



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Notes on the distribution of *Eriolaena wallichii* (Malvaceae: Dombeyoideae)

J. Swamy*, L. Rasingam

Abstract

Eriolaena wallichii DC. (Malvaceae: Dombeyoideae) is reported here as an addition to the flora of South India from the Eastern Ghats Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary of Telangana. A detailed description, note with photographs is provided to facilitate easy identification.

Keywords: *Eriolaena*, New record, Notes, Telangana, South India.

Introduction

The genus *Eriolaena* DC. (Malvaceae: Dombeyoideae) represented by 27 species in the world, is distributed in continental Africa, Madagascar, and Asia (Dorr 2021). In India, the genus is represented by 07 species, of which distribution of *Eriolaena lushingtonii* Dunn is restricted to Eastern Ghats and *E. stocksii* Hook. f. & Thomson ex Mast. distributed in Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (Mao and Dash 2020).

While exploring the floral diversity of protected areas in Telangana state, few individuals of *Eriolaena* plants were collected from Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary of Telangana, by the first author which were subsequently identified as *Eriolaena wallichii* DC. with the help of relevant literature (Malick 1993). Though the species has been recorded from Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh West Bengal, and Nepal, but never been recorded from Southern India (Mao & Dash, 2020). A detailed description, note with photographs is provided to facilitate easy identification. Voucher specimens are deposited at the Botanical Survey of India, Deccan Regional Centre (BSID), Hyderabad, Telangana.

Botanical Survey of India, Deccan Regional Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500 095, India.

***Corresponding Author:** J. Swamy, Botanical Survey of India, A.J.C Bose Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, West Bengal-711103, India., E-Mail: swamy.2706@gmail.com

How to cite this article: Swamy, J., Rasingam, L. 2024. Notes on the distribution of *Eriolaena wallichii* (Malvaceae: Dombeyoideae). J. Indian bot. Soc., Vol. 104 (2): 108-109 Doi: [10.61289/jibs2023.09.02.1100](https://doi.org/10.61289/jibs2023.09.02.1100)

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None.

Taxonomic treatment

Eriolaena wallichii

DC., Mem. Mus. Hist. Nat. 10: 102.1823; Masters in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 1: 370.1874; Malick in B.D. Sharma and Sanjappa, Fl. India 3: 419. 1993; Mao and Dash, Fl. Pl. India Annot. Checkl. Dicot. 1: 179. 2020; Dorr and Wurdack, Taxon 70(1): 114. 2021 (Figure 1).

Large shrubs, up to 3 m high. Bark greyish; young branches stellately pubescent. Leaves simple or rarely 3-lobed at apex, 6-15 × 6-13 cm, ovate or roundish, cordate at base, crenate-dentate along margin, acuminate at apex, stellate-tomentose on both the surface, 5-7-nerved from base, prominent and raised beneath; petioles 1.5-4 cm long, stellate-tomentose; stipules up to 0.8 cm long, lanceolate. Flowers axillary and terminal, yellow, 1 or 2 on short peduncles; peduncles shorter than leaves, villous. Involucral bracts, 3, 0.8-2 × 0.5-0.7 cm, lanceolate, deeply fimbriate, floccose-tomentose outside, villous inside. Sepals 5, linear-lanceolate, 1.2-2.4 × 0.4-0.7 cm, acute at apex, densely tomentose. Petals 5, obovate to obcordate, shorter than the sepals, 1.3-1.5 × 0.3-0.6 cm, glabrous, bearing multiseriate anthers. Stamens many, arranged irregularly on staminal tube; tube c. 2 cm long; anthers linear. Ovary ovoid, c. 5 × 3 mm, 5-locular, stellate-hairy; styles 1-1.5 cm long, pilose; stigma very shortly lobed. Capsules cylindrical, 2.5-2.8 × 2-2.2 cm, smooth or sparsely tubercled, 8-10 valved, many seeded; seeds 1.2-2 cm long, winged.

Flowering & fruiting

April-June.

Habitat

Occasional in open areas of dry deciduous forests. It grows in association with *Cleistanthus collinus* (Roxb.) Benth. ex

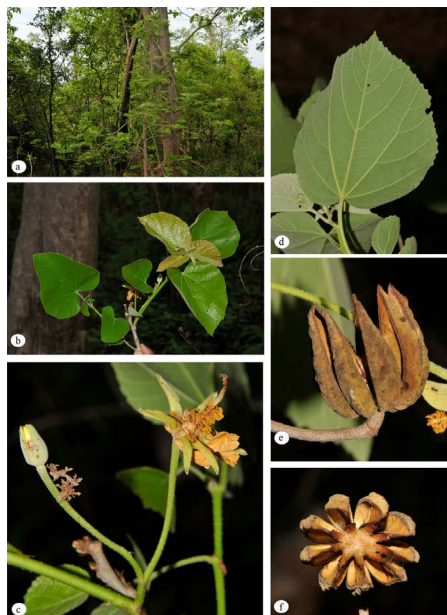


Figure 1: *Eriolaena wallichii* DC.: a. Habitat; b. Flowering brach; c. Inflorescence; d. leaf; e-f. Capsule

Hook.f. (Phyllanthaceae), *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R.Br. (Apocynaceae) and *Xylocarpus xylocarpa* (Roxb.) W.Theob. (Fabaceae).

Distribution

India (Bihar, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal) and Nepal.

Specimens examined

Telangana, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Yanambailu Range, Mondikatta Beat, 155 m.s.l., 04.07.2019, J. Swamy 009771 (BSID).

Notes

This species is closely related to *E. stocksii* by having multisect or lacinate involucre bracts. It can be easily differentiated from the later species by its less than 3-flowered peduncles as well as the peduncles are shorter than the leaves. Whereas in *E. stocksii* the peduncles are 3-flowered and longer than the leaves.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata and to the officials of Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana State Forest Department for permission and logistic support.

References

- Malick KC (1993). Sterculiaceae. In: *Flora of India*. eds. Sharma BD and Sanjappa M, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta. **1**: 414-419.
- Mao AA and Dash SS (2020). *Flowering Plants of India: An Annotated Checklist (Dicotyledons)*. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata. **1**: 179.
- Dorr LJ and Wurdack KJ (2021). Indo-Asian *Eriolaena* expanded to include two Malagasy genera, and other generic realignments based on molecular phylogenetics of Dombeyoideae (Malvaceae). *Taxon* **70** (1): 99-126. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.12370>