

MEMECYLON TERMINALE DALZ. (MELASTOMATACEAE) A NEW RECORD FOR GOA

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ABSTRACT

Memecylon terminale Dalz. (Melastomataceae) is reported as a new addition to Flora of Goa.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Memecylon* belongs to an isolated tribe Memecyleae of the family Melastomataceae (Bremer, 1979), has about 250 species distributed in the tropical regions of the Old World (Mabberley, 1990). It has 34 species in the Western Ghats, of which 17 are endemic to the region. While contemplating the "Taxonomy of the Genus *Memecylon* (Melastomataceae) of the Western Ghats", the senior author stumped up on a few interesting specimen of *Memecylon* (Melastomataceae) from Surula Valley of Mahadai Wild Life Sanctuary near village Satrem of North Goa, India. On detailed examination with literature and cross matching with the type specimens available in online herbarium catalogue of Kew (K00035770, K00035788, K000357789) it was identified as *Memecylon terminale*.

M. terminale was described by N.A. Dalzell from North Kanara of Karnataka in

(1851). It was known only from its type locality until the present findings from Goa state, hence form a new distributional record for India and an addition to the flora of Goa.

Memecylon terminale Dalz, in Kew. Journ. Bot. 3: 121. (1851); Dalz. & Gibs., Fl. Bombay 93. 1903; Cogniaux, in DC. Monogr, Phan, 7:1163; Clark in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 2: 555. 1879, Talb.Trees, Bomb. 2, 173; Woodr. in loun. Bomb. Nat.V. 2, p 638 (1898). *Memecylon amabile*, Bedd. Ie. t. 163. 1868-1874.

Type: Bombay, Dalzell (Kew- Photo!), South Canara, March 1879, Beddome 245 (Kew- Photo!).

Shrubs, ±1.5 m high; branch lets very slender, dichotomously branched, young branch lets acutely tetragonous or terete, smooth; Leaves opposite, sessile or sub-sessile, 5-10cm X 2-3 cm, ovate, ovate oblong or ovate lanceolate, very acute or acuminate at tip, cordate at base, glabrous, shining above, pale beneath, midrib prominent, secondary nerves obscure and peninerved, young leaves deep blue in colour, Flowers in axillary and terminal umbels, 1-

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3 together from the same node; peduncle 1.5-2.5 cm long, very slender, simply or branched to form several umbels; pedicels ca. 5cm long, filiform with a small bract at the base of each. Calyx 2mm across the mouth when fully expanded, tube very short, campanulate, receptacle saucer shaped, truncate; Petals deep blue, small crowded, 0.3cm long, ovate, obtuse or rounded. Stamens 8, incurved in bud, filaments glabrous, anthers opening by slits, spurred; Ovary inferior unilocular 5-ovuled; style simple; Fruits globose berry, greenish-yellow suffused with brown shade, 6mm in diameter.

Flowering: February- April, peak during March.

Fruiting: April- September

Distribution: A population of 10- 16 plants are seen in the present locality (15° 38'. 625" N 74° 11'. 562" E) at an altitude 158m, as an under growth in evergreen forest.

Specimens studied: India: Goa State, North Goa district, Surula Valley Mahadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarem village. ±158m, 14th March 2010. Sivu, A.R, 65162; *ibid.*, 65163 (TBGT): 16th December 2008, APS 10 (GUBH).

Additional specimens examined: Karnataka, Honnavar, Malemane, Mavingudi to Gersoppa road, ± 540m, 3-4-1999, B.R. Ramesh KFD BSP 51 (HIFP).

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