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Registered Office: 3A2 Varadarajulu Nagar, FCI Road, Ganapathy, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu 641006, India
Ph: +91 9385339863 | www.threatenedtaxa.org
Email: sanjay@threatenedtaxa.org

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Cover: Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, pen & ink with colour pencil. © Lucille Betti-Nash.



Sonerila konkanensis Resmi & Nampy (Melastomataceae) – an addition to the flora of Karnataka, India

Prashant Karadakatti¹ & Siddappa B. Kakkamelali²

^{1,2} Angiosperm Taxonomy and Plant Diversity, Department of Studies in Botany, Davangere University, Shivagathri, Davangere, Karnataka 577007, India.

¹ prashant.s.k2012@gmail.com, ² dubotsiddu@gmail.com (corresponding author)

Melastomataceae are the eighth-largest family of angiosperms, with 177 genera and 5,858 known species in the world (Christenhusz & Byng 2016). The members of the Melastomataceae family species are important to today's tropical flora (Renner 1993). The name *Sonerila* was first used by Roxburgh in his 'Hortus Bengalensis' (1814) and was validated later in his 'Flora Indica' (1820). Globally, the genus *Sonerila* comprises about 180 taxa of caulescent and acaulescent herbs. This genus is chiefly concentrated in Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Bhutan, southern China, Taiwan, southeastern Asia, and the Malaya Archipelago (Cellinese 1997; Resmi et al. 2021). In India, *Sonerila* is represented by 49 species and one variety of which six species and one variety (about 86%) are endemic to the Western Ghats (Resmi et al. 2022). In Karnataka, 13 *Sonerila* species have been recorded till now, the *Sonerila talbotii* and *Sonerila raghaviana* both are endemic to the state (Saldanha 1984; Sanjappa & Sringswara 2019; Ravikumar & Tangavelau 2021). *Sonerila* species collected in the field survey from the place Thirthahalli taluk, Shivamogga district, Karnataka, India were identified with the help of type specimens and taxonomic key evidence to conclude it is *Sonerila konkanensis* (Resmi et al. 2021; Resmi & Nampy 2022). The characters were tallied with reference articles and

given comprehensive descriptions with photographs. The article deliberates the species *Sonerila konkanensis* Resmi & Nampy is an addition to the Karnataka state flora, which describes the place Goa as a type locality.

Materials and Methods

Study Area: The specimen was collected from Kavaledurga fort, located in the taluk Thirthahalli, Shivamogga district, Karnataka, India (Figure 1). The coordinate 13.7189N, 75.1177E, 08.09.2023 dated. The mentioned place or the region belongs to Western Ghats and comprises the seven lakes, Sahyadri hill range with dense canopy and shady hill rocks (Lateritic Rocky plateau). The specimen collected area covers the Southern tropical evergreen forest slightly.

Taxonomic Treatment: *Sonerila konkanensis* Resmi, S., Nampy, S., & F, Akshatra. 2021. *Sonerila konkanensis* (Melastomataceae), a new species from South Goa, India. *Candollea*. 76: 139–143.

Tuber-mediated (perennating), caulescent, erect herb, 5–30 cm high; tubers globose with root hairs, 0.5–1.7 cm in diam., white to pale green. Stems quadrangular, subangular at the base, 0.2–0.5 cm thick, dark pink, fleshy with branched, gland-tipped trichomes in dense; internodes 2–5 cm long, nodes with prominent

