

**NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD OF  
*SARCOPYRAMIS NAPAENSIS* WALL.  
(MELASTOMATACEAE) FROM GARHWAL  
HIMALAYA, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**

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During the course of floristic exploration in Chamoli District (Uttarakhand State, India), the authors came across populations of *Sarcopyramis* Wall., growing in a shady moist locality of *Panichhoya* forest of Gairsain (Chamoli), on the right flank of river Ramganga. Critical examination revealed the plant as *Sarcopyramis napalensis* Wall. of Melastomataceae. Two populations ca. 150–200 individuals each were observed under the present study. So far, this species has been recorded in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram and Sikkim in eastern Himalaya and recently, its occurrence was reported in western Himalaya by Pusalkar (2013). The species has not been reported by earlier workers from Garhwal Himalaya (Duthie 1903; Babu 1977; Raizada & Saxena 1978; Polunin & Stainton 1984; Naithani 1984–85; Gaur 1999; Uniyal et al. 2007). Thus, this is the first report on the occurrence

of *Sarcopyramis napalensis* Wall. in Garhwal Himalaya and an addition to the 'Flora of Chamoli' as well. The voucher specimen has been deposited at HNB Garhwal University Herbarium, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand (GUH 20736).



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***Sarcopyramis napalensis*  
(Images 1–2)**

Wall., Tent. Fl. Nepal. 1:32, t. 23. 1824; C.B. Clarke in Hooker. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 540. 1883; *S. subramanii* M.P. Nayar, Proc. Indian Acad. Sci., B 66: 279. 1967; *S. humilis* M.P. Nayar, J. Bombay. Nat. Hist. Soc. 71: 170. 1974.

Specimen examined: GUH 20736, 19.viii.2014, Panichhoya forest, Chamoli, Garhwal Himalaya, India, coll. Dinesh Singh Rawat (Image 3).

Herb, erect, 15–20 cm tall, solitary or branched above. Stems 4-sided, succulent, glabrous. Leaves opposite, decussate, petiole 1–2 cm, secondary veins 1 or 2 on each side of mid-vein, tertiary veins parallel; leaf blade broadly ovate-sub-lanceolate, 3–8 x 2–3 cm, membranous, often with white spots, base cuneate-sub round and slightly decurrent, margin serrulate, apex acuminate. Inflorescence terminal cyme, nearly 3–5 flowered; bracts 2, sub-sessile, foliaceous, ovate; pedicel short, ca. 2mm, 4-angled, narrowly winged on angles. Hypanthium cupular–funnel form, ca. 5mm, 4-sided, usually winged on angles. Calyx lobes-4, ca. 1mm, apex usually truncate or with a fimbriate membranous disk. Petals 4, ca. 7mm, usually oblique, obovate, apex apiculate or truncate, pink-purplish. Stamens 8, equal in size, filament ca. 3mm long, anthers ca. 1mm, dehiscence poricidal, yellow; connective

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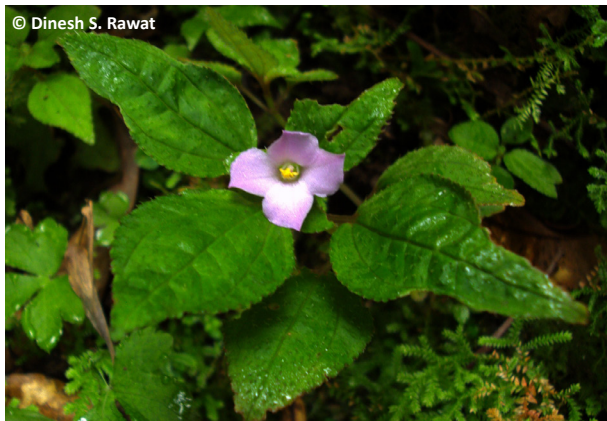
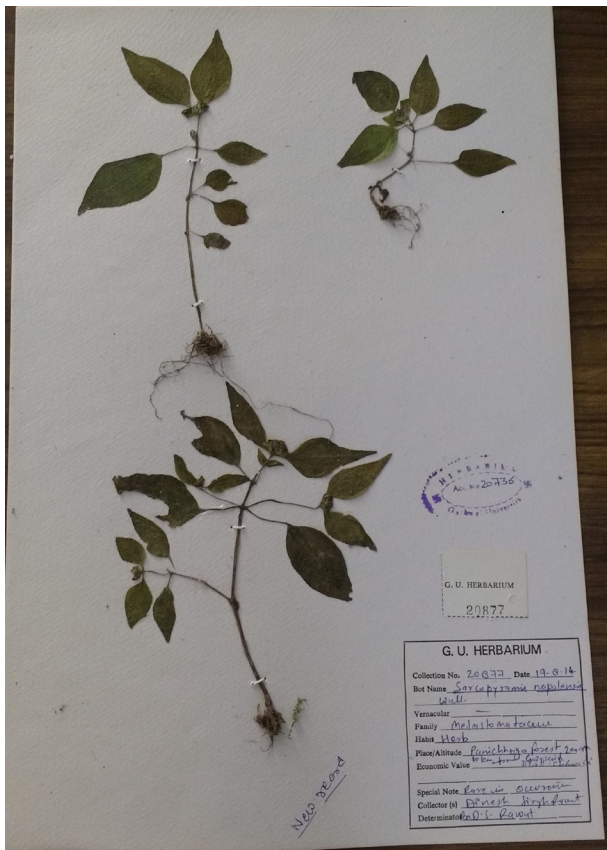
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Image 1. *Sarcopyramis napalensis* at floweringImage 2. *Sarcopyramis napalensis* at fruitingImage 3. Herbarium image of *Sarcopyramis napalensis*

decurrent, forming a short spur. Style ca. 2mm, stigma capitate. Ovary inferior. Capsule cup-shaped, 4-sided, crown exserted from hypanthium, membranous. Seeds small, numerous.

Flowering & Fruiting: August–September and October–November.

Ecology: Uncommon, shaded damp habitat or stream side, associated with species of *Selaginella*, *Hydrocotyle*, *Pilea*, in broad-leaved mixed Oak-Rhododendron (*Quercus leucotrichophora* - *Rhododendron arboreum*) forest.

Distribution: Bhutan, China, India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttarakhand), Malesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. At *Birithi-Ruiger* forest (2350–2425 m) of Pithoragarh (Kumaon) and *Panichhoya* forest (ca. 2000–2150 m), 10km westward to Gairsain, district Chamoli (Garhwal) in Uttarakhand.

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