitamata Sanctuary also is supportive of *Tylophora rotundifolia*. Since this is the first report of *Tylophora rotundifolia* from state of Rajasthan, hence it is worth placing on the record.

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Figure 1: *Tylophora rotundifolia* plant and the fruit (arrow).