

RIVINA HUMILIS L. (PHYTOLACCACEAE). A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF PLANT SPECIES AND FAMILY FOR PALAMU DIVISION OF JHARKHAND, (INDIA)

Dr. JASBIR BAGGA

Department of Botany N.P.University, Medininagar, Jharkhand, India.

Email - baggajasbir@gmail.com

Abstract: During ethnobotanical survey an interesting plant of family Phytolaccaeae collected from Palamu District of Jharkhand. After critical observation it was identified as *Rivina humilis* L. . It is reported as a new distributional plant record as well as family for Palamu Division of Jharkhand. A detailed description with photograph, notes on occurrence and distribution of this taxon are provided for easy identification.

Key Words: Phytolaccaeae , *Rivina humilis* L., new record , Palamu Division.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Linnaeus in 1753, recognized genus *Rivina* and since then several species have been recognized by various workers, giving special emphasis to morphological plasticity in vegetative as well as reproductive characters. The genus *Rivina* is named after A.Q. Rivinus, Professor of Botany and Medicine at Leipzig 1691-1725 (**Ghosh and Sikdar 1983**).

Rivina humilis L. belongs to the family Phytolaccaceae is a native of America extending from Grgentina to Southern U.S.A .It has been widely introduced to other countries and has become naturalized in much of Pacific and a small number of countries in Africa and Asia. and is now widespread throughout in tropics and subtropics (**Dequan, 2003; Tseng et al., 2008; Mabberley, 2008**). In many countries (**Walter, 1909**). *Rivina* is monotypic genus and treated with a single species, *R. humilis* (**Dequan, 2003; Mabberley, 2008**).

2. DESCRIPTION:

Rivina humilis L. Sp.Pl. **1: 121**. 1753 ; Prain Bengal Pl. **2 :883** ,1903; Hains Bot. Bihar & Orissa **3:811** ,1961.

Common Name-Blood berry, Pigeon Berry, Coal Berry, Baby Pepper, Rouge Plant.

Botanical Name- *Rivina humilis* L.

Family- Phytolaccaceae.

Synonyms- *Rivinia laevis* .

Rivina humilis is a herbaceous to woody perennial plant up to 1 m high; stems are erect , dichotomously branched, angular glabrous or slightly pubescent at nodes; leaves ovate or rarely ovate-elliptic, up to 12 cm long, exstipulate, long petiolate, the base rounded to alternuate, apex acuminate, glabrous to pubescent above and below, especially along the veins, leaves are unpleasant smelling when crushed ; inflorescence terminal or axillary raceme up to 15 cm long ,erect or curved, slender; flowers are small bisexual on pedicels up to 5mm long, subtended by vear small bracts and bracteoles , tepals 4,2-3 mm long, green, white or often flushed with pink along margin, persistent in ripe fruits; obovate or ovate elliptic, 2–3 × 0.9–2.5 mm, sparsely hairy on outer surface,; stamens 4, dimorphic, two smaller; filaments persistent, becoming green, often acresent; anthers with unequal lobes, basifixed, often persistent in ripe fruits; ovary globose, superior,1 carpelled, 1 loculed, often with fine reticulate striations; style is shorter than ovary, slightly curved, stigma capitates; fruits globose, succulent, red or scarlet;3-4 mm in diameter, seeds furry,3 mm in diameter, black.(Photo plate.1



Fig. 1. *Rivina humilis* . A. Flowering and fruiting Twig.

Flowering and Fruiting: More or less throughout year. (Mostly in Aug.- Mar.).

Habitat: Ornamental.

Note: The berries are considered toxic to humans, birds find them irresistible. The plant is recommended to attract birds to the garden. South western native Americans used the berries for a red dye. In Mexico, the leaves were employed to treat wounds. In Jamaica this herb is used for cleaning of block tube, infertility or any womb related problem, the herb is also used for menstruation flow problem. The herb *Rivina humilis* is boiled and drink as a tea three times daily for problem with infertility and other womb related problem.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The authors is thankful to Dr. O. Rathor, Professor and Ex Principal of Science College, Nanded for confirming the identity of the specimen and his help and encouragement and S.E.S.A. for providing laboratory facilities.

REFERENCES:

1. Linnaeus, C., *Species Plantarum*, Ed.1. Laurentius Salvius, Sweden. pp. 121-122,(1753)
2. Ghosh, R.B. and Sikdar, J.K., A revision of the Indian Phytolaccaceae (*sensu lato*), *J. Econ. Tax. Bot.*, 4, (1983), 153-163.
3. Walter, H., Phytolaccaceae. In: Engler, A. (Ed.), *Das Pflanzenreich*. Vol. 39 [IV.83], (1909), Leipzig. pp. 1-154.
4. Dequan, L., Phytolaccaceae. In: Zhengyi, W. and Raven, P. H. (eds.), *Flora of China*. Vol.5 (2003), Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, pp. 435- 436.
5. Tseng, Y.H., Wang, C.C. & Y.T. Chen, *Rivina humilis* L. (Phytolaccaceae), A newly naturalized plant in Taiwan. *Taiwania*, 53(4), (2008), 417-419.
6. Mabberley, D.J., *Mabberley's Plant Book – a portable dictionary of flowering plants and their uses*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge,(2008).