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Euphorbia ananthapuramensis (Euphorbiaceae), a new species from Andhra Pradesh, India

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Euphorbia ananthapuramensis K. Prasad, A. Naray., A.M. Reddy & B.R.P. Rao (Euphorbiaceae) is described as a new species from the Nigidi forest, Ananthapuramu district, Andhra Pradesh, India. It belongs to the subgenus *Euphorbia*, section *Euphorbia*, and is morphologically similar to *E. caducifolia*, but differs from it in its branches that taper towards the tips; leaves that are 3–6 mm long, broadly ovate, truncate or rounded at the base and have entire margins; a cupular involucre; and seeds without a ventral line. An updated identification key to the Indian species morphologically resembling *E. caducifolia* is provided. Based on direct threats to the species and IUCN categories and criteria, its conservation status is assessed to be Critically Endangered (CR).

Euphorbia is one of the largest genera of flowering plants and the most species-rich genus in the family Euphorbiaceae. It currently comprises 2058 accepted species (https://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:327729-2#children) distributed throughout the world, with the highest diversity found in arid and semi-arid regions of the tropics and subtropics. The genus includes geophytes, herbs, shrubs, trees and various succulent and xerophytic forms, and has a distinctive morphological synapomorphy, the partial inflorescence known as cyathium (Horn *et al.* 2012).

Based on morphological and molecular phylogenetic studies, *Euphorbia* is classified into four subgenera, *Athymalus* (Peirson *et al.* 2013), *Chamaesyce* (Yang *et al.* 2012), *Esula* (Riina *et al.* 2013) and *Euphorbia* (Dorsey *et al.* 2013). The subgenus *Euphorbia* is divided into 21 sections, of which the largest one is *Euphorbia*. This section comprises more than 350 species, mostly distributed in arid and semi-arid regions of the tropics and subtropics, ranging from Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, and South and Southeast Asia to Pakistan (Dorsey *et al.* 2013, Pahlevani *et al.* 2020). The morphological fea-

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