

Unusual Presence of Tetramerous and Hexamerous Corolla in *Evolvulus nummularius* L.

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Fig. *Evolvulus nummularius* L. (a) plants in habitat (b-d) tetra-, penta- and hexa-merous flowers.

The genus *Evolvulus* (drived from evolve = to unroll, not twining as in *Convolvulus*) of family Convolvulaceae was first described in the second edition of Species Plantarum (Linnaeus, 1762). It consists of small herbs or under shrubs distributed in the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world. It is represented by more than 70 species in the world but only 3 species are reported from

India, viz. *Evolvulus alsinoides* L., *Evolvulus glomeratus* Nees & C. Mart. (Cultivated) and *Evolvulus nummularius* L.

The genus is characterised by gamopetalous, pentamerous rotate or broadly funnel shaped corolla with 5 epipetalous stamens. While exploring Upper Gangetic Plains of India for family Convolvulaceae, the authors collected some interesting plant specimens of *Evolvulus nummularius* L. having 4-lobed, 5-lobed and 6-lobed corolla with 4, 5 and 6 epipetalous stamens respectively on different plants of the species but only 5-lobed corolla with 5 epipetalous stamens is reported in the genus *Evolvulus*. Thus tetramerous and hexamerous petals with 4 and 6 stamens in *Evolvulus nummularius* L. are reported here. Such anomalies may occur due to some genetic or environmental factors.

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