



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

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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).

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