NEW RECORDS

MIKANIA MICRANTHA KUNTH A NEW RECORD TO THE ASTERACEAE OF EASTERN GHATS, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

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Mikania micrantha is reported as new record of Asteraceae in Pachamalai, Eastern Ghat. A brief description with photographs and relevant notes are given for easy identification of the taxa in the field.

Keywords: Mikania micrantha, Asteraceae, Pachamalai.


TRIPOGON MAHENDRAGIRIENSIS SP. NOV. (POACEAE) FROM THE EASTERN GHATS OF ODISHA (ORISSA) STATE, INDIA

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Tripogon mahendragiriensis (Poaceae), a new species from Mahendragiri Hills, Eastern Ghats, Odisha (Orissa) State, India is described and illustrated. It is similar to Tripogon humilis and T. purpurascens, but differs mainly by having longer culms, leaf blades and spike, unlobed lemmas and 2 anthers which are longer. From T. purpurascens it also differs by having 3-awned lemmas.


Cheirostylis Blume (Orchidaceae), a new generic record for the Eastern Ghats, India

Prasad Kumar Dash, Avishek Bhattacharjee, Pankaj Kumar & Pratyush Mohapatra
Cheirostylis parvifolia Lindl. (Orchidaceae) has been discovered from the Mahendragiri Hills of Gajapati District of Odisha, part of the Eastern Ghats, India growing at an elevation of 900m constituting a new record of the genus Cheirostylis Blume for Eastern India. The present finding shows an extension of its range of distribution from the Western to the Eastern Ghats of India.

Keyword: Cheirostylis parvifolia, Eastern Ghats, Goodyerinae, Mahendragiri, Odisha

(Source: www.orchidspecies.com)
First Record of Oriental Dooarbird *Eurystomus Orientalis* from Odisha

Oriental Dollarbird or Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) is a medium-sized roller, slightly smaller than the widespread Indian Roller. Dollarbirds have a deep dark brown head and neck that tapers into the bluish-green body plumage. The tips of the wings are dark-grey; the leading edge is bluish violet, as is the throat. The tail is dark brown-grey. In flight, a (dollar-sized) light-blue patch shows in the primary flight feathers, giving the species its name. The bill is stout, slightly down curved and very conspicuously red with a tiny black tip. Outside the breeding season, the colour of the bill tends to be more subdued. The legs and feet are also red. Juvenile birds have somewhat duller in overall coloration and the bill, legs and feet are dusky grey (Ali & Ripley, 1987; Rasmussen & Anderton, 2012).

In India, Oriental Dollarbird is found along the Himalayas from Himachal Pradesh east to Arunachal Pradesh and North-eastern Hills south of Brahmaputra and disjunctly along the southern Western Ghats (Rasmussen & Anderton, 2012). Here, we report for the first time the occurrence of Dollarbird from Odisha.

Hitherto unrecorded sighting of the Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Aves: Anseriformes: Anatidae) in Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India

Samidurai Jayakumar, Subramanian Muralidharan & Santhanakrishnan Babu

The Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Aves: Anseriformes: Anatidae) is recorded for the first time in Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India. As this species is recorded in other parts of Tamil Nadu, a brief sightings and distribution map is also specified.

**Keyword**: Common Pochard, distribution, sighting, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary.

(Source: commons.wikimedia.org)
Monoecy, anemophily, anemochory and regeneration ecology of *Hildegardia populifolia* (Roxb.) Schott. & Endl. (Malvaceae), an economically important endemic and endangered dry deciduous tree species of southern Eastern Ghats, India

