

# *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. (Asteraceae): A new generic record to the flora of Chhattisgarh, India

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## ABSTRACT

This paper highlights the occurrence of *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. as a new generic record to the flora of Chhattisgarh collected from Pendra village of Bilaspur district. Notes on its morphological characters, habit, and habitat are provided in the article.

KEY WORDS: Chhattisgarh, new generic record, Pendra, *Soliva anthemifolia*

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. (Asteraceae) is represented by 12 species distributed in Australia, South America, and Central America (Munz, 1959). *S. anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. is a native of Australia where it is considered a good source of fodder (Thompson, 2007). In India, *S. anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. is represented by only one species recorded for the first time from Northern district of Uttar Pradesh (Bhattacharya, 1963), and after that, it was reported from other parts of the India. It is reported from Deharadun in 1966 by Babu, Delhi (Dakshini *et al.*, 1973), Jammu (Sharma and Kachroo, 1981), Himanchal Pradesh (Praksh *et al.*, 2009) Eastern India (Monorajan *et al.*, 2011), and Maharashtra (Bhuskute *et al.*, 2016). Warm and wetland areas are suits to this genera. During the study, author collected specimen of prostrate plant with sessile capitula and pinnatifid leaf from wetland near Bhutaha talab, Pendra. No previous record is available regarding the presence of the plant in the state. Hence, this paper is the first report on the occurrence of this genus and species from the state of Chhattisgarh.

## Study Area

Pendra has an average elevation of 617 m (2,024 ft). Pendra lies at 81° 95' 00" East Longitude and 22° 76' 67" North latitude in the North-West part of the Chhattisgarh state (Fig.1). Pendra town is located in plains of the

Maikal mountain range from where holy river Narmada originates. The area is surrounded with lush green dense deciduous forest and has rich biodiversity. Achanakmar-Amrkanak biosphere reserve is located in the proximal distance.

## METHODS

Specimen was collected from the wetland developed near pond called "Bhutaha talab." (Figs. 2 and 3). Specimens are studied, processed, and preserved in the Botany Department of Dr. B.S.P. Government College, Pendra.

## Description

*Soliva anthemifolia* (A. Juss.) R. Br. in Trans. Linn. Soc. 12: 102. 1817. Bhattacharyya in Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind. 5 (3 & 4): 375 - 376. 1963. *Gymnostyles anthemifolia* A. Juss., Ann. Mus. Paris 4: 262. t. 61, f.1. 1804. Diffuse, creeping, stoloniferous, annual herb, spreading through stolon into dense tufts, 10-30 cm across, rooting from below the sessile heads. Root fibrous, tough. Stem sparsely to moderately clothed with long hairs. Leaves alternate in basal rosette, spatulate, leaf blades 2-3 pinnatifid, segments lanceolate-oblong, acute, thin long hair. Heads clustered in leaf axil, spherical, sessile ca. 0.5-0.8 cm in diameter, involucre bracts ovate-oblong many in two rows, ovoid, curved fibriate; several rows of outer florets female and without corolla; disc florets 0.2-0.3 cm long;



**Figure 1:** Present records of distribution of *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. in India

corolla long, pale yellow, lobes 3; sterile florets with pistillode admixed with fertile males. Stamens 3; ovary brown, articulated; style curved, 0.1-0.2 cm long. Achene light brown with deep brown center, oblanceolate, ca.

2.8-3.0 mm long, wing transversely wrinkled, hairy on rounded angles; pappus absent but numerous white hairs from collar, ca. 1 mm long, unbranched; persistent style spinescent. Fl. & Fr.: December - April.

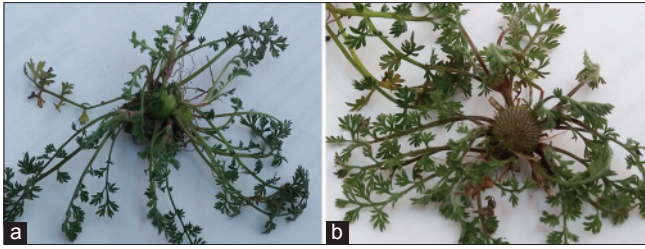


Figure 2: (a and b) *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. with head



Figure 3: *Soliva anthemifolia* (Juss.) R.Br. growing on natural habitat

## CONCLUSION

As the species is occurring in the state shows the rich vegetational diversity of the state. This species found in the wetland and grazing area and it may influence flora and fauna of the area.

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