

Occurrence of *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk) Vahl-Vitaceae in Peninsular India

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Abstract: *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk.) Vahl, a native to Africa and the Arabian Peninsula is recorded for the first time from the Peninsular India. A detailed description with illustration and relevant notes are provided for easy identification.

Key words: *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk) Vahl • New record, Coimbatore • Peninsular India

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cissus* with 350 species is distributed in the world. In India, the genus is represented by approximately 13 species [1] and in Tamil Nadu state by approximately 11 species [2]. During the floristic exploration in the Western Ghats, an interesting specimens of *Cissus* collected from Maruthamalai foot hills of Coimbatore district, were confused. On critical examination and perusal of literature it was identified as *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk.) Vahl.

After critical studies and consultation with specimens deposited at MH (Botanical Survey of India) Coimbatore, it was authenticated as *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk.) Vahl (Figures 1 & 2). This climber only known from the countries of Arabia through Eastern Africa South words to Mozambique and the Transvaal mainly distributed coast but extending inland in Sab and Zamberi [3] and Madhya Pradesh in India [4]. It has neither been collected nor reported from Southern Peninsular India as far and is therefore, an addition to Indian flora.

The present study includes a detailed description with illustration of the naturalized climber to facilitate its further collection and easy identification. The voucher specimen has been deposited in the Bharathiar university Herbarium (006166 (BH).) Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Cissus rotundifolia (Forsk.) Vahl, Symb. Bot. 3: 19 (1790); Planch. in A. & C. DC. Mon. Phan. 5, 2: 512 (1887); Bak. f. in Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 40: 46 (1911); Gilg & Brandt in Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 46: 465 (1912); Eyles in Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 5: 409 (1916); Burt Davy, F.P.F.T. 1, 475 (1926); Brenan, T.T.C.L.: 27 (1949); Suesseng. in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. ed. 2, 20d: 257 (1953); Mogg in



A: Habit B: Corolla with stamens

C: Sepals with pistil D: Anther.

Fig. 1: *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk.) Vahl



Fig. 2: *Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk Vahl).

Macnae & Kalk, Nat. Hist. Inhaca I. Moçamb.: 149 (1958); Dewit, F.C.B. 9: 513 (1960). *Saelanthus rotundifolius* Forsk. Fl. Aegypt.-Arab.: CV, 35 (1775); Icones, t. 4 (1776).

Vitis crassifolia Bak. in Oliv. F.T.A. 1: 391 (1868). Type: Mozambique, between Sena and Lupata, Kirk (K). *Cissus crassifolia* (Bak.) Planch. tom. cit.: 508 (1887).

Vigorous climber; stem often 4- angled glabrescent; tendrils 2-fid. Leaves simple, petiole pubescent or glabrous up to 1 cm. long; leaf-lamina up to 8 × 8 cm. circular to ovate, obtuse at the apex, margin crenate, cordate at the base, pubescent or glabrescent, on both sides, thick and fleshy; stipules up to 4 mm. long glabrous, caducous. Cymes leaf opposed and terminal, lax; peduncle 3 cm. long; pedicels 4- 5 mm. long thinning to 10 mm. in fruit, appressed - pubescent. Flower - bud 3.5 × 1.5 mm. calyx 1mm. long, entire petals greenish yellow. Ovary glabrous; style 0.5 mm long. Fruits up to 1.5 cm. red when ripe. Seed -1, 9 mm. long.

Flowering and Fruiting: March - June

Habitat: An invasive species occur rarely in drier parts of woodland and bush along the Maruthamalai foot Hills area between 430 - 440 MSL, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu in Southern India.

Specimen Examined: Southern India: Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore, on the way to Maruthamalai 10 Mar. 2013, Sarvalingam, Rajendran & Sivalingam, 006166 (BH).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to the Head, Dept. of Botany, for constant encouragement and providing necessary facilities.

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4. <http://www.flowersofindia.net/catalog/slides/Venezielan%20Treebine.html>