



## Wild edible fruit of *Syzygium calophyllifolium* Walp. (Myrtaceae): A gift of Shola forest of Kerala, India

Binu Thomas<sup>1</sup>, A. Rajendran<sup>1</sup>, Ranji P. Mathews<sup>2</sup> and K. M. Prabhu Kumar<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, School of Life Sciences, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore -641046, Tamil Nadu.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Botany, Mar Thoma College, Chungathara, Malappuram District, Kerala – 679 334.

Corresponding author Email: binuthomasct@gmail.com

Published: 15, December, 2012; Vol. No. 3(3): 22; www.gbtrp.com; All Right Reserved, ©Gayathri Teknological Publication, 2012.

### Short Communication

Wild edible plants contribute significantly to the nutrition of inhabitants of rural areas of Western Ghats (Ramachandran, 2007).



*Syzygium calophyllifolium*, Walp. Rep. 2: 180. 1843. *Eugenia calophyllifolia* (Walp.) Wight, Ic. t. 1000. 1845; Hook, Fl. Brit. India 2: 494. 1878; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 480. 1919. An evergreen tree with rounded head. Wood reddish brown. Leaves small, suborbicular to obovate. Flowers white and to form close terminal corymbs. Fruit dark purple (Sasidharan, 2004). This tree species form a characteristic vegetation cover for shola ecosystem of Mannavan Shola forest of Kerala. Shola forests are a continuation of evergreen forests found at altitudes above 1800 m in the Western Ghats of India possess a distinct floristic diversity (Ranganathan, 1938). The Mannavan Shola forest (77° 12' 8" E and 10° 12' 8" N). is situated in the Western Ghats region of Kerala with an altitude varying from 1,900 to

2,500 m, Comes under Marayoor Forest Range of Munnar Wild life Division, Idukki District, Kerala (Binu Thomas *et al.*, 2011). The wild edible foods include fruits, leaves, flowers, seeds, roots and tubers. Among these fruits are receiving increased interest from researchers working on wild edible plant species because of their nutritional value, vitamin and mineral contents (Glews, *et al* 2005).

### References

- Binu Thomas, Chandrashekara, U.M. and Rajendran, A. 2011. Floristic diversity along an altitudinal gradient of Mannavan Shola forest in Southern Western Ghats of Kerala. *J. Reser. Biol.*, 2: 101-109.
- Glews, R.S, Dorothy, J., Chuang, L.T., Huang, Y.S., Millson, M. and Glew, R.H. 2005. Nutrient content of four edible wild plants from West Africa. *Plant Foods Nutr.*, 60: 187 – 193.
- Ranganathan, R. 1938. Studies in the ecology of Shola grass land vegetation of the Nilgiri Plateau. *Ind. For.*, 64: 523 – 541.
- Ramachandran, V.S. 2007. Wild edible fruits of Anamalais, Coimbatore district, Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu. *J. Trad. Knowledge*, 6: 173-176.
- Sasidharan, N. 2004. *Biodiversity documentation for Kerala, Part 6: Flowering Plants*. Kerala forest research institute (K.F.R.I.), Peechi.

### Manuscript Progress Date

Received	: 29.07.2012
Revised	: 08.11.2012
Accepted	: 04.12.2012