

REDISCOVERY OF *OLAX NANA* (OLACACEAE) FOR GUJARAT STATE

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ABSTRACT

Olex nana Wall. ex Benth. has been rediscovered after a century from Kachchh district of Gujarat state. A brief description with photographs for easy identification and information about its phenology and habitat is provided here.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Olex* L. is widely distributed across Asia (India, China, Burma), Tropical Africa, and Australia with about 40 species. In India it is represented by seven species (Hooker, 1872). *Olex nana* Wall. ex Benth. is distributed in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, West Bengal and Gujarat (Cooke, 1903; Biswas, 1971; Panda *et al.* 2013).

In Gujarat the family Olacaceae is represented by a single species *O. nana*. First occurrence of this species in Gujarat state was stated by Cooke (1903) on the authority of C. Macnaghten from Rajkot district, Saurashtra region. Later the plant was documented by Thakar (1910) from Dharampur, Ranakandorna, Ranavav, Bhod & Aniyari villages of Porbandar district, Saurashtra

region. Since then the plant was never stated from the reported localities (Santapau, 1962; Shah, 1978; Nagar, 2003).

During our recent field excursion *O. nana* has been revived for Gujarat state after 104 years from Kachchh region. It has been collected from Lathedi village, Abdasa taluka, Kachchh district, Gujarat. The plant specimen has been deposited at Botanical Survey of India, Arid Zone Regional Center, Jodhpur.

Olex nana Wall. ex Benth. in *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London* 1: 88; J.D. Hooker, *Flora of British India* 1: 576; T. Cooke, *Flora of the Presidency of Bombay* 1: 222.

A low undershrub, branches twiggy. Leaves alternate, subsessile, oblong-lanceolate, obtuse,