

Research Paper

**A GINGER LILY *HEDYCHIUM FLAVESCENS* CAREY EX ROSCOE
(ZINGIBERACEAE): NEW RECORDS FOR FLORA OF MAHARASHTRA,
INDIA**

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Abstract

Hedychium flavescens Carey ex Roscoe belongs to Family Zingiberaceae (Sect. *Gandasulium*), hitherto unrecorded. It is reported for first time from Aurangabad District of Maharashtra State. A brief description with field photographs of recorded species is provided for to facilitate its easy identification.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hedychium* Koenig (Zingiberaceae), commonly known as ginger lily or butterfly lily includes c 80 species which are distributed in Indo-Malayan regions (Sabu M., 2006). In India, the genus represents 24 taxa (H), while in Maharashtra the genus represents 2 species (Cooke, 1958; Lakshmi., in Sharma et. al, 1996). While working on Zingiberaceae of Maharashtra some collections belongs to interesting and unrecorded species of *Hedychium* Koenig were encountered. After critical examination and available literature, it was identified as *Hedychium flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe (Sect. *Gandasulium*) which has not been reported earlier from Maharashtra and so far it known to occur in North East India (Andhra Pradesh) and South India (Tamil Nadu).

Therefore, it is first occurrence report of *Hedychium flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe for Flora of Maharashtra State. The detail and update citation, brief description, distribution, phonological data and note on identity is provided to facilitate its easy identification.

Hedychium flavescens Carey ex Roscoe, Monandr. T. 50. 1825; Wight, Icon, Pl. Indiae Orient. t. 2008 & 2009. 1853; Trimen, Handb. Fl. Ceylon 4:245. 1898; K. Schum. In Engler, Pflanzenr. 4(46): 46. 1904; Turill, Kew Bull. 369. 1914; C. E. C. Fisch. In Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 8: 1485. 1928; B. L. Burtt. & R. M. Sm. In Dassan., Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 4: 507. 1983; K. G. Bhat, High. Pl. Indian Subcont. 4: 88. 1993 et Fl. Udupi, 631. 2003M. Sabu & Mangaly, Proc., 2nd Symp. Fam. Zingiberaceae 21. 1996; M. Sabu, Zingiberaceae and Costaceae of South India 199. 2006. Type: Roscoe, Monandr. T. 50. 1825. *Hedychium coronarium* var. *flavescens* (Roscoe) Baker in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 226. 1892. *Hedychium subditum* Turill, Kew Bull. 370. 1914. *Hedychium coronarium* var. *subditum*

(Turrill) Naik in Naik & Panigrahi, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 3: 71. 1961; Rao & Verma, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 14: 129. 1972. **Image 1**

Stem erect; rhizome thick, roots many, fleshy. Leaves sessile, 30-45 x 5-7 cm, lanceolate, acuminate, tapers at base, glabrous above, pubescent beneath. Flowers fragrant in terminal, 8-17.5 cm. calyx equaling to bracts, labellum yellow, stamens longer than labellum, style long, ovary pubescent. Seeds red after maturation, arillate.

Flowering & Fruiting: July – September.

Habitat: Evergreen forest and sometimes cultivated for flowers.

Distribution: North East India (Andhra Pradesh) and South India (Tamil Nadu) and now in Maharashtra.

Specimens Examined: India, **Maharashtra**, Aurangabad district, Latitude-19° 53' 26.76" N, longitude-75° 16' 6.04" E, Nandanvan colony, 21.10.2013, A. Jadhao 7620;

Note: M. Sabu (2006) noted that the fruiting is not common in *H. flavescens* Carey ex Roscoe from South India but in Maharashtra, all the plants shows fruiting in October-December month.



Image 1. *Hedychium flavescens*

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