

Selaginella eurynota A. Braun (Selaginellaceae) – a new record for India

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Abstract

The present paper illuminates the occurrence of an unique Lycophytes *Selaginella eurynota* A. Braun. from the Yercaud hills in Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu. This species can be distinguished from other species by its rhizophores springing from the upper surface of the stem for V3-3/4 of its length. In the present study, a detailed taxonomic description, distribution and line drawings of this newly record species are provided.

Introduction

The genus *Selaginella* P. Beauve has about 700-species distributed throughout tropics (Malberley 2008). In India 62 species were reported by Dixit. (1992). The species *Selaginella indica* (Milde) Trayon, *S. wightii* Hieron, *S. bryopteris* (L.) Bak. *S. involvens* (Sw.) Spring., *S. tulerata* (Buch. Ham. ex D.Don) Spring., *S. radiacata* (Hook. & Greu.) Spring., *S. vaginalia* Spring., *S. repanda* (Desv.ex Poir) Spring., *S. ciliaris* (Retz.) Spring., *S. catractrum* Alston and *S. jainii* Dixit are reported from the Eastern Ghats of South India. Recently, a species of *Selaginella* was collected during the floristics studies of the Yercaud hills of the Eastern Ghats of South India. On critical examination and scrutiny of literature, it was identified as *Selaginella eurynota* A. Braun. So far known to occur only in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico (Chiapas, Nayarit, Jalisco, Colima, Guerrero and Oaxaca), Guatemala, and Panama. The present collection confirmed the occurrence of *Selaginella eurynota* A. Braun, grows on the showery or wet rocky slopes with some wed shaded rock surface areas in Yercaud hills of the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.

Selaginella eurynota A. Br. is closely allied to *S. horizontalis* (Presl) Spring. and *S. adunca* A.Br ex. Hieron but differs from the former in possessing the basal lobes of axillary leaves mostly imbricate and bearing alia 0.3 to 0.5 mm long and from the latter in rhizophores springing from the upper surface of the stem for V3-3/4 of its length.

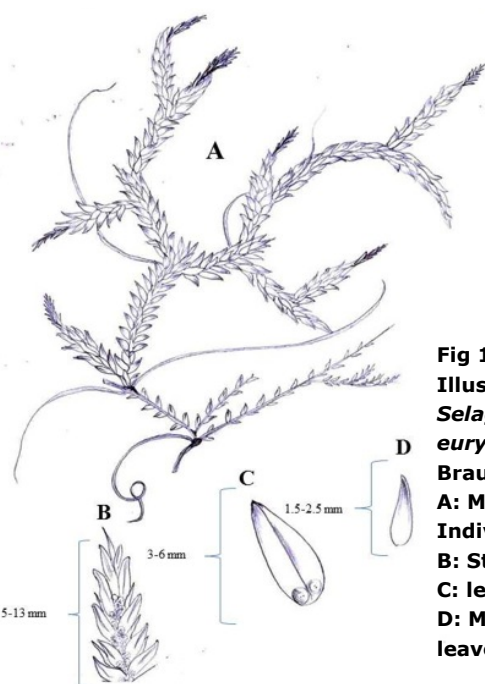


Fig 1.
Illustration of
Selaginella
***eurynota* A.**
Braun.
A: Mature
Individual.
B: Strobilus.
C: leaves.
D: Median
leaves



Fig 2. *Selaginella eurynota* A. Braun

***Selaginella eurynota* A. Br.**; Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., 5, 3: 293.1865. *Lycopodioides eurynota* (A. Br.) Kuntze; Rev. Gen. Pl. 1: 826 .1891. *Selaginella mnioides* sensu Christ in Pittier; Primit. Fl. Costaric. 3 (1): 61.1901. (Fig 1 & 2).

Plants terrestrial, heterophyllous throughout; stems prostrate or decumbent, branched throughout, articulate; rhizophores springing from the upper surface of the stem for V3-3/4 of its length; lateral leaves commonly spreading from the axes at 90 angles, 3-6 mm long, narrowly oblong to elliptic-lanceolate, acute or subacute, the margins entire to serrulate (sometimes ciliolate toward base and then the cilia 0.1-0.2 mm long), slightly to deeply cordate at base, the basal acroscopic lobe commonly broadly arching over and directed down along the axis; axillary leaves linear –to elliptic –oblong, the margins subentire to serrulate, the base slightly to deeply cordate with the lobes subparallel, contiguous (rarely imbricate) and usually abundantly ciliolate (cilia 0.1-0.2 mm long); median leaves 1.5-2.5 mm long, obliquely ovate-acuminate, the margins entire to serrulate, peltate, i.e., a single rounded to subacute lobe like projection extending below the point of attachment, this ca. V3-V4 the length of the leaf; strobili 5-13 mm long, acute or acuminate, slightly to sharply carinate; megaspores yellowish or beige, with strongly pronounced, white, reticulate ridges; microspores tawny. (Fig 1 & 2).

Phenology: Sporophylls are formed during November onwards and sorus is matured on December to January.

References

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