New records of *Ipomoea* species (*Convolvulaceae*) for the flora of Egypt

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**Abstract.** *Ipomoea triloba* and *I. wrightii* (*Convolvulaceae*) have been set as new records for the Nile Delta of Egypt. These species belong to genus *Ipomoea*, which is considered a weed in Egypt. A concise description, phenology and ecological observations of the newly recorded taxa have been provided, along with photographs.

**Key words:** Egypt, *Ipomoea triloba*, *Ipomoea wrightii*, the Nile Delta.

**Introduction**


**Material and methods**

Field trips in different parts of the Nile Delta of Egypt have been made in 2012–2017. A number of *Ipomoea* specimens were collected and checked first in the local flora for their presence in Egypt (Ascherson & Schweinfurth 1887, 1889; Muschler 1912; Täckholm 1956; 1974 and Boulos 2000), then stored in the Cairo University Herbarium (CAI). Specimens which are not recorded from Egypt were checked using the regional floras (Boissier 1875; Feinbrun-Dothan 1978; Paris 1978; Mekile 1985), and were further identified by relevant literature on the genus *Ipomoea* (Baker & Rendle 1906; Verdcourt 1963 and Wood & al. 2015). The global distribution of the new records was checked on the Euro+Med Plant-Base website (Raab-Straube 2018; www.tropicos.org.). Taxonomic description, ecological observations, phenology, and a distribution map are provided.

**Results and discussion**

After the laboratory studies and literature survey in this study, the results revealed a strong evidence that *Ipomoea wrightii* A. Gray and *I. triloba* L. are new records for the weed flora of Egypt.

*Ipomoea wrightii* A. Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Amer. 2 (1): 213 (1878)

**Type:** United States, 1860; *C. Wright*, s.n. (Holotype; GH).

Annual twining herb, stem circular, glabrous. Leaves alternate, exstipulate, petiolate; lamina divided into 5-separate leaflets, leaflet linear-lanceolate, 25–60 × 4–8 mm, glabrous, attenuated at base and acuminate at
Fig. 1. (a) Map to show distribution of *Ipomoea triloba* 🆕 and *I. wrightii* ✿ in Egypt; (b) *I. triloba*; (c, d) *I. wrightii*. 
apex. Petiole 20–50 mm long, glabrous. Flowers solitary, occasionally 2–3, axillary, pedunculate; peduncle coiled and slender, 40–70 mm long, glabrous. Bracteoles two, subulate, up to 2 mm long. Pedicel angular, 5–7 mm long, stout. Sepals unequal, scarious margin, 2-outer sepals ovate, 3.5–4 × 2.5 mm, with glandular dotes and a mucronate apex, inner sepals broadly oblong 4–5 × 2.5–3 mm, glabrous, with obtuse apex. Corolla pink, funnel-shaped, 20–25 mm long, glabrous. Capsule ovoid, 9–10 × 8 mm, glabrous, 4-seeded; seeds ovoid, with two flat ventral faces and one convex dorsal face, 5–6 × 4–4.5 mm, blackish, glabrous, seed-testa smooth; hilum rounded, ±sunken, sublateral. (Fig. 1c, d)

Phenology: Field study showed that the flowering and fruiting period extended from July to October.

Habitat: The herb grows on alluvial, damp or silty wet soil, in dappled sun or deep shade. It is observed as weed in fields of sugar cane (Saccharum officinarum), where the soil is always wet, shaded and the crop remains on the land for several years. Probably widespread.

Distribution: Known from Tropical America, Africa to India (Wood & al. 2015 and www.tropicos.org), it has not been reported yet in the Mediterranean and Europe, except for from Belgium (Raab-Straube 2018). In Egypt, it was recorded in the Nile Delta as an alien species (personal observations).


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References