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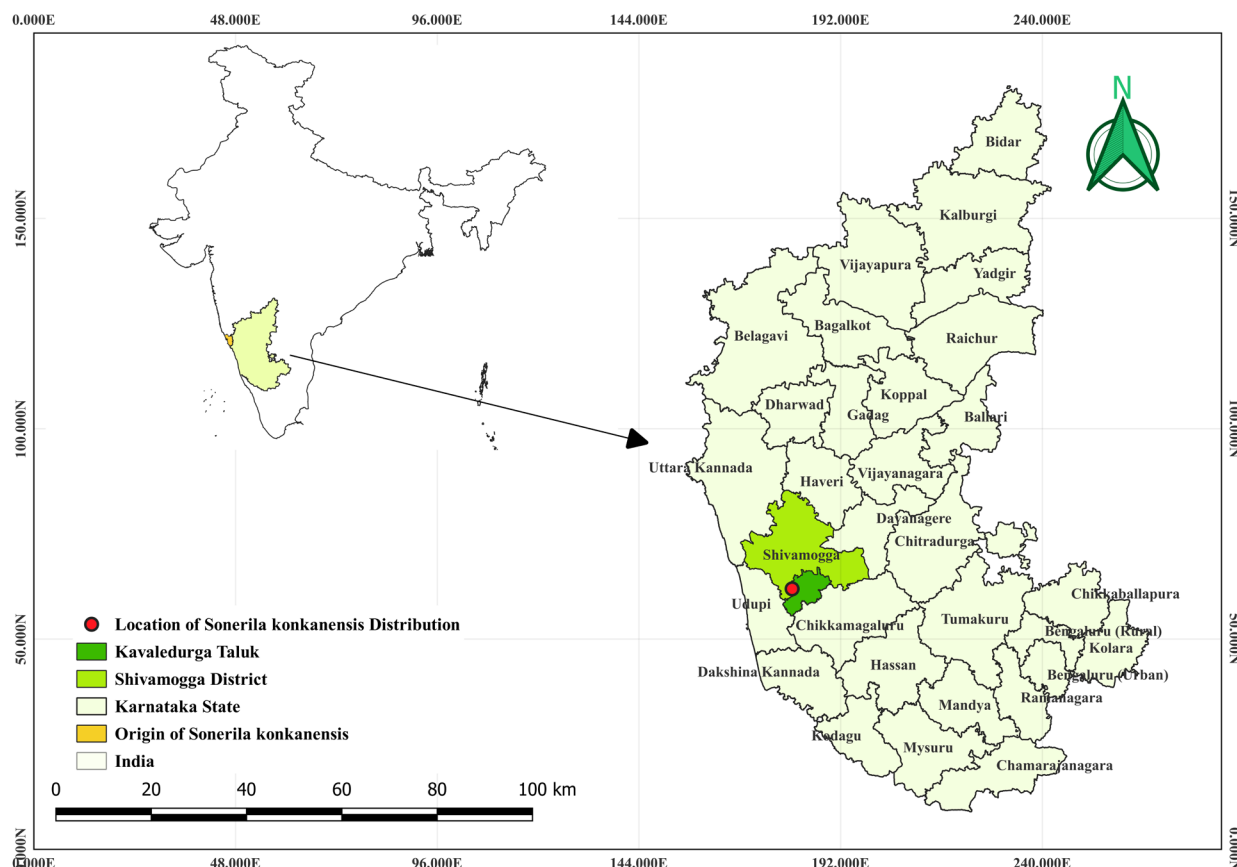


Figure 1. Distribution of *Sonerila konkanensis* in Karnataka.

leaf scars and densely covered gland-tipped trichomes. Leaves decussate at the distal node region; petiole canaliculated $2-3 \times c. 0.2$ cm, green, slightly claret, with gland-tipped trichomes on the lamina, ovate to elliptic, $3-8 \times 1.5-5$ cm, lime green on adaxial side, pale green on abaxial side, slightly cordate or sub-rounded at base with slightly dentate margins with small trichomes at each tooth end, acute to acuminate at apex, with dense glandular trichomes adaxially, only on veins abaxially, pinnately veined, 2 or 3 pairs above midrib and base only 2 pairs, less branched (approximately 2-5); Inflorescence terminal with 5-16 flowered terminal; peduncles quadrangular, $5-7 \times 0.15-0.2$ cm, longer than the petioles, dark pink or claret-tinged, densely covered with gland-tipped trichomes; leaf-like bracts foliaceous, elliptic, $0.4-2.3 \times 0.5-1.5$ cm, densely glandular-pubescent adaxially, only on veins abaxially, persistent. Flowers trimerous, $1-1.6 \times 1-1.4$ cm; pedicels sub-angular, $4-10 \times 1-2$ mm, claret tinged, densely covered with gland-tipped trichomes. Hypanthia campanulate, $4-5 \times 1.5-3$ mm, 3-lobed, 3-ribbed, distally claret-tinged, densely covered with gland-tipped trichomes; lobes

triangular, $1-2 \times 1-2.5$ mm, acute at apex. Petals 3, ovate to oblong, $10-12 \times 4-5$ mm, dark pink or fuchsia, pink, with dark midrib, obtuse at base, mucronate at apex, gland-tipped trichomes on midrib abaxially. Stamens 3; filaments $5-6$ mm long, dark pink at base and pale pink towards the apex and glabrous; anthers lanceolate, $5-7$ mm long, yellow, acuminate to rostrate at apex. Ovary $2-3 \times 2-3$ mm; style $8-12$ mm long, dark pink; stigma capitate, dark pink, glabrous. Capsules campanulate, $4-5 \times 3-5$ mm, distally green claret-tinged, brown when mature, obscurely 3-ribbed, densely covered with gland-tipped trichomes. Seeds many, obovoid $0.5-0.6 \times 0.2-0.3$ mm, pale brown (Image 1).

Species examined: INDIA, Karnataka, Shivamogga District, Thirthahalli Taluk (Kavaledurga Hill), 08 September 2023, Prashant Karadakatti. Collector Number: M006, Herbarium Accession Number: UASB 5611 (University of Agricultural Sciences, GVKV Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka, India).

