

towards end, lumina narrowly opened and irregular.

I. stellata—pollen grains medium-sized ($36.36-22.73 \times 31.82-22.73 \mu$), monocolpate, prolate spheroidal, colpus, long broad, finely-defined, deeply sunken, colpus membrane granulate, exine margin continuous and spinous. This type of ornamentation differs distinctly from the other two species. Ornamentation more distinctly rugate and muri-stratified, often distinctly interrupted and arranged in short curved sections. Muri usually simplicolumellate or duplicolumellate.

I. magnifica—small pollen grains ($27.7-22.75 \times 25-22.7 \mu$), monocolpate, prolate spheroidal, plano-convex, colpus finely defined, long broad, exine continuous with well-defined margin and frequently adorned by microechinate spines. Ornamentation varies from a tectum perforatum to microreticulate or finely reticulate, muri relatively thick, lumina irregular to circular in shape.

Pollen Germination

Although percentage of pollen viability both in *I. pallida* and *I. magnifica* are on par (71%) their responses of germination to sucrose medium are varied. Lower sucrose concentrations (2%) stimulate pollen germination in *I. pallida* (table 2) whereas it inhibits the pollen germination in *I. magnifica*. In contrast to this, there are high pollen viability (91.77%) of *I. stellata*. They germinate better in 2% sucrose concentrations (table 1).

Thus it is suggested that such a large range of pollen size, ornamentation variations, and varied responses to germination behaviour of pollens supports the heterogeneous nature of the genus *Iphigenia*.

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DENDROBIUM LAWIANUM* LINDL IN KERALA

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THE genus *Dendrobium* Sw is the largest genus among the orchids. Hooker¹, Gamble² and Abraham and Vatsala³ have reported only 12 species of this genus from South India. During the survey of the orchids of the Kerala Forests the authors could collect 15 species of this genus. A specimen of *Dendrobium* in its vegetative condition was collected in 1983 from Sholayar, Trichur District, Kerala at an altitude of 500 m. This species was found to be localized in their natural habitat. This specimen flowered in cultivation in the Institute garden during 1984 and 1985. On critical taxonomical study this specimen was found to be *D. lawianum* Lindl which has so far been recorded only from the Western Ghats of Karnataka. The



Figure 1. *Dendrobium lawianum* Lindl an addition to the flora of Kerala

present record of this species extends the range of distribution of this taxon further southwards in the Western Ghats.

Dendrobium lawianum Lindl closely resembles *D. crepidatum* Lindl in its external morphology. However, it differs from the latter in possessing actinomorphic flowers, being composed of six absolutely equal perianth parts, with no distinct lip as in the other species of *Dendrobium*. The column is short and stout with 2 horned processes at the base on the sides, without a foot and mentum. There is a deep cavity behind the column which serves as the nectary. The anthers are 2-celled, pollinia 2 pairs, golden yellow in colour and devoid of any appendage (figure 1).

The characteristic structure of the column of this species is distinct from all other species of *Dendrobium*. Owing to the absence of foot and mentum, with subregular flowers the justification of the inclusion of this species with other *Dendrobiums* appears ambiguous. However, its general habit and close similarity in the external morphology to *D. crepidatum* Lindl warrants its inclusion under a separate sub-section Actinomorpha under the section Dendrobiinae.

Specimen examined: Kerala, Trichur District: Sholayar at an altitude of 500 m, 16-3-1985, Sasidharan 3486 (KFRI, Herbarium).

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *METEOROMYRTUS WYNAADENSIS* (BEDD.) GAMB., IN KARNATAKA

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THE genus *Meteoromyrtus* Gamb. (Myrtaceae) is represented in India by a single species, *M. wynaadensis*¹. This interesting species was not collected since its first discovery in 1866². Recently, this taxon has been reported after a lapse of 100 years from the forests of Wynaad and Idukki in Kerala^{2,3}.

During plant collections from Sringeri taluk, Chickmagalur district, Karnataka, one of the authors (MRR) observed a population of this genus occurring around Kigga forests which on critical study and comparison at the Herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH) was identified as *M. wynaadensis*. This first report from Karnataka of this species is interesting phytogeographically since it extends the range of its distribution northwards along Western ghats; the species has also been considered as endangered⁴. A short description of the taxon is provided to facilitate identification and location elsewhere.

Meteoromyrtus wynaadensis (Bedd.) Gamble: Bushy shrubs with woody stem and slender branches, bark reddish, peeling off. Leaves simple, whorled, to 5.5 × 2.0 cm. Flowers axillary, in 3 to 4-flowered cymes, white. Fruit a berry, reddish, calyx persistent, topped by style; seed 1.

Specimen examined: M. R. Rao 10050, dated 7. 8. 1983; collected from semi-evergreen forests of Kigga, in flowering and fruiting, deposited at the Herbaria of Sri J.C.B.M. College, Sringeri and Regional Research Centre, Bangalore (RRCBI).

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