Syzygium kanarense (Talbot) Raizada, Indian Forester 74: 336.1948


Specimens examined: Holotype of the species (No. 1896) by W.A. Talbot is available in BSI - Western Circle Poona (Accession No. 4629). Another collection by R. Sundararaghavan represented by only two sheets numbered 87607 and 87609 dated 23.iii.1964 and 27.iii.1964 are also available in BSI Poona. The present collection is HSS-5332, 5333 (dated 16.i.2012) and 5450, 5451 (dated 20.v.2012). These specimens are deposited at the herbarium of the Department of Applied Botany, Mangalore University, Karnataka. The geographical coordinates of the location is 14°016'642"N & 74°044'019"E (Image 3).

Large trees, bark smooth and white, branchlets terete. Leaves up to 4.5×9 cm, elliptic, acute at the base, acuminate at apex, acumens up to 1.3 cm; petioles 1.3 cm,
drying black; midrib reddish-brown, channelled above, secondary nerves ca. 1.5–2 mm apart, conspicuous, numerous and parallel, penni-nerved in two tiers; margin wavy and slightly revolute, densely gland-dotted. Cymes axillary and terminal, shorter than the leaves. Flowers white, 0.6–0.8 cm across, nearly sessile, buds globose, creamish white. Calyx 0.4×0.4 cm, almost truncate, turbinate. Calyptra 2.5×1.8 mm, thick; corolla lobes 3, very thin, gland dotted, varying in size, largest 1.5×1.6 mm, shortly clawed, another 1.3×1.5 mm, hastate with two claws, smallest 1.2×1.2 mm with a single claw. Stamens ca 0.5 cm long, style simple, ovules in axile placentation. Fruit up to 2×1.2 cm, purple when mature, pulpy, crowned with the persistent calyx, 1-seeded.

**Notes:** The species has been sometimes treated under *Syzygium gardneri* Thwaites (Cook 1903; Saldana 1996). IPNI (www.ipni.org 2011) recognizes *Syzygium kanarense* as a distinct species. *Syzygium kanarense* (Talbot) Raizada differs from *Syzygium gardneri* Thw. in the leaf being semi-chartaceous, mid-rib distinctly channelled above and with intramarginal nerves in two tiers (Image 2B). Fruit has a distinct terminal ring of persistent calyx, ca. 4 mm diameter at maturity. Talbot (1902) in his notes for the species indicates that the fruit of this species is distinct from that of *Syzygium gardneri*.

**Ecology:** Tall trees up to 30 m, reaching the top canopy of the evergreen forest. It is generally associated with *Calophyllum polyanthum* Wall. ex Planch. & Triana, *Garcinia gummi-gutta* (L.) Roxb., *Garcinia morella* (Gaertn.) Desr., *Arenga wightii* Griff., and *Psychotria dalzelli* Hook. f. Largest tree measured a GBH (girth at breast height) of 3.4 m.

**Phenology:** Flowering: End of December. Fruiting: February–March.

**Conservation status:** Field observation indicates the species to be very rare. So far it is collected from only two locations Gerusoppa and Hulical Ghat. We could not locate any individuals in the Hulical Ghat region despite intensive searches. Mature individuals do not exceed...
50. Therefore, following IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN 2012), it can be categorized as Critically Endangered.

Conservation measures: The Gerusoppa region is a reserve forest and there is no immediate threat to the species. Moreover, seedlings have been raised and will be introduced into various botanical gardens.

References


IUCN (2012). IUCN Red List categories and criteria, ver. 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission.


www.ipni.org 2011/IPNI plant names by version 1.5.