A.J. Solomon Raju, P. Hareesh Chandra & J. Radha Krishna

*Hildegardia populifolia* is a critically endangered tree species. All phenological events—leaf flushing, shedding, flowering, fruit dispersal occur one after the other during the dry season. It is morphologically andromonoecious but functionally monoecious. It produces a strikingly male-biased male and bisexual flower ratio; it is self-incompatible and obligately outcrossing. The flowers are nectariferous and the nectar has hexose-rich sugars, some essential and non-essential amino acids. *Trigona* bee and *Rhynchium* wasp were the exclusive foragers, though their foraging activity does not promote cross-pollination. The male flower number, the pollen output, the pollen characteristics and the placement of anthers on the top of androphore conform to anemophily. The natural fruit set does not exceed 5%. The fruit is 5-follicled with one or two seeds. The low fruit set is compensated by the production of more 2-seeded follicles. Fruit characteristics such as wing-like follicles, membranous follicle sheath and being very light weight characterize anemochory. Seeds with a hard coat do not germinate readily during the rainy season and their germination depends on the soil chemicals and nutrient environment. The soil is deficient in nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous. Partly burned seeds due to natural or human-caused fires germinate quickly in water saturated soil. The study suggests that seed germination and seedling growth rates are regulated by intrinsic and extrinsic factors along with natural and anthropogenic fires. We recommend that seedlings should be raised in nurseries and then transferred to natural habitats to build up the population.


(Source: threatenedtaxa.org)
New site record of Grizzled Giant Squirrel *Ratufa macroura* from Thiruvannamalai Forest Division, Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu, India.

S. Babu & A. Kalaimani

We report a new site locality and eastern most population of Grizzled Giant Squirrel from Thiruvannamalai Forest Division. Further studies are required to assess the population of this species in the Tamil Nadu part of Eastern Ghats.

**Keyword:** Distribution, Eastern Ghats, *Ratufa macroura*, Thiruvannamalai.

(Source: www.biolib.cz)
Pollination biology of *Eriolaena hookeriana* Wight & Arn. (Sterculiaceae), a rare tree species of Eastern Ghats, India.

A.J. Solomon Raju, P. Hareesh Chandra, K. Venkata Ramana & J. Radha Krishna

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*Eriolaena hookeriana* is a rare medium-sized deciduous tree species. The flowering is very brief and occurs during early wet season. The flowers attract certain bees such as *Apis dorsata*, *Halictus* sp., *Anthophora* sp., *Xylocopa latipes*, and also the wasp, *Rhynchium* sp. at the study sites. These foragers collect both pollen and nectar during which they contact the stamens and stigma and effect self- or cross-pollination. Nectar depletion by thrips during bud and flower phase and the production of few flowers daily at tree level drive the pollinator insects to visit conspecific plants to gather more forage and in this process they maximize cross-pollination. The hermaphroditic flowers with the stigmatose style beyond the height of stamens and the sticky pollen grains do not facilitate autogamy but promote out-crossing. The study showed that pollinator limitation is responsible for the low fruit set but it is, however, partly compensated by multi-seeded fruits. Bud and anther predation by beetles also affects reproductive success. Explosive fruit dehiscence and anemochory are special characteristics; these events occur during the dry season. The plant is used for various purposes locally and hence the surviving individuals are threatened. The study suggests that the rocky and nutrient-poor soils, the pollinator limitation, bud and anther predation, establishment problems and local uses collectively contribute to the rare occurrence of *E. hookeriana* in the Eastern Ghats.

**Keyword**: Keywords: *Eriolaena hookeriana*, bees, wasps, thrips, entomophily, Anemochory.
Syzygium alternifolium is a semi-evergreen mass-flowering tree species of dry deciduous forest in the southern Eastern Ghats of India. It is a mass bloomer with flowering during dry season. The floral traits suggest a mixed pollination syndrome involving entomophily and anemophily together called as ambophily. Further, the floral traits suggest generalist pollination system adapted for a guild of pollinating insects. The plant is self-incompatible and obligate outcrosser. The flowers are many-ovuled but only a single ovule forms seed and hence, fruit and seed set rates are the same. Natural fruit set stands at 11%. Bud infestation by a moth, flower predation by the beetle, Popillia impressipyga and bud and flower mounds significantly limit fruit set rate. The ability of the plant to repopulate itself is limited by the collection of fruits by locals due to their edible nature, short viability of seeds, high seedling mortality due to water stress, nutrient deficiency and erratic rainfall or interval of drought within the rainy season. Therefore, S. alternifolium is struggling to populate itself under various intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Further studies should focus on how to assist the plant to increase its population size in its natural area taking into account the information provided in this paper.