Habitat: dripping rocky and marshy areas, in association with *Ariopsis peltata* Nimmo, *Impatiens talbotii* Hook.f. and *Murdannia simplex* (Vahl) Brenan.

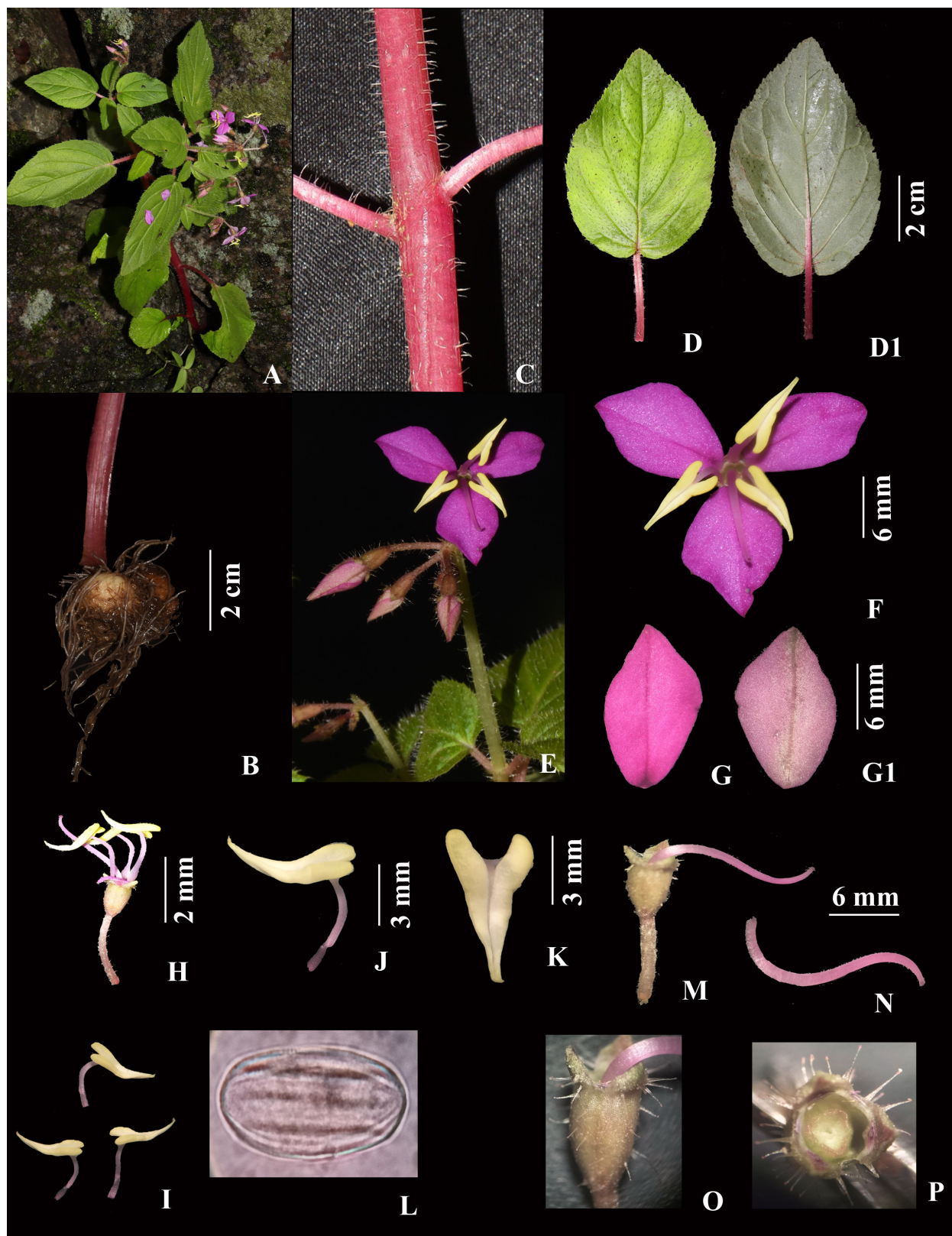


Image 1. *Sonerila konkanensis* Resmi & Nampy.: A—Habitat | B—Tuber | C—Stem with gland-tipped trichomes | D—Leaf dorsal surface, D1—Leaf ventral surface | E—Inflorescence, F—Flower, G—Petal dorsal view | G1—Petal ventral view | H—Hypanthium | I & J—Stamens | K—An anther with two lobes close-up | L—Pollen | M—Gynoecium with pedicel | N—Style and stigma | O & P—Fruit. © Shreyas Betageri.

Flowering Season: August–September.

Fruiting: September.

Distribution: Goa (Konkan), Karnataka (Thirthahalli) (Present survey).

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Tamil Nadu 641006, India
ravi@threatenedtaxa.org

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