

Two new combinations in *Acilepis* (Asteraceae)

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Abstract

Two new combinations, viz., *Acilepis peninsularis* var. *kodayarensis* and *A. saligna* var. *nilghirensis*, are proposed.

Keywords: *Acilepis*, Asteraceae, New Combinations

Introduction

Vernonia Schreb. was established in 1791. Hooker (1881) in *The Flora of British India* dealt with 45 species and 3 varieties of *Vernonia*. In India, the genus presently comprises 55 species, 1 subspecies and 7 varieties (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 2009). While revising the paleotropical species of tribe Vernonieae, Robinson (1999) and Robinson & Skvarla (2009) resurrected the genus *Acilepis* D. Don which was treated as a generic synonym of *Vernonia*. *Acilepis* can be separated from *Vernonia* based on herbaceous habit, simple hairs on stems, separated heads, unequal and deeply separated cells of setulae of achenes, almost totally deciduous pappus and triporate pollen. He transferred *V. peninsularis* (C.B. Clarke) C.B. Clarke ex Hook.f. and *V. saligna* DC., the two species indigenous to India, to *Acilepis* as *A. peninsularis* (C.B. Clarke) H. Rob. & Skvarla and *A. saligna* (DC.) H. Rob. but overlooked two varieties endemic to the Western Ghats, viz., *Vernonia peninsularis* var. *kodayarensis* A.N. Henry & Gopalan (1987) and *V. saligna* var. *nilghirensis* Hook.f. (1881). This has necessitated the following two new combinations.

Acilepis peninsularis (C.B. Clarke) H. Rob. & Skvarla var. ***kodayarensis*** (A.N. Henry & Gopalan) Rasiya Beegam & Sibi, **comb. nov.**

Vernonia peninsularis (C.B. Clarke) C.B. Clarke ex Hook.f. var. *kodayarensis* A.N. Henry & Gopalan, J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. 11: 233. 1987; Karthik. *et al.*, Fl. Pl. India Dicotyl. 1: 294. 2009. Type: A.N. Henry 77074 (Holotype, CAL; Isotypes, MH).

Distribution: Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Endemic.

Acilepis saligna (DC.) H. Rob. var. ***nilghirensis*** (Hook.f.) Rasiya Beegam & Sibi, **comb. nov.**

Vernonia saligna DC. var. *nilghirensis* Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 235. 1881; R.R. Rao *et al.*, Fl. Ind. Enum. Asterac.: 89. 1988; Karthik. *et al.*, Fl. Pl. India Dicotyl. 1: 294. 2009. Holotype: Wight 1525 (K). *Distribution:* Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Endemic.

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Received: 23.8.2011

Revised and Accepted: 31.5.2012