

**MASTIXIA EUONYMOIDES PRAIN (CORNACEAE) : AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF
TAMIL NADU**

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The genus *Mastixia* Blume (Cornaceae) with 13 species is distributed in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), India, Bhutan, S.Yunnan, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Indo-China, Malesia and Solomon Islands. In India, four taxa, viz. *M. arborea* (Wight) Bedd. ssp. *arborea*, *M. arborea* (Wight) Bedd. ssp. *meziana* (Wangerin.) K.M. Matthew, *M. euonymoides* Prain and *M. pentandra* Blume ssp. *chinensis* (Merr.) K.M. Mathew are distributed (K.M. Matthew, 1976). While studying the genus *Mastixia* Blume (Cornaceae) of South India, the authors found an unidentified specimen from Nilgiri hills, Tamil Nadu. After critical studies and perusal of literature, we confirmed it as *Mastixia euonymoides* Prain. So far, it is known to N.E. India (Manipur), Bhutan, Myanmar and Thailand (Brandis, 1907 & K.M. Matthew, 1976). The present collection constitutes a new distributional record for the Western Ghats, Peninsular India. A short description with a photograph of the specimen is provided in this paper.

***Mastixia euonymoides* Prain** in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 67: 295. 1898; Craib in Kew Bull.1922: 237, *descr. ampl.* Brandis, Indian Trees : 356. 1906 & Indian Forester 33: 57. 1907; K.M. Matthew, Blumea 23: 64. 1976.

Tree, to 15 m high; branchlets stout, decussate, 4-angular. Leaves decussate; ovate-lanceolate, cuneate at base, sub-entire at margins, acuminate at apex, coriaceous, domatiate beneath, 10-15 × 5-7 cm; lateral nerves (5-)-8-10 pairs, distinct on both surfaces. Inflorescence terminal, to (8-)-10 cm long, stout; branches 4-angular. Calyx subtruncate, thick; teeth 4, rounded, minute. Incipient fruits elliptic, up to 7 mm long, reddish brown, with persistent disc and inconspicuous calyx.

Fr.: May.

Distribution : India : Manipur and Tamil Nadu; Bhutan; Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand.

Habitat : In the evergreen forests at 850 m altitude.

Specimen examined : India : Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri district, Nadugani, 850 m, 24 May 1971, J.L. Ellis 38520 (MH).

Note : This species is closely allied to *Mastixia octandra* K.M. Matthew of Sumatra, but differs in 4-angular branchlets and inflorescence branches, coriaceous leaves and thick calyx with rounded teeth.

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MATTHEW, K.M. 1976. A revision of the genus *Mastixia* (Cornaceae). *Blumea* 23: 51-93.