**Keyword:** Ambophily, bud infestation, flower predation, generalist pollination system, self-incompatibility, seedling mortality, Syzygium alternifolium.
Distribution and conservation status of *Croton scabiosus* Bedd. (Euphorbiaceae), an endemic tree species of southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh, India.

Sugali Salamma & Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao
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http://threatenedtaxa.org/index.asp?jid=143

*Croton scabiosus* Bedd. (Euphorbiaceae), a tree species, endemic to the southern Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh is presented with its current distribution pattern and assessed in terms of the IUCN Red List status. New data available from field surveys indicate the species status as ‘Vulnerable’.

**Keyword** : Conservation status, *Croton scabiosus*, distribution, IUCN Red List, Vulnerable

(Source: Dr. D. Veeranjaneyulu, Srikrishnadevaraya University, Ananthapur)
A long-lost relic from the Eastern Ghats: Morphology, distribution and habitat of *Sepsophis punctatus* Beddome, 1870 (Squamata: Scincidae).

*Sepsophis punctatus* Beddome 1870, the only species of a monotypic genus, was described based on a single specimen from the Eastern Ghats of India. We rediscovered the species based on specimens from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh state, India, after a gap of 137 years, including four specimens from close to the type locality. The holotype was studied in detail, and we present additional morphological characters of the species with details on natural history, habitat and diet. The morphological characters of the holotype along with two additional specimens collected by Beddome are compared with the specimens collected by us. We also briefly discuss the distribution of other members of the subfamily Scincinae and their evolutionary affinities.

**Keywords:** Sepsophis, rediscovery, Peninsular India, Eastern Ghats, Scincidae.

(Source: reptile-database.reptarium.cz)
The first teresomatan caecilian (Amphibia: Gymnophiona) from the Eastern Ghats of India—a new species of *Gegeneophis* Peters, 1880


A new species of caecilian amphibian, *Gegeneophis orientalis* sp. nov., is described based on a series of nine specimens from high elevation (ca. 1,200 m) habitats in the Eastern Ghats in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, India. This species differs from all other congeners in having only bicuspid teeth in the outer as well as inner rows. The new species is the first caecilian reported from the state of Odisha, the first teresomatan caecilian from the Eastern Ghats, and is the only Indian indotyphlid known from outside the Western Ghats region.

**Keywords:** Herpetology, Indotyphlidae, taxonomy, Western Ghats

(Source: [www.filin.vn.ua](http://www.filin.vn.ua))
Occurrence of *Poecilotheria Metallica* Pocock, 1899 from Seshachalam Hills, Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, India

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The genus *Poecilotheria* is known to occur only in India and Sri Lanka. The genus is represented by 8 species in India and 7 in Sri Lanka. Since August 2011 onwards, we are carrying out a detailed biodiversity inventory of the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in Chittoor and Kadapa districts, Andhra Pradesh. During one of our biodiversity surveys we sighted a dead specimen of Theraphosid spider in Kapilatheertham, forest complex (13°34’N; 79°21’E) of Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve on 29th January 2013. *Poecilotheria metallica* is ranked by the IUCN as Critically Endangered. Further research with reference to ecology, threats and conservation of biodiversity in the area is in progress. So far many rare species recorded in this area, the present record reveal that the area is very rich in biodiversity and there is an urgent need to adapt conservation policies.

**Keywords:** Andhra Pradesh, Occurrence, *Poecilotheria metallica*, Seshachalam Hills.

(Source: territoriosselvagem.forumeiros.com)
Extinct lizard rediscovered after 135 years

*Geckoella Jeyporensis* or Jeypore ground gecko, an enigmatic lizard from the **Eastern Ghats** which was considered extinct, has been rediscovered after 135 years, according to naturalists at the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) here. This species was recently rediscovered in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the results of which have been published in journal 'Hamadryad', the product of two years of collaborative work between scientists from Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai and Villanova University, USA.

