

SEEDLING MORPHOLOGY OF TWO MILK WEED TAXA-CALOTROPIS GIGANTEA AND CALOTROPIS PROCERA (ASCLEPIADACEAE)

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ABSTRACT: Milk weed taxa- *Calotropis gigantea* and *Calotropis procera* are wildy growing plants of temperate and tropical regions of the world and they have been reported to possess a number of medicinal and other useful properties. The purpose of present study was to record seedling morphology of these two weeds and evaluate their taxonomic significance as well. The seedling morphology of both the weed taxa observed upto 5th leaf stage. Some seedling attributes, viz., collet, colour and venation of paracotyledons, leaf shape, leaf apex and hairs were found useful in distinguishing the taxa at seedling stage. Shoot -root length ratio (SRLR), and days and dates of appearance of paracotyledons, and of different leaf stages were recorded.

Key words : *Collet, Milk weed, Paracotyledons, Venation.*