

## FIRST REPORT OF *BARLERIA LUPULINA* LINDL. (ACANTHACEAE) FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

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web supplement

### *Barleria lupulina* Lindl.

In Edwards, Bot. Reg. 18: t. 1483. 1832-1833; C.B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 482. 1884; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 464. 1967 (Rept.ed.); K.K. Khanna *et al.* in V. Mudgal *et al.* (eds.), Fl. Madhya Pradesh 2: 292. 1997; P.K. Bhattacharyya & Krishnendu Sarkar, Fl. W. Champaran, Bihar. 331. t. 332. 1998; L.H. Cramer in Dassan. *et al.* (eds.), Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 12: 92. 1998. (Acanthaceae).

### Common names

Semmulli, Mullu kanagaambaram (Tamil).

### Materials examined

10.ix.2000, Kothavalampatty Village, Kulathur Taluk, Pudukkottai District, coll. N. Ganapathy, 26547, ±110m; 29.ix.2000, Meyyur Village, Tiruvannamalai District, coll. P. Durai, 37529, ±230m; 23.ii.2004, Auroville, Pichandikulam, Villupuram District, coll. K. Ravikumar, 59351, ±20m. All the voucher specimens and plant images are deposited in the herbarium of FRLHT (acronym 'FRLH') and the image library respectively.

### Diagnosis

Spiny undershrubs, up to 1.5(3)m high. Leaves narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 4-13 x 1-2cm, subcoriaceous, glabrous, cuneate at base, obtuse at apex, spine-tipped; cystoliths linear, densely irregularly scattered, prominent above; midrib prominent, sulcate, reddish; lateral nerves indistinct; petioles ca 5mm long; leaves of axillary branches oblanceolate, ca 3.5 x 1cm, base attenuate, apex obtuse-mucronate; spines two per axil, each ca 1.5cm long, whitish, deflexed. Spikes terminal, erect, strobiliform, dense, 5-7 x 1.5-2cm, puberulous; bracts broadly ovate, ca 1.5 x 1cm, puberulous, with many cupular brown glands on the back at lower half, apex broadly acute, mucronate, margin ciliolate, upper half brownish; bracteoles oblanceolate, ca 5 x 1.5mm, mucronulate. Flowers ca 2.5cm across; calyx-lobes four, dissimilar; two broadly ovate-lanceolate, ca 1 x 0.4cm, other two linear-lanceolate, ca 1 x 0.2cm, puberulous, shortly aristate; corolla tubular, yellow; tube ca 2cm long, slightly bent at base, broadening above, puberulous without; stamens two, exserted; style ca 2.5cm long, sparsely pubescent at base, glabrous above; stigma simple. Capsules clavate, compressed, ca 1 x 0.4cm, glabrous, with a solid base. Flowering - March to April; fruiting - April to September. Images 1 and 2<sup>w</sup> are herbarium specimen and the plant in the wild respectively.

### Remarks

This species is native of Mauritius. In India, it has been recorded in the states of Uttar Pradesh (Rajagopal & Panigrahi, 1965; Sharma & Pandey, 1984), Bihar (Haines, 1922), Orissa (Haines, 1922) and Madhya Pradesh (Khanna *et al.*, 1997) where it is reported to be running wild and occasionally planted also. This species has not been recorded so far from the southern Indian states of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In Maharashtra, it is reported to be grown occasionally in gardens (Cooke, 1967) and there is no other further records in the recent floras of the state. In Sri Lanka, it is cultivated as a hedge plant (Cramer, 1998).

Recently, it has been collected from Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Tiruchirappalli and Tiruvannamalai districts of Tamil Nadu. It is observed that this species is wild in Pachchaimalai Hills of Tiruchirappalli District (Charles, *pers. comm.*). It is planted in the demogardens of Gandeepam MPCP in Sivagangai District and Pichandikulam MPCP, Auroville, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu, where it has reached a height of about 3m. It is found wild in wastelands and along waysides near Meyyur Village in Tiruvannamalai District and near Kothavalampatty Village in Pudukkottai District.

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\* See Images 1 & 2 on the web at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)

