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Caption: Stripe-backed Weasel *Mustela strigidorsa*. Medium—digital, Software—procreate, Device—iPad + Apple pencil © Dhanush Shetty.



Rediscovery and extended distribution of *Indigofera santapau* Sanjappa (Leguminosae: Papilionoideae) from the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, India

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Tribe Indigoferae (Leguminosae: Papilionodeae) represented by seven genera *Cyamopsis*, *Indigoferum*, *Indigofera*, *Microcharis*, *Phylloxylon*, *Rhynchotropis*, and *Vaughania*. Of these, the first three occur in India. The genus *Indigofera* is widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world (Sanjappa 1995) with 750 species. In India, it is represented by 60 species and 10 varieties (Sanjappa 2021 in press). Of these 13 species and seven varieties are endemic to the country (Singh et al. 2015).

While surveying the hills in northern Western Ghats, the authors collected an interesting species of *Indigofera* from Ganeshkhind, Junnar (Pune district, Maharashtra), Anjaneri Hill, Pahine, Dhodamb Fort, Bordaiwat (Nashik district, Maharashtra), and Chinchali ghat (Dang district, Gujarat). After perusal of literature (Kothari 2001) it was identified as *Indigofera santapau* Sanjappa. This species was described based on the Santapau's collection from Purandhar (Santapau 11397 (BLAT)) and is unique in the

genus in having yellow flowers which turn orange after pollination. Perusal of literature (Kothari 2001; Mishra & Singh 2001; Gaikwad et al. 2014) available on the species clearly indicates that this species is critically endangered and known from type locality only.

A detailed description, image, habitat, and distribution map are provided to facilitate identification and distribution.

Indigofera santapau Sanjappa, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25: 202.1985; M. Ahmed. & M.P. Nayar Endemic Pl. Indian Region 99. 1987; Sanjappa, Legumes of India 194.1992 & in P.K.Hjra et al., Fasc. Fl. India 21: 117. 1995; M.J. Kothari in N.P. Singh & S. Karthikeyan, Fl. Maharashtra State 1: 711. 2000; D.K. Mishra & N.P. Singh, Endemic Threat. Pl. Maharashtra 93. 2001 (Image 1).

Type: India, Maharashtra, Pune district, Vazirgad-Purandar, 09.x.1950, coll. H. Santapau (holotype, 11397 (BLAT!)).

Annual herbs up to 40 cm high; stems sparsely

Editor: Anonymity requested.

