

Conservation and Distributional Record on the Occurrence of *Athyrium Parasnathense* (C.B. Clarke) Ching (Athyriaceae family) from Sandhan Valley, Bhandardara District Region, Maharashtra State, India

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Abstract- Survey of fern was carried out from Sandhan Valley, Bhandardara District region. The authors are engaged in the study of fern of the Sahyadri hills in western ghats. The present paper deals with the extended distribution and conservation of the genus *Athyrium*. One species of *Athyrium parasnathense* (C.B. Clarke) Ching ex. Mehra & Bir first time were collected from this area and as a new distribution record.

Keywords: *Athyrium*, Sandhan Valley, Bhandardara, distribution.

I. INTRODUCTION

Bhandardara is a situated near Igatpuri, in the Western Ghats of India. The town is situated in the Akole taluka, Ahmednagar district of the state of Maharashtra. The Sandhan Valley is also known as the Valley of Shadows, Sandhan Valley is situated near the Samrad. The valley is a narrow, rock-floored gorge among two tall raise walls that rise to 300 feet. With widths tapering to as slight as 200 feet in places, this 1.5-kilometre elasticity feels like walking into a mythological land carved in stone. In monsoon session there are developed a diversity of some tall trees, also spot medicinal plants, Bryophytes and Some Fern species are surrounding the valley.

The valley is a prodigy and one of the situation's best-kept secrecies. A superb valley fixed over periods by nature's forces, this rocky territory proposals a memorable mix of escapade, calmness, and raw natural beauty. The Sandhan Valley is one of the greatest canyons in the splendid setting of Sahyadri Western Ghats. The forests cover an area of 533 square

miles, of which all but nine are reserved forests. They are situated principally on the Ambagarh, Gaikhuri and Partabgarh hills and are divided into five ranges named Bawanthari, Lakhni, Pauni Gaikhuri and Partabgarh.

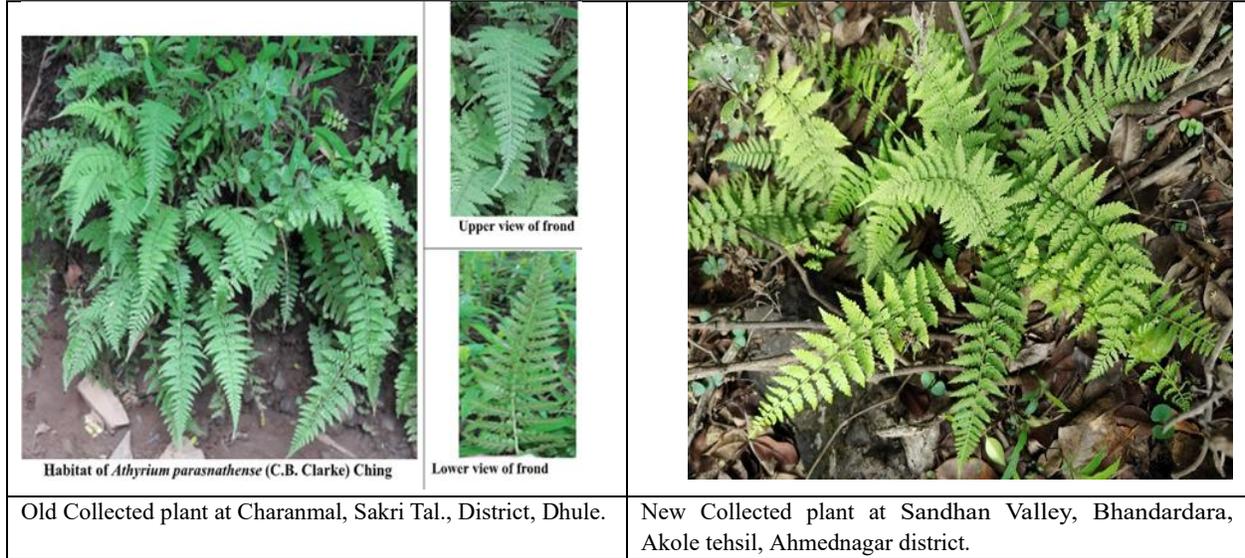
II. TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT

Athyrium parasnathense (C.B. Clarke) Ching ex Mehra & Bir, Res. Bull. Panjab Univ., Sci. 15: 141. 1964; Frazer-Jenkins, Taxon. Revis. Indian Subcontinental Pteridophytes., 208-209.2008. Patil et al., Field Guide Pterid. N. W. Ghats, 83. 2017. *Asplenium filix-femina* (L.) Bernh. var. *parasnathensis* C.B. Clarke, Tr. Linn.Soc. II, 1: 493, 14 t. 61, C 21880. *Athyrium filix-femina* (L.) Roth. var. *parasnathensis* (C.B. Clarke) Bedd., Handb. Ferns 16 Brit. India 170. 1883.

Plants 15-45 cm in height, terrestrial, medium sized fern; rhizome 1-2 cm, short erect- suberect, scaly; scales 1-5 mm long, 0.5- 2 mm broad, yellow-brown linear-lanceolate, acuminate at apex, broad at base, margin entire; frond 14-43 cm long, 3-7 cm broad, herbaceous, bipinnate-bipinnatifid, broadly lanceolate; stipe 3-10 cm long, pale green- brown, grooved, densely scaly at base; scales same as like rhizome scales; lamina 11-33 cm long, 3-7 cm broad, broadly lanceolate, apex acuminate, dark green-green, glabrous, glossy; pinnae 3-7 cm long, 2-3 cm broad, 15-25 pairs, deltoid-lanceolate, sessile to short stalked, subopposite-alternate, acuminate at apex, broad at base, margin crenate; veins forked, slightly distinct

above and below; sori 1.5-5 mm long, 0.5-2 mm broad, indusiate, linear-hooked, two rows; indusia 1.5-5 mm

long, 0.5-2 mm broad, thin, membranous, median or sub-median, persistent; sporangia 200-600 µm.



Comments: the species was earlier recorded and described by the author have reported first time in this area in the duration 2024 from Charanmal Hills, Sakri taluka, Dhule dist., Now the same has been reported from Sandhan Valley, Bhandardara.

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