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***Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst. (Violaceae), a new distributional record for Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu**

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Report

***Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst. (Violaceae), a new distributional record for Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu**

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to identify and enumerate the plant diversity of Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu. I have been collected for very interesting species of *Hybanthus stellarioides* from the both regions of the plains of V.M. Chatram in Tirunelveli district and hill slopes along rock margins and in rock crevices of Southern Western Ghats in Srivilliputhur, Virudhunagar District in Tamilnadu. The present report is *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst. (Violaceae), a new distributional record for Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Western Ghats have a rich diversity and hotspot of a global biodiversity. Currently, 7,000 plant species were found including 2,000 species endemic. There are many reports of discoveries and new species from the region. The genus of *Hybanthus* Jacq. has c.100 species distributed throughout tropics (Mabberley, 2008). *Hybanthus* species are medicinal herbs they are used traditionally for urinary infection, digestive problems, respiratory ailments, inflammation, fever, and as an aphrodisiac, diuretic, and general tonic, possessing antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antidiabetic properties.

Derivation:

Hybanthus: from the Greek hybos - hump-backed, anthos - flower (refers to the spurred frontal petal); stellarioides: from the Latin stella- a star, oides - having the form. Previously known as *Hybanthus enneaspermus* subsp. stellarioides.

Hybanthus stellarioides (Domin) P.I. Forst., Muel-leria

Previous report:

In India, the genus of *Hybanthus* is represented by 6 species, of them *H. enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell. and *H. travancoricus* Melch. are included in Flora of India previously reported by Banerjee and Pramanik, (1993). *H. vatsavayii* C. S. Reddy was described as a new species (Reddy, 2001). *Hybanthus stellarioides* (Domin) P.I. Forst. was reported a new record for India (Venkat Ramana et al., 2011). *Hybanthus puberulus* M. Gilbert. was published as a new species (Sasi et al., 2011). *Hybanthus verticillatus* (Ortega) Baill. known only from U.S.A. recorded for the first time in Tamil Nadu, India (Francisca et al., 2013). *H. puberulus* M. Gilbert. was an extended distributional record reported by Rajendran et al., (2013). According to Suhas Kamble et al., (2014) reported that new distributional record for Maharashtra.

FAMILY: VIOLACEAE (Violet Family)

Family (Hindi name): RATHNAPURUSHA FAMILY (रत्नपुरुष फैमिली)

Family (as per The APG System III): VIOLACEAE

SYNONYM(S): *Hybanthus enneaspermus* var. *stellarioides* Domin; *Hybanthus enneaspermus* subsp. *stellarioides* (Domin) E.M. Benn.

HABIT: Herb

FLOWERS & FRUITS : November -December

DISTRIBUTION:

National Distribution :

Andhra Pradesh : Tadipatri (AP)

Telangana : Dammaiguda Hills (Hyderabad Urban district)

Karnataka : Belagavi district

Maharashtra : Satara district

Tamilnadu : Tirunelveli and Virudhunagar District

World Distribution : India, Australia

Description of the specimen examined

Herbs, 4-30 cm high. Stem erect, grooved, unbranched (rarely branched), hairy; Leaves simple, alternate, clustered at apex, linear to lanceolate, 0.6- 6.7 X 0.2 - 0.6cm long, glandular hairy, few lower are with entire margins and upper with dentate margins, attenuate at base, acute apex, stipules linear c. 1-3 mm long, ciliate at margins. Flowers solitary, axillary; peduncle filiform c. 6 mm long; a distinct joint exists between peduncle and pedicel; pedicel c. 2 mm long, bracts triangular c.1 mm long, ciliate at margins. Sepals 5, linear-lanceolate, subequal, 2.3- 4 mm long, acuminate, bent backwards at apex, hairy. Petals 5, unequal; upper -2 oblong, 3 -4 mm long, pale yellow; lateral 2 falcate, 4-5 mm long, pale yellow; lower enlarged into a spathulate limb with a claw; c. 5-11 mm long, bright orange colored. Stamens 5, c. 3.5 mm long; filaments free; lower 2 filaments with hairy appendages. 1 mm long; anthers 5 connate, lower 2 of them villous, basifixed covered with enlarged connectives, others glabrous; Pistil c. 4 mm long; stigma spathulate, stigma suberect, ovary ovoid, glabrous; ovules 6- 12. Capsules 3-angled, 4 - 6 mm long, 3-valved, with remnant petals; longitudinally ribbed, glabrous, pale yellow. Flowering & Fruiting: November - December in Tamilnadu.

HABITAT: On the hill slopes along rock margins and in rock crevices (Srivillipudur, Virudhunagar District, plains of V.M Chatram, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu.

Specimen examined: India, Tamilnadu. Herbarium specimen deposited at the Fissd's Research Institute of Conservation of Ecology, (Accession number FISSDNOV-001).



Hybanthus stellarioides (Domin) P.I. Forst.



Hybanthus enneaspermus (L.) F. Muell.

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