



## *Garcinia pushpangadaniana* (Clusiaceae), a new species from the southern Western Ghats, India

THYGARAJAN SABU<sup>1</sup>, NARAYANAN NAIR MOHANAN<sup>1,\*</sup>, MOOTHEDATHU VENUGOPALAN NAIR KRISHNARAJ<sup>1,2,\*\*</sup>, SAINUDEEN MUHAMMED SHAREEF<sup>1</sup>, PEERUMUHAMMED SUBAIDA SHAMEER<sup>1</sup> & PONNUS EZABELRAJAM ROY<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute, Pacha-Palode, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 562, Kerala, India

<sup>2</sup>Post-Graduate Department of Botany, Bishop Abraham Memorial College, Thuruthicad, Pathanamthitta- 689 597, Kerala, India

\*Corresponding author, email: nmohanan59@gmail.com

\*\* email: krishnarajtbagri@gmail.com

### Abstract

*Garcinia pushpangadaniana*, a new species of *Garcinia* from the southern part of the Western Ghats, India, is described, discussed and illustrated. This species is allied to *Garcinia xanthochyma*.

**Key words:** ecology, *Garcinia*, *Garcinia xanthochyma*, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Garcinia* Linnaeus (1753: 443) comprises 240–250 tree species, and is pantropical in distribution with a high species diversity in South and South-East Asia (Rogers & Sweeney 2007, Nimanthika & Kaththriarachchi 2010). In India, the genus is represented by 36 species (Maheshwari 1964, Singh 1993, Srivastava 1994), of which 7 species and 2 varieties, namely *G. indica* (Thouars 1806: 340) Choisy (1824: 561), *G. travancorica* Beddome (1872: t. 173), *G. wightii* Anderson (1874: 275), *G. imbertii* Bourdillon (1899: 349), *G. talbotii* Raizada ex Santapau (1960: 14), *G. rubro-echinata* Kostermans (1977: 128), *G. gummi-gutta* var. *conicarpa* (Wight 1839b: t. 121) Singh (1993: 110), and *G. gummi-gutta* var. *papilla* (Wight 1840: t. 340) Singh (1993: 111), are endemic to the Western Ghats. *Garcinia dhanikhariensis* Srivastava (1994: 5) is endemic to Andaman Islands. Recent checklists reported the occurrence of 13 species of *Garcinia* in Kerala state (Sasidharan 2004, Nayar *et al.* 2006).

As part of a taxonomic revision of the genus *Garcinia* in India, the authors collected some interesting specimens of a *Garcinia* from Kadalar, Idukki district of Kerala. Examining the *Garcinia* collections housed at various herbaria in India (CAL, MH and TBGT), we found that this taxon had previously been collected from some localities in south India (mainly from Tamil Nadu), but had been misidentified as *Garcinia xanthochyma* Hook. f. ex Anderson (1874: 269) due to similarities in growth habit, leaf shape and floral characters. This is evident in the comment of G. H. K. Thwaites quoted by Anderson (1874: 269) as follows: “A very variable species in the shape of the leaves and length of the peduncles and pedicels; it yields a tenacious gum of no value”. Detailed taxonomic studies based on living plants in the field revealed that our taxon, though resembling *G. xanthochyma* superficially, shows many discontinuous morphological differences, (Table 1.) which qualifies it to be considered as a distinct species. It is here described as new to science.