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REINSTATEMENT OF *PIMPINELLA KATRAJENSIS* R.S.RAO & HEMADRI (APIACEAE), AN ENDEMIC SPECIES TO MAHARASHTRA WITH NOTES ON ITS TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION

S.M. Deshpande, S.D. Kulkarni, R.B. More & K.V.C. Gosavi

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Reinstatement of *Pimpinella katrajensis* R.S.Rao & Hemadri (Apiaceae), an endemic species to Maharashtra with notes on its taxonomy and distribution

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Pimpinella L. is one of the largest genus of the subfamily Apioideae (Family: Apiaceae) having 200 species, distributed in Asia, Europe, and Africa (Mabberly 2008). Only a few species of the genus are reported from South America and one occurs in North America (Pimenov & Leonov 1993). In India, the genus is most speciose by having about 20 species (Mukherjee & Constance 1993).

De Candole (1827) divided the genus *Pimpinella* into three sections: *Tragoselinum*, characterized by its glabrous fruits and perennial roots; *Tragium*, with hairy fruits, perennial (rarely biennial) roots and pinnate to bipinnate radical leaves with ovate segments; and *Anisum*, which included species with down-covered annual fruits. Bentham & Hooker (1867) reported 65–70 species of the genus *Pimpinella* and classified it into six sections according to the habitat of the plant, leaf & fruit morphology, and petal colour. *Pimpinella* can be distinguished from other genera by mainly perennial herbs, cordate-ovoid or oblong-ovoid, slightly laterally compressed fruits constricted at their commissures, each with five filiform ribs (Pu & Watson 2005).

During floristic survey of Satara District of Maharashtra State, some specimens belonging to the

genus *Pimpinella* were collected from Ajinkyatara Fort. Initially, we identified the unknown *Pimpinella* species as *P. wallichiana* Gandhi. But after critical examination of specimens through perusal of literature (Hooker 1879; Rao & Hemadri 1976) and consultation of type and other specimen from BSI and SUK the specimens were identified as *Pimpinella katrajensis* Rolla Rao & Hemadri.

Mukherjee & Constance (1993) subsumed *P. katrajensis* into *P. wallichiana* without any reason while Almeida (1998) treated it as a variety of *P. wallichiana* based on leaf characters; however, both species are very distinct (Table 1). Thus, in this communication we have provided morphological description, images, and distinguishing characters of *P. katrajensis* for correct identification and distribution note in Maharashtra State as also help resolve the name on the PlantList.

Pimpinella katrajensis Rolla Rao & Hemadri

Indian Forester 102(4): 232–234; 1976. (Image 1)

Perennial erect aromatic herbs; root fusiform, about 10cm long; stem terete striate, pubescent to glabrous, leaves pinnately trifoliate, petiole 12–15 cm long, sheathing at base, puberulous, ovate-orbiculate, cordate to truncate, acute at apex, margins coarsely

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Table 1. Distinguishing characters between Pimpinella katrajensis and P. wallichiana

Characters	P. katrajensis	P. wallichiana
Stem	White tomentose	Glabrous to sparsely hairy
Upper leaf	Tomentose, trifid	Glabrous, many dissected lobes
Basal leaflet margin	Crenate to crenulated	Serrate
Basal lateral leaflet base	Not oblique	Oblique
Bracts and bracteoles	Absent	Present, caducous
Rays	Tomentose	Glabrous to sparsely hairy
Ovary	Covered with white tomentose	Covered with hyaline tubercles
Fruit	Oblong, 2.2–3 mm long	Orbicular to oblong, 1.8–2 mm long
Out growth on fruit epidermis	Yellow pointed hairs with thick base	Hyaline tubercles present

