

New locality of *Ceratopteris thalictroides* (L.) Brongn. in Tamiraparani River, Tirunelveli District, Tamil nadu**M. Maridass and S. Ghanthikumar[#]**

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Report

Ceratopteris thalictroides (L.) Brongn (Pteridaceae) is diverse species; it was widely distributed occurring in the Asia, Australia, and America. It was included in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Irudayaraj, 2011; IUCN, 2011). In this paper we report the new locality of pteridophyte species of *Ceratopteris thalictroides* in Tamiraparani River, Palamadai, Tirunelveli District, Tamil nadu.

Key words: *Ceratopteris thalictroides*, Tamiraparani River, Palamadai, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu

Description

The pteridophytes of *Ceratopteris thalictroides* is rooted in mud, very variable in size and appearance, scales on rhizome peltate, thin, translucent, pale brown, stipes 3 - 14mm diameter in mature plants, spongy and air filled, sterile fronds pale green, thin, flaccid and spreading, 4- 58cm long, including a stipe c. half this length, fertile fronds pale green, to brown when over mature, firm, held erect, 15-97cm or more long, including stipe to 39 cm long, proliferous or dormant buds with overlapping dark scales sometimes present in the axils of fertile pinnae, sterile axes obviously winged, pinnae basically broad-ovate or deltoid with a few blunt lobes, sometimes more deeply incised, the segments 2 - 15 x 10 - 30 mm, fertile segments linear, 1-3 x 9-81mm (Plate-1).

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Plate-1:View of natural habitat of *Ceratopteris thalictroides*

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Habitat and Ecology: *Ceratopteris thalictroides* (L.) Brongn. occur in semi shaded localities mostly rooted in mud, occasionally free floating and common in paddy fields, ponds (Manickam and Irudayaraj, 1992; Nair *et al.*, 1992; Nayar and Geevarghese, 1993; Mahesh, 2010).

Specimen examined: Aquatic plants, Tamiraparani River, Palamadai, Tirunelveli District, Tamilnadu, South India (Plate-1).

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