

New record of *Lepisorus amaurolepidus* Sledge Bir& Trikha**M. Maridass and G. Raju**

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A New record for fern species of *Lepisorus amaurolepidus* are reported for Courtallam hills in Western Ghats region of Tamil Nadu, India.

Keywords: *Lepisorus amaurolepidus*, new record, Courtallam, Tamil Nadu

Introduction

Polypodiaceae are mostly epiphytic or sometimes terrestrial ferns comprising about 50 genera and 550 species in the throughout the world. The sporophyte consists of creeping rhizomes that give rise to simple, or less commonly, pinnate leaves. The rhizomes are covered with scales that are often peltate. The leaf axis and rhizome have several vascular bundles arranged in a circular pattern. The small, lens-shaped sporangia are usually long-stalked, and are borne in naked circular or continuous sori. *Lepisorus* (J. Sm.) Ching is a fern genus including approximately 40 species (Hennipian *al.*, 1990; Zink, 1993). The genus of *Lepisorus* is widely distributed in the 20 species in India. The aim of this paper is description and discussed on pteridophytes species of *Lepisorus amaurolepidus*.

Methods

The senior author of this paper has worked on the taxonomy and ecology of pteridophytes for many years. Regular field trips were carried out in district Southern Western Ghats regions, Tamil Nadu for the collection of pteridophytes diversity during the periods of 2010 to 2016. The specimens were collected and cleaned in tap water to remove all the dirt and dust. The collected pteridophytes were for preserving and herbarium preparation method described by Jain and Rao (1977). Identification of this species were based on specific literature or comparisons with material previously determined by experts.

Results

The pteridophytes species of *Lepisorus amaurolepidus* were first time recorded in the Courtallam forest regions of the Western Ghats, Tirunelveli hills an altitude of 700 to 900m. It grows among the native vegetation on the rock side.



Fig.1: *Lepisorus amaurolepidus* A,B: Habit C,D,E spores

Description

The description of pteridophytes species of *Lepisorus amaurolepidus* is epiphytic or lithophytic fern with short creeping rhizome, up to 4 mm thick, densely covered by



scales; scales peltate, about 2 x 0.85 mm, distinctly bicolourous, dark brown with thick walled cells at the centre, pale brown with thin walled cells towards periphery apex acuminate, margin dentate. Stipes crowded, up to 6 mm apart, up to 1 x 0.18 cm, pale or grey-brown when dry, rounded abaxially, grooved adaxially, scaly at the very base, glabrous above. Laminae simple, elliptic-lanceolate, up to 21 x 2 cm, progressively narrowing from the middle towards base and apex base narrowly cuneate and decurrent, apex usually acute or acuminate, rarely subacute, margin entire; midrib slightly raised and rounded both above and below, veins immersed, indistinct above and below; texture herbaceous to chartaceous. Sori superficial, probably one per primary areole, arranged in two rows, median on either side of the midrib usually towards the distal half of the frond, hemispherical, up to 5 mm in diameter, spores monolet, planoconvex or ellipsoid, pale green, exine with dense, small outgrowths (Fig-1).

Distribution

Country: Sri Lanka and India

India: Kerala and tamil nadu regions of Kozhikode, Wayanad, Palakkad, Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram and Courtallam.

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