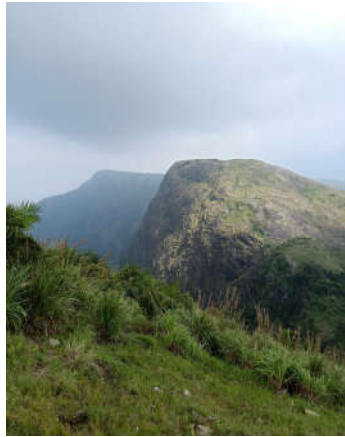




## Biodiversity Documentation



## Victorian Contribution to biodiversity novelties

The flowering plant diversity in Palakkad district is one of the targeted research area at Department of Botany, Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad. Though the district is being explored since 80's, a comprehensive approach integrating the climate and ecology of the district is lacking. In this backdrop, the department undertakes research programmes and this has resulted in inventorying of new taxa, hitherto unknown to science, during the last five years.

### ***Oldenlandia dineshii* Sojan and V. Suresh**

*Oldenlandia dineshii* (Rubiaceae) grows at about 130 m altitude on Hillocks of Nemmara, south of Palakkad in the valley of Nelliampathy hills. The species is named in honour of Prof. Dinesh Kumar T. K., Retired Professor of Botany, University College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala; a great teacher and taxonomist who stood away from the limelight of plant taxonomy by his own humility and unambitious nature. He was the teacher who motivated the authors in citation.

Sojan Jose, Maya C. Nair, K. M. Prabhukumar, V. V. Asha, R. Prakash Kumar, P. V. Madhusoodanan and V. Suresh. **2015**. *Oldenlandia dineshii* (Rubiaceae: Spermacoaceae), a new species from the Palakkad Gap region of Western Ghats, India. *Kew Bulletin* 70(13);1-5.

**DOI 10.1007/S12225-015-9564-Y.**



### ***Sonerila nairii* Soumya and Maya**

*Sonerila nairii* belonging to the family Melastomataceae grows at altitudes of 1140–1160 m in shady rock surfaces within moist loose soils and under the evergreen canopies along the Pothumala hill tract of Nelliampathy hills.

The specific epithet honours Dr. P.K.K. Nair (1930- 2018), eminent scientist, renowned as father of Indian Palynology who was the mentor and research guide of Dr. Maya C. Nair.

Soumya M and Maya C. Nair. **2016**. *Sonerila nairii* (Melastomataceae) – a new species from the southern Western Ghats, India *Phytokeys* 62: 15–23 (2016).

DOI:10.3897 / Phytokeys .62 7623.



### ***Sonerila victoriae* Soumya and Maya**

This new species, *Sonerila victoriae* (*Melastomataceae*) was recorded from Pothumala of Nelliampathy hill ranges of Western Ghats of Kerala. The specific epithet is named after Govt. Victoria College Palakkad, Kerala, India, one of the premier educational institutions in Kerala with a long-standing history of 130 years. It is through this institution Britishers laid foundations of higher education in Kerala and is the alma mater for all the authors.

Soumya M., Rampradeep R., Jisha K., Arabhi P., Rekha Vasudevan A and Maya C. Nair. **2017**. *Sonerila victoriae*, a new species of Melastomataceae from Southern Western Ghats, India. *Phytotaxa* 324 (2), 187-192.

<https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.324.2.7>.

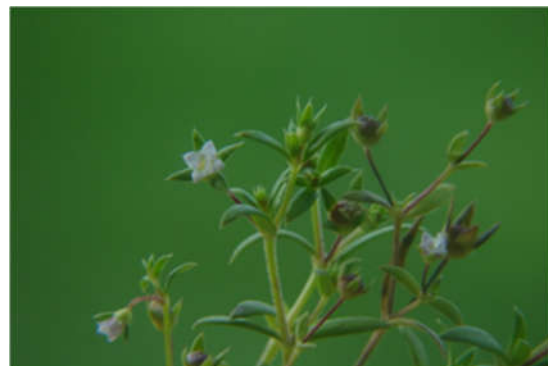


### ***Oldenlandia vasudevanii* Soumya and Maya**

The new species *Oldenlandia vasudevanii* (*Rubiaceae*) was procured from the Karassuri hill tract of Nelliampathy hills of Southern Western Ghats, Palakkad, Kerala. The species is named after Prof. R. Vasudevan Nair, an eminent retired taxonomy professor of Govt. Victoria College, Palakkad, who have made original collections of *Oldenlandia hygrophila*, recorded from Palakkad District of Kerala, India.

Soumya, M., Sojan, J., Suresh, V and Maya C. Nair. **2017**. *Oldenlandia vasudevanii* (*Spermacoceae*, *Rubiaceae*) a new species from the Southern Western Ghats, India. *Phytotaxa* 305 (1), 41-46.

<https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.305.1.6>.



