

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

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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 1-3metres 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); Holtum, 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).

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

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