



DATURA FEROX L. AN INVASIVE PLANT FIRST TIME REPORTED FROM INDORE, MP

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Abstract: *Datura ferox* L., a member of the Solanaceae family, is native to southern North America. Over time it has become naturalized in warm temperate and subtropical regions worldwide. Bhandari and Mehta (1979) first recorded this species in India. The present study reveals that *Datura ferox* L. was not previously reported from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and it is now considered a new record for the region.

Key words: new report; flora; Solanaceae ; Indore

I. Introduction

Datura : *Datura ferox*L. Commonly known as long spined thorn apple belonging to family solanaceae that has 100 genera and 2700species, while *Datura* consists of 14 species. The species has been naturalised in warm temperate and subtropical region of the world. *D ferox* L is a noxious weed that competes aggressively with crops in the field and pasture. All parts of the plant including seeds have alkaloids such as Atropine,hyoscyamine and scopolamine(Rao *et al*,2014).Plant may be fatal if ingested by humans and other animals as it contains dangerous levels of poisons. *Datura ferox* is native to southern north America. It is widely found in cultivated field, roadsides, and disturbed areas. Bhandari and Mehta (1979) first time reported *Datura ferox* L. in India. Babu *et al*. (2014) *et.al* reported *D. ferox* L. as new addition to the flora of Karnataka from Chitrdurga district . A literature survey reveals that *Datura ferox* L. was previously reported in the Burhanpur (Diwanji *et al*,2021), East Nimar (Mujaffar,2012),Harda district (Ray and Sainkhediya, 2014) , and Sendhwa, Barwani (Chouhan,2022) of Madhya Pradesh, and considered as new report for Indore district.

II. Methodology: Plant survey was made in the Indore urban region during 2019 to 2023 and plant specimens were collected. Morphological characteristic of plant was thoroughly examined in the laboratory and identified. Identification of the plant was performed with various relevant flora and taxonomic literature(Diwanji *et al*. 2021;Samvatsar,1996,Khanna,2001;,sinha and Shukla,2007;Mudagal,1997,Solanki,1983).Herbarium of the collected plant was prepared following customary method(Jain and Rao,1977). Plant was also matched with available virtual herbarium and confirmed (Indian flora online; eflora of India). The plant specimen has housed in the herbarium of Department of Botany, PMB Gujarati Science College, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

III.Result and discussion:

Plant is enumerated along with proper citation,collection number,description,habitat,flowering and fruiting,locality and shown in Fig1.

Enumeration:

Datura ferox L., Demonstr.Pl.6.1753

Family: Solanaceae

50 to 90 cm undershrubs; branches are repeatedly forked and green or purplish towards the base. Whole plant is moderately hairy; leaves ovate to orbicular, 8-14 cm long and 6-16 cm wide with shallow and usually toothed or sinuate lobes, emit unpleasant odour, oblique at base; petiole 7-10 cm, hairy; flower solitary between branches or leaf axils, white to creamy 5-10 cm long, pedicels 1.5-2.5 cm; Corolla funneliform, 4-10 cm long consists of five slender 1-2 cm long hairy part. Calyx 2.5 to 3.5 cm, cylindrical, bases reflexed and enlarged in fruit; Stamens 5, epipetalous, inserted; Ovary two loculed, axile placentation, style long, stigma angular; Capsule ellipsoid 2-4 cm long and 2- cm in diameter, fruit with stout conical sharp spines; seeds compressed, reniform, brown-black

Flr – Frt: Jan- Apr.

Habitat and locality: It is widely found in cultivated fields, roadside and disturbed lands, Collected from roadsides of Eastern ring road and near cultivated fields at bypass road, Indore

H.no: SR 118, SR 241

IV. Acknowledgement:

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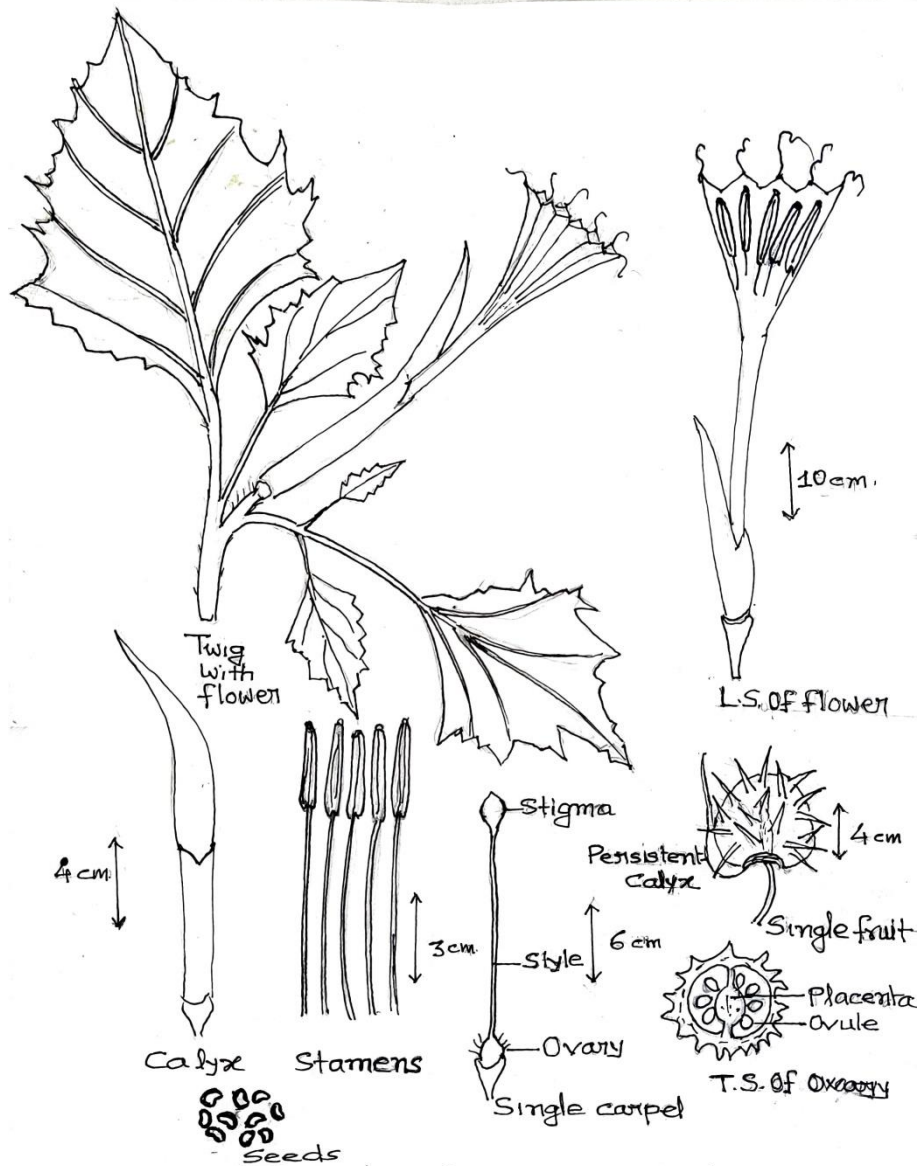


Fig: *Datura ferrox* L.: Plant showing various floral parts.