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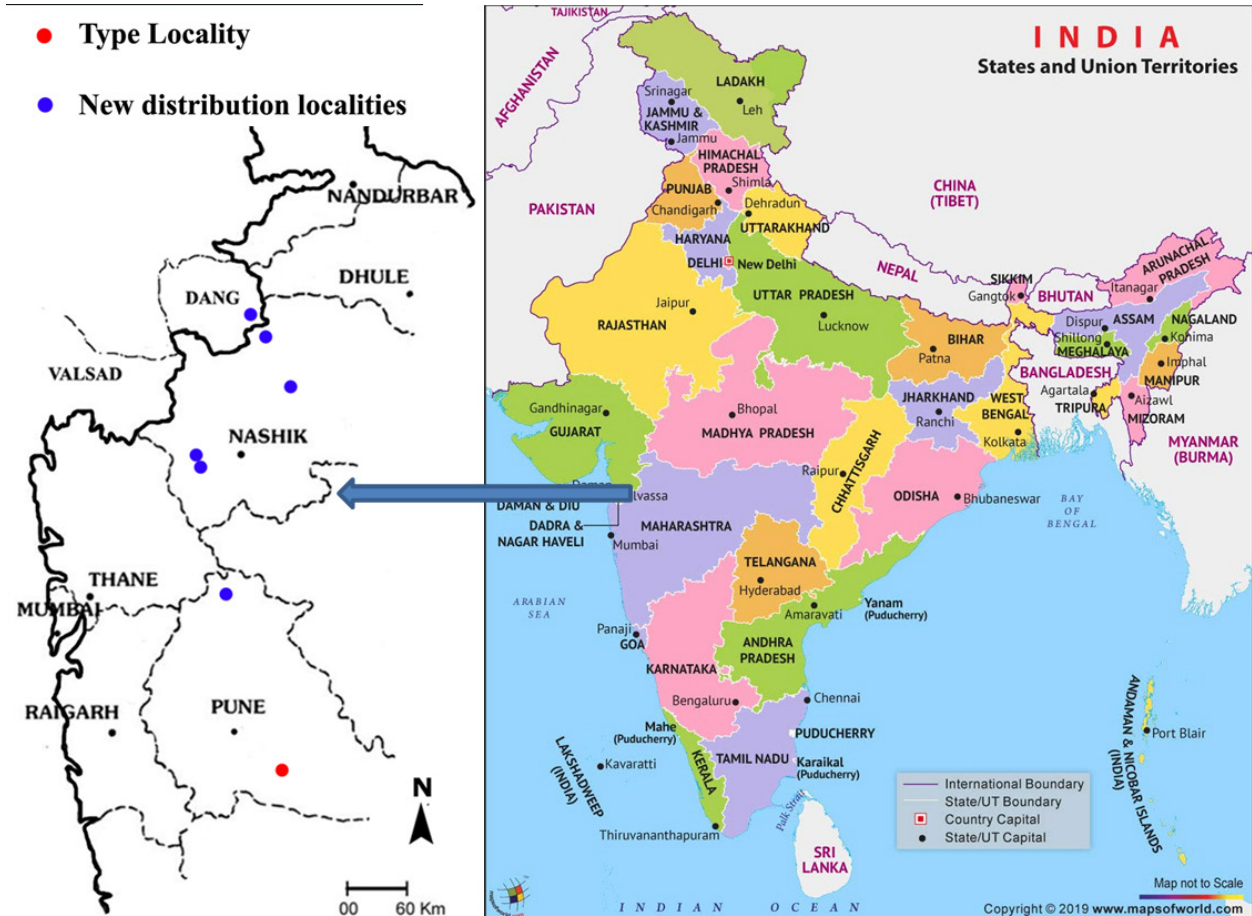


Figure 1. Distribution of *Indigofera santapau* Sanjappa.

branched from the base, branches adpressed blackish-brown pubescent. Leaves pinnately trifoliate, 3–7 cm long, petiole 1–2 cm long, obscurely canaliculated, adpressed pubescent; leaflets obovate to obovate-oblong, 2.5–5 × 1–2 cm, cuneate at base, obtuse to rounded and mucronate at apex, adpressed pubescent, gland-dotted beneath; stipules 2–3 mm long, subulate, pubescent; petiolules 1.5–2 mm long, pubescent; exstipellate. Racemes 4–6 mm long, axillary, sessile, 5–12-flowered; rachis pubescent interspersed with glandular hairs, axillary. Flowers 4.5–5 mm long, yellow turning orange; pedicels 1–1.5 mm long similar to rachis in pubescens; bracts ca. 1 mm long, caducous. Calyx ca. 2 mm long, adpressed pubescent mixed with glandular hairs; tube short, lobes 5, up to 1 mm long. Standard ca. 4 × 3 mm, obovate, mucronate, yellow, blackish-brown strigose mixed with a few glandular hairs outside; wing petals 2.8–3 × 1.2 mm, yellow, glabrous; keel petals 2.6–4 mm long, dark strigose mixed with a few glandular hairs, spurred on sides. Stamens 10 (9+1), diadelphous, staminal sheath 2.5–3 mm long; anthers

ca. 1 mm long. Ovary 1.5–2 mm long, oblong, adpressed puberulous mixed with glandular hairs; style ca. 1 mm long, glabrous; stigma capitate. Pods up to 2 cm long, sub-cylindrical, torulose, straight, reflexed, adpressed pubescent mixed with glandular hairs, sutures obscurely winged, endocarp smooth, 2–4-seeded, hairy. Seeds smooth, shining, reddish-brown.

