

New records for *Adiantum capillus-veneris* L. from Tamil Nadu, India

M. Maridass

Department of Zoology, Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

*Corresponding Email: maridassugcpdf@yahoo.co.in

Published: 15 June, 2013; Vol.2(1):11-12; © Gayathri Teknological Publication, 2013.

Report

Adiantum is a large and diverse genus of ferns. About 150 species of *Adiantum* were found to be world (Tryon *et al.*, 1990) and twenty five species and two varieties of *Adiantum* have been reported from India (Dixit, 1984). The genus name, *Adiantum*, is from the Greek *Adiantos*, meaning “unwetted” as the leaves of this plant repel water even though the herb grows in a wet environment. During field work in October 2009 at Sambavarvadakarai, Tenkasi taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, South India, was observed by *Adiantum capillus-veneris* L. in growing on moist areas of limestone of well wall up to below 1-3 metres level (Fig.1). This species was first time identified in new record for Southern region of South India. *Adiantum capillus - veneris* is often found growing on limestone cliffs away from direct sunlight and out of the way of drying southwest winds (Petersen, 2000).

Adiantum capillus-veneris L. Adiantaceae

Adiantum capillus-veneris L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1096 (1752); Beddome, Handb. Ferns. Br. India, 84 (1883); Ferns S. India, t. 4 (1864); Holttum, Rev. Fl. Mal. 2: 600 (1954), Manickam, Fern Fl. Palni hills, 39 (1986).

Adiantum capillus-veneris is a perennial herb with creeping rhizomes. It reproduces sexually by spores and asexually by rhizomatous growth or the transportation of clumps of vegetative material downstream. *A. capillus - veneris* can form large colonies (Hornbeck *et al.*, 2003).

Record Voucher

Sambavarvadakarai, Tenkasi taluk, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, South India, growing on a well wall in observed in three places.

Previously Known Indian Distribution

Gorakhpur - Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Rajkumar *et al.*, 2012), and Palni hills (Manickam, 1986).

General Distribution

Cosmopolitan in tropical, subtropical, and warm-temperate regions.

Medicinal Uses

Adiantum species are well-known for their significant medicinal efficacies and are being traditionally used in the treatment of various ailments for a long period (Husson *et al.*, 1986; Ambasta, 1986). The dried whole plant is used as an antipyretic and diuretic, and also in the treatment of bronchitis in folklore medicine in China (Namba, 1980).

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Chief conservator of Forest, Tirunelveli, for permission to collect the plants and also University Grants Commission, New Delhi for financial assistance to Postdoctoral Fellowship program.

References

- Tryon, R.M., Tryon, A.F. and Kramer, K.U. 1990. The fallililies and genera of vascular plants. K. Kubitzki (Narosa Publication House, India and Springer- Verlag, New York): 1: 248.
- Dixit, R. D. 1986. Tree ferns: an urgent need of conservation. *Indian Fern J.*, 3: 42- 45.
- Hornbeck, J.H., Ryder, D., Hull Seig, C. and Cook, R.W. 2003. Conservation assessment for southern maidenhair fern and stream orchid in the Black Hills National Forest South Dakota and Wyoming. Unpublished report. USDA Forest Service, Rocky mountain region, Black Hills National Forest. Custer, South Dakota, USA, 45.
- Rajkumar, S.D., Srivastava, S. K., Singh, S. K. and Gautam, R. P. 2012. A new record of tetraploid cytotype of *Adiantum capillus - veneris* (Adiantaceae - Pteridophyta) from

- Uttar Pradesh, India. *Int. J. Applied Bio. Research*, 11:15-16.17
- Manickam, V.S. 1986. Fern flora of the Palni hills (South India). Today and Tomorrow's Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.
- Husson, G. P., Vilagines, R. and Delaveau, P. 1986. Research into antiviral properties of a new natural extract. *Ann. Pharm. Fr.*, 44:41.
- Ambasta, S.P. 1986. The Useful plant is of India, by (Editor-in-Chief) (CSIR, PID, New Delhi):15.
- Namba, T. 1980. Colored illustrations of Wakan-Yaku," Vol. II, Hoikusha, Osaka.



Fig.1: A and B: Natural habitat of *Adiantum capillus-veneris*; C and D: Young and mature sorai

Manuscript Progress Date
Received : 22.11.2012
Revised : 18.03.2013
Accepted : 15.06.2013