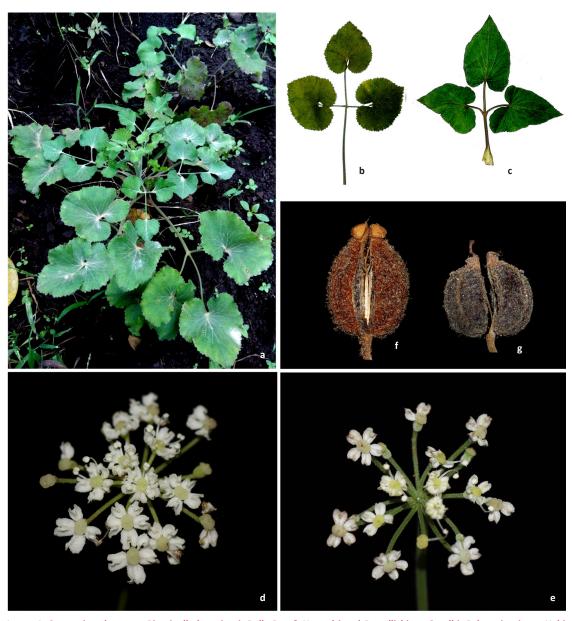


Image 1. Comparison between *Pimpinella katrajensis* Rolla Rao & Hemadri and *P. wallichiana* Gandhi: *P. katrajensis*: a–Habit, b–Leaf, d– Umbellets and f–fruit; *P. wallichiana*: c–Leaf, e–Umbellets and g–fruit. © K.V.C. Gosavi & S.D. Kulkarni.

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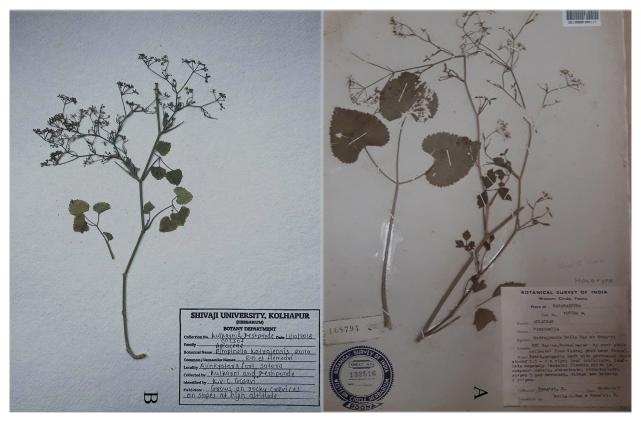


Image 2. A. Holotype - Pimpinella katrajensis Rolla Rao & Hemadri.

toothed and cartilaginous, lower surface minutely pubescent, sparsely pubescent on upper surface; uppermost leaves smaller. Inflorescences terminal compound umbels, large, tall, bisexual, puberulous, primary rays c. 5cm long, secondary rays 6–7 in number, 1–2.5 cm, long, puberulous, ebracteate. Flowers 6–15 per umbel, ebracteolate, unequal pedicellate, pedicels pubescent. Calyx teeth not distinguished. Corolla white, hairy outside, petals 5, broadly ovate, with notch at tip, stamens 5, anthers 0.3–0.4 mm long. Stylopodium distinct, conical shaped, styles very short. Fruit laterally compressed, ovoid, 2.2–3 mm long, pubescent to tomentose. Carpophore bifid.

Flowering & fruiting: September–December.

Habitat: Grows on rocky crevices on slopes at high altitude.

Distribution note: *Pimpinella katrajensis* is endemic to Maharashtra and only reported from two localities, Katraj Ghat near Pune and Pachgani in Satara District, however it is also distributed at Ajinkyatara, Vasota, Ambedare and Pateshwar in Satara District.

Specimens examined: *K*. 108794 (BSI) (holotype), 20.ix.1971, Katraj Ghat, Pune District, Maharashtra,

India, coll. Hemadri (Image 2A; 002367 (NGCPR, SUK), 11.x.2018, Ajinkyatara Fort, Satara District, Maharashtra, India, coll. S.D Kulkarni & S.M. Deshpande (Image 2B).

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