



A report on new locality on root parasite species of *Balanophora fungosa* J.R. Forester & G.Forester (BALANOPHORACEAE) in Southern Western Ghats, India.

M. Maridass

Fissd's Research Institute of Conservation Ecology, Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu

*Corresponding Author Email: fissdrice@gmail.com

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Abstract

Balanophora is a genus of parasitic plants in the family Balanophoraceae. In this report is root parasite species of *Balanophora fungosa* J.R. Forester & G.Forester (BALANOPHORACEAE) identified by new locality on Kakachi Stream, Upper Kodaiyar, Southern Western Ghats, India.

Key words: *Balanophora*, upper Kodaiyar, KMTR, Southern Western Ghats.

1 REPORT

The genus of *Balanophora* is a flowering plant and it is growing on roots parasites of trees. It is belonging to tropical family, Balanophoraceae, and which includes about 18 genera containing more than 100 species of root parasites. It was found in the temperate Asia, including the Malesia region, Pacific Islands, Madagascar, and tropical Africa. The genus of *Balanophora* are represented in the 5 species reported in India. Three species of *Balanophora*, include namely *B. involucrata*, *B. polyandra* and *B. harlandii* were reported from the Eastern Himalaya regions^[1]. Previous report, Balakrishnan, (2012) who has represented by 5 species viz., *B. abbreviate* Bl., *B. dioica* R.Br., *B. fungosa* subsp. *indica* (Arn.) Hans., *B. involucrata* Hook. f. and *B. polyandra* Griff. In India^[3]. In this report on very interesting root parasite species of *Balanophora fungosa* J.R. Forester & G. Forester is observed by upper Kodaiyar in KMTR regions, Southern Western Ghats, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu. In this species previously reported on Eastern Ghats regions of Andhra Pradesh^[3].

Description:

The plants are dioecious. Rhizome are yellowish-brown, surface with granular warts and scattered yellow stellate lenticels; branches subglobose, depressed, up to 3cm. Scapes yellowish, up to 30. Leaves alternate, broadly ovate, 1.5×3.2. cm, apex obtuse. Male inflorescences ellipsoid, conically ovoid, up to 6cm; male flowers actinomorphic. Pedicel up to 1.2cm long. Perianth lobes 4 or 5, ovate-elliptic, apex acute.

Synandria subglobose, anthers 4 or 5, U-shaped. Pollen white, powdery (Fig.1).

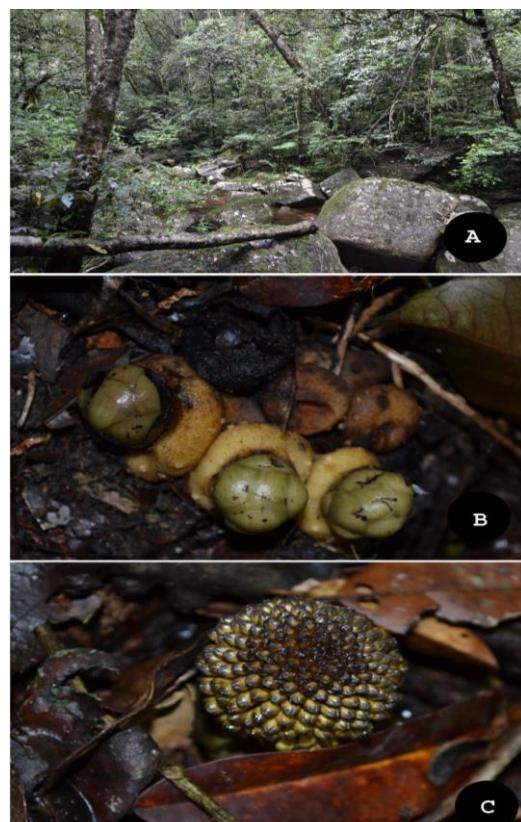


Fig1: *Balanophora fungosa* J.R. Forester & G. Forester, Upper Kodaiyar Region



Habitat: Rare, near perennial streams of moderately dense semi evergreen forest, at 1100 m altitude.

Flowering & Fruiting: January- May.

Specimen examined : April, 2018, Kakachi stream; Upper Kodaiyar

World Distribution : India, China, Hainan, Malaya, Sumatra, Pacific Islands, Australia

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