NOTE

Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn. (Melastomataceae) - a Threatened Species, New Record for India

Ambikabai Raghavanpillai Sivu(2), Matalai Kokkaramath Ratheesh Narayanan(1*), Etikkal Sukumaran Santhosh Kumar(2), Kanjiraparambil Arjunan Sujana(1), Nediyaparambu Sukumaran Pradeep(2), Nadesapanicker Anil Kumar(1) and Alagramam Govindasamy Pandurangan(2)

1. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Puthoorvayal P. O., Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala, India - 673121, Ph. +91(0)4936 204477, Tele fax: +91(0)4936 207019.
2. Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695 562, Ph. +91(0)472 2869246, Tele fax: +91(0)472 2869646.
* Corresponding author. Tel: +91(0)0497-2805521; Fax : 0497-2805040; Email: ratheeshpoduval@yahoo.co.in

(Manuscript received 1 February 2012; accepted 22 March 2012)

ABSTRACT: Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn., an endemic and threatened species of Sri Lanka characterized by narrowly filiform foliar sclereids is reported and described as a new record for India from Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Palakkad districts of Kerala.

KEY WORDS: India, Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn.

INTRODUCTION

The genus Memecylon L. was established by Linnaeus in 1753 with a brief description of M. capitellatum from Ceylon. Memecylon today comprises about 300 species in Asia (Mabberley, 2008; Bremer, 1979, 1987), 70 in Africa and 78 in Madagascar (Jacques-Felix, 1984, 1985). In peninsular India as per the recent estimate the genus is having 29 species with 18 endemic species to the Western Ghats (Clarke, 1879; Gamble, 1919; Mohanan et al., 2001; Viswanathan and Manikandan, 2001; Santhosh Kumar et al., 2003; Manickam et al., 2007). While working on the ‘Molecular systematic studies on the genus Memecylon L. of the Peninsular India’, the authors collected interesting specimens of Memecylon from the evergreen forests of Vaduvanchal and Kunchome of the Wayanad District, Aruvanpara of Silent Valley National Park, Nilambur of Malappuram District and Thamarassery Ghat of Kozhikode District of Kerala. After critical study of the specimens with relevant literature and matching with the type specimen (C. P. 2468) it was identified as Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn., a taxon narrowly distributed in Sri Lanka and hitherto unknown to Indian flora. This constitutes the first authentic record of this species from India and the same is reported here as a new addition to the Indian flora with full citation, description, phenology, distribution, and specimens examined along with color photographs to facilitate further collection, identification and conservation.
stamens 8, equal, incurved in buds, filaments slender, ca. 5.5 mm long, yellowish white, anthers curved, ca. 2.1 mm long, connective with a gland, yellow or brownish; ovary unilocular, 10-12 ovules, placentation free-central, style subulate, 5 mm long, yellowish white, stigma simple. Fruits globose, berry, 8-10 mm across with persistent calyx, yellowish green, bluish black at maturity; seed 1.

Flowering and Fruiting: November-March.

Distribution: India (Kerala) and Sri Lanka.

Ecology: associated species and conservation status:
Memecylon clarkeanum is distributed in the lower stratum of evergreen forests at an altitude ranges between 300-900 m asl. mainly along the western slopes of the Western Ghats in the northern Kerala. Small population of this species is located in the evergreen forests of Kunchome and Vaduvanchal of Wayanad District, Thamarassery Ghat of Kozhikode District, Nilambur of Malappuram District and also in the Silent Valley National Park of Palakkad District. Populations of this species are fragmented and are represented by a few scattered individuals. There is no continuity in distribution from the southern to the northern populations. The southern-most population is located in the evergreen forests of Silent Valley National Park and the northern-most population is in Kunchome forest of Wayanad. Altogether the distribution of this species is restricted to less than 100 km². The populations at Nilambur, Thamarassery Ghat and Kunchome are adjacent to National and State Highways and the quality of habitat is declining continuously.

The associated species commonly found in the habitat are Arenga wightii, Atalantia monophylla, Baccarrea courtallensis, Desmos lawii, Goniothalamus wynaadensis, Humboldtia brunonis, Isora brachiata, Knema attenuata, Meiogyne ramarowii, Myristica wynaadensis, Humboldtia brunonis, Ixora brachiata, Baccaurea courtallensis, Desmos lawii, Goniothalamus.

LITERATURE CITED


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors are grateful to the Director, Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), the Executive Director, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), for providing facilities and support. The logistics provided by the Kerala Forest Department for the fieldwork are thankfully acknowledged.
Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn. (野牡丹科) — 一種在印度的瀕危新紀錄種

Ambikabai Raghavanpillai Sivu(2), Matalai Kokkaramath Ratheesh Narayanan(1*), Ettickal Sukumaran Santhosh Kumar(2), Kanjiraparambil Arjunan Sujana(1), Nediyaparambu Sukumaran Pradeep(2), Nadesapanicker Anil Kumar(1) and Alagramam Govindasamy Pandurangan(2)

1. M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Pathoorvayal P. O., Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala, India - 673121, Ph. +91(0)4936 204477, Tele fax: +91(0)4936 207019.
2. Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695 562, Ph. +91 (0) 472 2869246, Tele fax: +91(0)472 2869646.
* 通信作者。 Tel: +91(0)0497-280552; Fax: 0497-280504; Email: ratheeshpoduval@yahoo.co.in

（收稿日期：2012年2月1日；接受日期：2012年5月29日）

摘要：Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn. 是一種瀕危的斯里蘭卡特有種，本文首次發現其在印度的新紀錄分佈，發現地點分別在印度喀拉拉邦的維亞納德區、喀立柯區、馬拉普南區和柏拉卡德區；該物種特徵為葉部厚壁細胞較為狹窄。

關鍵詞：印度，Memecylon clarkeanum Cogn.