The state Odisha is situated on the eastern coast is marginalized by the Bay of Bengal, while on the other parts by the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. This state is a land of rich floral diversity. More than 2630 species of angiosperm under 194 families (Sahoo et al., 1999) have been recorded in the state. These include trees of commercial significance and the plants with medicinal properties. Teak, Bamboo, Sal, Haldi, Rosewood, Paisal and Sanghvan are the commonly found trees of the state. It is bestowed with varied physiographic conditions, moderately high rainfall, relative humidity and a fine network of perennial rivers providing congenial conditions for floristic diversity.

During an exploration trip in September, 2015 under the project Ethnobotany of Odisha, few specimens of Tragia (Euphorbiaceae) were collected. After a critical examination of type specimens available in CAL (Central National Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, West Bengal) and the consultation of relevant literature, the identity was confirmed as Tragia praetervisa Chakrab. & N.P. Balakr.

The genus Tragia L. consist of about 170 species, mainly occurring in Africa, Madagascar and the Americas, but also extending across Asia to Australia (absent in China, South East Asia and Malesia). In India it is represented by seven species namely T. bicolor Miq., T. involucrata L., T. hispida Willd, T. montana (Thwaites) Müll.-Arg., T. sanjappae Chakrab. & N.P. Balakr. T. plukentii R. Sm., and T. praetervisa Chakrab. & N.P. Balakr. (Chakraborty and Balakrishnan 2006, Balakrishnan et al. 2012). In Odisha, the genus Tragia L. is represented by three species namely T. bicolor Miq., T. involucrata L., and T. plukentii R. Sm. (Saxena & Brahmam 1990). Thorough perusal of all the relevant literature it was revealed that this species has not been reported from Odisha so far.

The present finding is, therefore, the first record of this species for Odisha from Nayagarh district. A detailed description, accompanied with photographs, is provided to authenticate the new record and facilitate its easy identification. The voucher specimen of the same is deposited at the Herbarium of the Central Botanical Laboratory, BSI, Howrah and other specimens to CAL, Howrah.

Tragia praetervisa Chakrab. & N.P.Balakr.
Rheedea 16(1): 23; & in Fam. Euphorbiaceae India: 183 -184, 2007. Fig. 1.

Herb or herbaceous climbers up to 5m high; young shoots fulvous tomentellous or scattered hirsute; stem and branches flattened, angled and striate towards apices, terete towards base, greenish, yellowish, brown to dark brown, 1–3 mm thick, scattered fulvous hirsute or hispid, glabrous by age. Leaves ovate, cordate–ovate, ovate–oblong or ovate–elliptic or oblong–elliptic to narrowly deltoid–oblong, 3–18×1–6.5cm, cordate or narrowly so at the base, serrate (to serrulate) or dentate (to denticulate) along margins, caudate or acuminate at apex, membranous to thinly chartaceous, scattered fulvous or grey hispid or hirsute above beneath (mainly on nerves), green, brown to dark brown or often blackish above when dry, green to pale brown or coppery beneath, 3-nerved at base. Petioles 0.5–5(–7.5) cm long, 0.7–2 mm thick, flattend, striate or terete, scattered fulvous hirsute, hispid, or tomentellous, glabrescent in age; stipule subulate up to 4mm long caducus. Raceme terminal or leaf opposed 3–12cm long, with 1–2 female flowers at proximal nodes and several to many flowers at distal nodes, greenish or greenish–white, peduncles 0.5–3 cm long, 0.6–1.2mm thick towards base, scattered fulvous hirsute or hispid; bracts linear to lanceolate or ovate (in female), 1–3 mm long, glabrous. Male flowers: pedicels ca. 1mm long; sepals 3, ovate to sub-orbicular, ca. 1.2 mm across; stamens 3; filaments thick, triangular, ca. 0.4 mm long, slightly united at base; anthers wide oblong to sub-orbicual, ca. 0.3 mm long/ across. Female flowers: pedicles 0.5–1 mm long glabrous; sepals 6, 2–5×1–3mm, enlarging and stellately spreading in fruit; ovary subglobose, ca. 2–2.5 mm long, erect, connate below
into column, trifid and recurved at apex. Capsule depressed, ca. 3 x 8 mm, deeply 3-lobed, yellowish green, brown when dry, scattered fulvous hispid; seeds globose, c. 4 mm in diameter, grayish and mottled brown; fruiting sepals 5–10 x 2–5 mm (including lobes); main body of sepals linear to narrowly oblong or occasionally spatulate or narrowly ovate–oblong, scattered fulvous puberulous or hispid to glabrous outside, glabrous inside; lobes of sepals 4–8 per side, linear to narrow oblong, 1.5–3 (–5) mm long, often arching densely fulvous hispid.

**Flowering and Fruiting:** Throughout the year but peak in August–February.

**Distribution:** India: Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

**Acknowledgements**

Authors are thankful to Director, Botanical Survey of India for providing necessary facilities and Dr. T. Chakrabarty for the confirmation of identity. We gratefully acknowledge the permission, help and logistics provided by Forest Department, Odisha.

**References**


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**Announcement**

**13th International Otter Congress: Otters & People**

*03-08 July 2016, Singapore Zoological Garden, Singapore*

The IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group would like to invite representatives of your organization or member zoos/aquariums to participate in the 2016 International Otter Congress being held in July in Singapore.

The focus is on Asian otter species and the increasing threats to their survival from illegal hunting for skins. If you have any questions please contact me. I would like to see some of your organizations’ members join the Otters in Zoos, Aquariums, Rehabilitation, and Wildlife Sanctuaries (OZ) Task Force I chair for the OSG as well. The task force goals are creating a forum where those working with ex-situ otters can share experiences and best practices for husbandry. We also have husbandry documents for Asian otters in two East Asian languages on the OSG website.

For further details please contact: Janice (Jan) Reed-Smith, OZ Task Force Chair, African Otter Outreach Project, Director. Email: jsotter@iserv.net; jsotter@gmail.com. Website: http://www.ottercongress2016.com/index.html