Flowering and fruiting: Mid-August to October.

Distribution: India, Maharashtra (Pune and Nashik districts), Gujarat (Dang district) (Figure 1).

Ecological Note: *Indigofera santapau* grows on hill slopes with well-drained soil in association with *Apluda mutica* L., *Arthraxon lancifolius* (Trin) Hochst, *Arundinella pumila* (Hochst.) Steud., *Impatiens balsamina* L., *Lavandula bipinnata* (Roth) Kuntze, and *Lobelia heyneana* Schult.

Specimens examined: SSK 14, 18.ix.2016, India, Maharashtra, Nashik district, Tryambakeshwar, Anjaneri, coll. S.S. Kambale, K.V.C. Gosavi & S.G. Auti; SSK 27, 30.ix.2017, Dhodamb Fort, coll. S.S. Kambale & K.V.C. Gosavi; SSK 28, 01.x.2017, Maliamba (Bordaiwat), coll.



Image 1. *Indigofera santapau* Sanjappa: a—habit | b—flowering twig | c—flowers | d—pods. © K.V.C. Gosavi

S.S. Kambale & K.V.C. Gosavi, Gujarat; SSK 29, 02.x.2017, Dang district, Chinchali ghat, coll. S.S. Kambale & K.V.C. Gosavi (Herbarium, Dept. of Botany, RYK Science College, Nashik) (Image 2); 1403 (HIFP), 14.xii.1993, Pune district, Junnar, Ganeshkind Ghat, coll. B.R. Ramesh, D.De Franchschi & P.B. Viet; Sanjappa 2008, 21.ix.2014, Pune district, Junnar, Ganeshkind Ghat, 905m, coll. M. Sanjappa & A.N. Sringswara (Herbarium specimens deposited in University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle Pune, Central National Herbarium Kolkata and Madras

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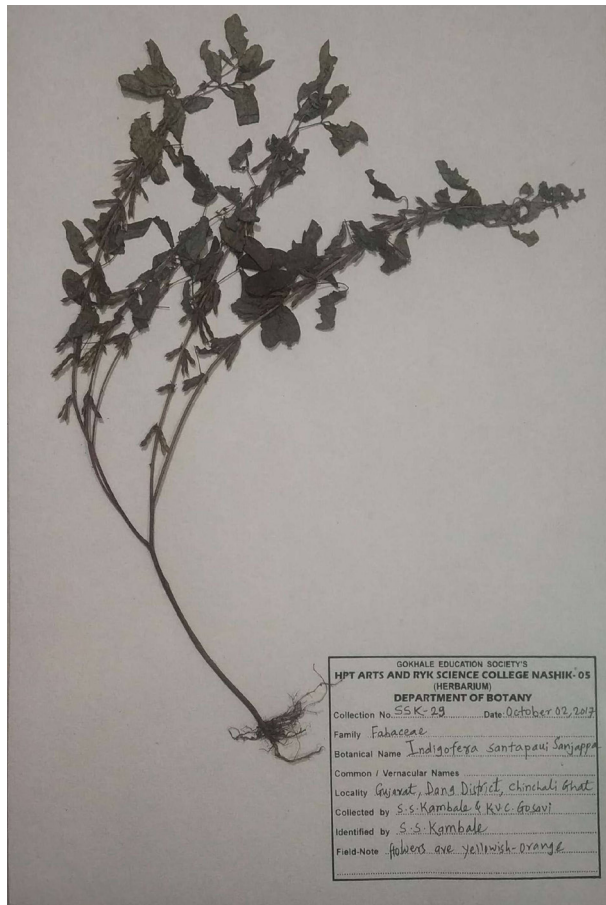


Image 2. Herbarium sheet of *Indigofera santapau* (# SSK 29).

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