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## *Senna uniflora* (Mill.) H. S. Irwin & Barneby (Fabaceae): a new addition for the flora of Marathwada, Maharashtra State (India).

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### Abstract

The present paper deals with a new addition of taxa of flowering plant to the Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. Updated information on nomenclature, correct description and locality is provided. This is a new additional record for this area.

**Keywords:** *Senna uniflora*, Fabaceae, new addition, Marathwada region, Maharashtra.

### Introduction

*Senna* is a large genus of flowering plants in the legume family (Fabaceae, subfamily Caesalpinioideae,<sup>[1]</sup> tribe Cassieae ser. Aphyllae<sup>[2]</sup>). This diverse genus is native throughout the tropics, with a small number of species in temperate regions. The number of species is estimated to be from about 260<sup>[3]</sup> to 350.<sup>[4]</sup> The type species for the genus is *Senna alexandrina*. About 50 species of *Senna* are known in cultivation.<sup>[5]</sup> Plants in the genus *Senna* are shrubs, sometimes small trees or perennial herbs. The leaves are arranged alternately, paripinnate with up to 25 pairs of leaflets, each leaf with a stipule at the base, but that often falls off as the leaves mature. The flowers are arranged in racemes in leaf axils with bracts at the base. The flower has five egg-shaped green or yellowish sepals and five usually yellow, usually glabrous petals. There are usually ten stamens that are free from each other, the filaments of different lengths, and some are staminodes. The fruit is a leathery pod containing several seeds<sup>[6][7][8][9]</sup>. The taxon *Cassia sericea* Sw. which is currently accepted as *Senna uniflora* Mill. Irwin and Barneby.

### Materials And Methods

During the floristic survey of Nanded District of Marathwada region, Maharashtra State, India. The collection of an interesting specimen belonging to the family Fabaceae has been collected while going through the cross examination with the other species of genus *Senna*, the specimen identified as *Senna uniflora* Mill. Irwin and Barneby. Scrutiny of literatures revealed that this species was reported for the first time from Eastern Karnataka<sup>[10]</sup> and subsequently from Pune<sup>[11]</sup>. This has also been reported from Madhya Pradesh (Dhar and Jhabua district)<sup>[12]</sup>, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala<sup>[13][14]</sup>, Uttar Pradesh<sup>[15]</sup> and Rajasthan<sup>[16]</sup>. The critical revise of this specimen and pertinent literatures<sup>[17][18][19][20][21][22][23][24]</sup> and<sup>[25]</sup> exposed that the identity of the specimen as *S. uniflora* Mill.

### Result and Discussion

#### Taxonomic Description

Herbs, erect, annuals; young parts pubescent, at length glabrescent. Leaves 5.3- 8.9 cm long; leafletopposite, 2-4 pairs with a stalked gland (c 3.5 mm long) between each pair, 2.5-4.5 × 1.8 - 2.2 cm, obovate-oblong, base cuneate, apex rounded, apiculate. Flowers 3-4 in axillary racemes. Pods subcompressed, thickened on both the sutures, beaked with persistent style and stigma. Seeds upto 10, subquadangular, rhomboidal, smooth, dull brown.



**Flowering and Fruiting:** August – November.  
**Distribution:** Eastern Karnataka and subsequently from Pune. Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan  
**Specimens Examined:** Navargapura, Khandar and Visnupri Nanded Maharashtra State, India.  
**G. P. S. Location:** Latitude:19.115833  
 Longitude:77.295128  
**Collected by:** Rizwan Younus Khan on dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016. (Voucher No. 2413).

**Fig. 1:** Habit and flower of *Senna uniflora* Mill.

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