(Source: [http://post.jagran.com/search/eastern-ghats](http://post.jagran.com/search/eastern-ghats), [printinterest.com](http://printinterest.com))
Sesamum radiatum Schumach. & Thonn. (Pedaliaceae), A New Distributional Record to Flora of Eastern Ghats

K. Prasad, V. Srinivasa Rao and B. Ravi Prasad Rao*

(Source: Journal of Basic and Applied Biology, 5(1&2), 2011, pp. 185-186)

Sesamum radiatum Schumach. & Thonn., collected for the first time from Nallamalais, Andhra Pradesh in Eastern Ghats is a new distributional record for the ecoregion. Detailed description and phenology of the species is provided.

(Source: Dr. D. Veeranjanyulu, Srikrishnadevaraya University, Ananthapur)
Sri Lankan snake sighted in Seshachalam

Considered endemic to Sri Lanka, the snake has now been found for the first time in India in the Biosphere Reserve of Andhra Pradesh.

*Chrysopelea taprobanica* Smith 1943, a snake considered endemic to the dry and intermediate zones of Sri Lanka, has been sighted for the first time in India in the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, Andhra Pradesh. The development, which significantly expands the known area of presence of this species, also indicates its probable movement between the dry zones of peninsular India and Sri Lanka, which remained connected around 17,000 years ago.

The rare sighting has found a mention in the tenth anniversary issue of ‘Checklist’, the journal of biodiversity data. The January 2015 edition released on Thursday indicates that the sighting of the snake in Chamala area of Seshachalam is the first-ever confirmed record of *C. taprobanica* from India and anywhere outside Sri Lanka.

Chrysopelea Taprobanica Smith 1943, a snake endemic to Sri Lanka, found for the first time in India at Chamala in the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve of Andhra Pradesh.

The study was conducted by researchers Bubesh Guptha and N.V. Sivaram Prasad of the Biodiversity Lab in the Tirupati Wildlife Management Circle under the guidance of the Conservator of Forest M.Ravikumar, in collaboration with Simon T. Maddock of The Natural
History Museum, London and V. Deepak of Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

In fact, an unidentified specimen suspected to be *chrysopelea taprobanica* was sighted in the year 2000 in Rishi Valley, Andhra Pradesh and even photographed by V.Santharam, but the specimen was not collected. “In November 2013, we collected the specimen in the dry deciduous forest of Chalama and conducted morphological studies and DNA test to prove that it is the same”, Mr. Bubesh Guptha told *The Hindu*.

The chain of broken hills in the peninsular India, comprising the Eastern Ghats, has remained unexplored compared to the Western Ghats. “The Eastern Ghats are a repository of biodiversity and further studies will certainly bring newer species to light”, says Mr. Sivaram Prasad. The recording of this snake is considered prestigious as it adds a new species to the biodiversity list of India.

**Keywords:** Sri Lankan snake, Chrysopelea Taprobanica, Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, *C. taprobanica*, Tirupati Wildlife Management Circle

(Source: *The Hindu, January 1, 2015*)

Hitherto Unreported Medicinal Uses of Plants from Kolli Hills

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*The unreported medicinal uses of these plants from kolli hills, Salem District of Tamil Nadu are presented in this paper.*
RARE AND INTERESTING DISTRIBUTION OF *NYMPHOIDES PARVIFOLIA* (GRISEB) KUNTZE, (MENYANTHACEAE) FROM EASTERN GHATS, ORISSA, INDIA

*Rout N.C., Dhal N.K., Biswal A.K and Dash P.K.*

*Nymphoides parvifolia* (GRISEB) kuntze is reported to grow in the shallow ponds and paddy fields in the tropics of Southern India to Malaysia including Australia at mean Sea level (MSL). The species has been located growing in a shallow pond at 4000ft in Deomali ranges of Eastern Ghats in Koraput district, Orissa, India. The rarity and distribution of the toxon in higher altitude makes it further significant, The species turns out to be a new record for the state of Orissa.

(Source: http://www.icrn.in/user/5551)