***Pilea victoriae* V. Suresh & Sojan**

A new species of *Pilea* Lindley. from Palakkad gap region of Western Ghats of Kerala is described as *Pilea victoriae* sp. nov. The species is named after its type location Government Victoria College, Palakkad in honour of its services to the education sector of the state.

Sojan Jose, Suresh V, Hareesh VS, Robi AJ, Resmy PS, Dinesh Raj R, Asha VV, Prakashkumar R and Madhusoodanan PV. **2017.** *PILEA VICTORIAE* (URTICACEAE), A NEW STRIKING SPECIES FROM THE MURAL FLORA OF WESTERN GHATS, INDIA. *Int. J. Adv. Res.* **5(8), 1636-1641**



***Elaeocarpus gadgiliai* A. M. Maya, V. Suresh & K. M. P. Kumar**

*Elaeocarpus gadgiliai* a new species collected from Nelliampathy belongs to the family Elaeocarpaceae.

Etymology:—The species is named in honor of Sri. Madhav Dhananjaya Gadgil, an Indian ecologist and head of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), in recognition of his immense efforts towards conservation of Western Ghats.

Reference : Manoharan M. A, Prabhukumar KM, Arjunan SK, Jose S, Veerankutty S. *Elaeocarpus gadgiliai* (Elaeocarpaceae), a new species from Western Ghats (India). *Phytotaxa.* **2021** Mar 3;489(1):87-93.



***Sandracottus vijayakumari***

A new beetle species has been reported from nelliyamapthy range of Westernghats as a part of the documentation of species diversity loss due to 2018 flood

Anand, P.P., P.P. Ashiq, M. Smitha, M. Adhithya, T. Tibin & V. Suresh (2021). *Sandracottus vijayakumari* (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae), a new aquatic beetle species from landslide hit area of Nelliampathy Forest Range, Western Ghats, Kerala, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 13(3): 17999–18003. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.6193.13.3.17999-18003>



***Glycosmis nelliampathiensis* Jabeena & Maya**

Jabeena , M K., Aswani, V J and Maya C Nair. 2021. *Glycosmis nelliampathiensis* (Rutaceae), a new species from southern Western Ghats, Kerala, India. *Phytotaxa*.

This is a new taxon belonging to the Citrus family, Rutaceae named after Nelliampathy hills of Kerala.



## New Distributional records

### *Dipcadi montanum* (Dalzell) Baker

This taxon is an addition to the floristic wealth of Kerala and recorded from Vengappara, in Kollengode range, where an active quarry is in operation.

Sojan Jose., **V. Suresh**; R. Prakash Kumar and P. V. Madhusoodanan. 2013. *Dipcadi montanum* (Dalzell) Baker. An Addition to the Flora of Kerala, India. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 110 (3), Sept-Dec 2013



### *Eriocaulon nepalense* var. *luzulifolium* (Mart.) Praj. & J. Parn.

During the floristic exploration in the Kollengode range forests in Nemmara Forest Division of southern Western Ghats, an interesting specimen of *Eriocaulon* growing in the Manpara region of Nelliampathy Hills was collected and was identified as *Eriocaulon nepalense* var.

*luzulifolium* (Mart.) Praj. & J. Parn., hitherto unknown from any of the southern Indian states.

This plant was observed in waterlogged areas in evergreen forests.

Soumya, M and Maya C. Nair. **2019**. The Nepal Pipewort *Eriocaulon nepalense* var. *luzulifolium* (Commelinids: Poales: Eriocaulaceae): a new distribution record for southern India. *J. of Threatened Taxa*. 11(6): 13811-13814. DOI: 10.11609/jott.4759.11.6.13811-13814



***Oldenlandia hygrophila* Bremek.**

Record of *Oldenlandia hygrophila* Bremek. (Spermacoaceae: Rubiaceae), a lesser known herb from Palghat Gap of Western Ghats, Kerala, India.

Taxon is growing on the rocky outcrops near the dam site of Malampuzha Cin Palakkad District.

Aswani, V. J., Rekha Vasudevan, A., Arabhi, P., Jabeena, M. K., Jisha, K and **Maya C. Nair. 2020.** Record of *Oldenlandia hygrophila* Bremek. (Spermacoaceae: Rubiaceae), a lesser known herb from Palghat Gap of Western Ghats, Kerala, India. *J. of Threatened Taxa* 12 (3): 15400–15404. DOI: [10.11609/jott.5673.12.3.15400-15404](https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.5673.12.3.15400-15404)



***Meistera aculeata* (Roxb.) Škorničk. & M.F. Newman**

Aswani, V J., Jabeena , M K., and Maya C Nair. 2021. The Malay Cardamom *Meistera aculeata* (Roxb.) Škorničk. & M.F. Newman (Zingiberaceae: Alpinioideae) from the Palghat gap: a new record to Kerala, India **Journal of Threatened Taxa: 26 April 2021 | 13(4): xxxxx–xxxxx.** ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print) (Accepted for publication in April 2021)

