

Record of *Streblus asper* Lour. (Family Moraceae) from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, India

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ABSTRACT

Streblus asper Lour. is a rare species in Rajasthan. So far, there has been no confirmed record of this species in Rajasthan. Recently, this species was noticed near the old Shiva temple on the way to Kamal Dhar in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. The presence of *Streblus asper* in Ranthambore is worth placing on the records.

Keywords: *Streblus asper*, First confirm record, Rajasthan

While performing a religious *Yatra* on August 30, 2022, a small stunted tree about 4.0 m high with a hollow stem was seen near the old Shiva temple on the way to Kamal Dhar (26°00'34.3"N, 76°27'52.1"E; route number 2) (Fig. 1). The old Shiva temple is situated between Ranthambore fort and Kamal Dhar. The tree had erect, leafy branches. Its leaves were elliptic to rhomboid or obovate, acute or acuminate, rough with subcrenate margins (Fig. 2 & 3).

Ziziphus mauritiana, *Terminalia pendula*, *Flueggea leucopyrus* and *Grewia flavescens* were commonly growing in the vicinity. The terrain was hilly with poor soil conditions.

Streblus asper is known from Delhi area (Maheshwari, 1963) and Gujarat state (Shah 1978) but was unknown from Rajasthan (Bhandari 1990; Sharma 2002 ; Sharma & Tiagi 1979; Shetty & Pandey 1983; Shetty & Singh 1991; Yadav & Meena

2011; Singh & Shrivastav 2007; Prasad et al. 1996).

Thus, *Streblus asper* was known from the northern end of the Aravallis in Delhi (Maheshwari, 1963) and from the southern side of the mountain chain in Gujarat state (Shah 1978). *Streblus asper* becomes very common near Ahmadabad, Nadiad and Anand cities of Gujarat state. This species is thinly present near Himmatagar, which is situated near the southernmost end of the Aravallis (unpublished personal observations). Thus, *S. asper* was known from both the ends of the Aravallis but unknown from the whole Aravallis confined to Rajasthan.

For the first time, Tiagi and Aery (2007) reported the presence of *Streblus asper* in Rajasthan in their treatise, "Flora of Rajasthan (South and South-East Rajasthan)". Though they have mentioned the presence of *S. asper* in the state, but no particular locality has been revealed. To fill this gap, the present record is important and worth placing in the records.

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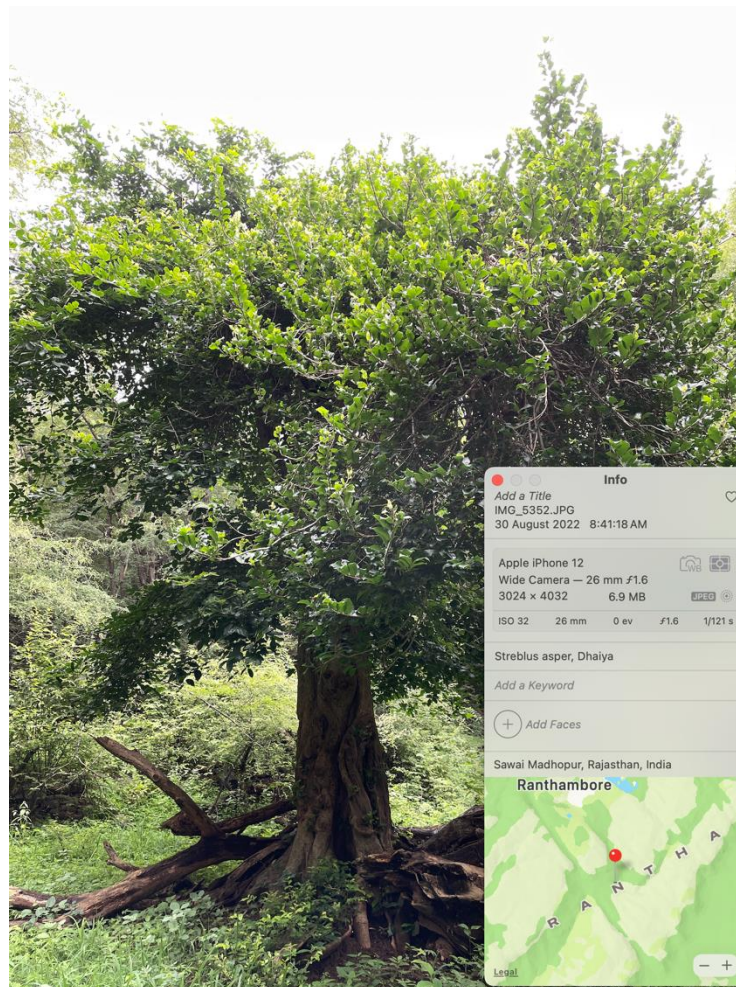


Figure 1. *Streblus asper* on the way to Kamal Dhar (Photo taken on Iphone 12 on August 30, 2022 with location map).



Figure 2. A branch with leaves



Figure 1. *Streblus asper* surrounded by thick growth of trees of Dhok (*Terminalia pendula*) species.

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