

Solanum dulcamara L. - A new record for KMTR region, Southern India

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Report

The field survey of flowering plants of Manjolai region, Southern Western Ghats, South India, Tamil Nadu during the period of October, 2012 to December, 2012. The field visited and observed by several plants specimens of *Solanum* species were collected and identified. The interesting species of *Solanum dulcamara* L. was first time reported in this region of Manjolai, Southern Western Ghats. Hence, a detailed description, phenology and illustration are provided to facilitate easy identification of the species.



Solanum L. is one of the ten most species-rich genera of flowering plants (Frodin 2004) and about 1250 species is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, especially in Americas (Mabberley, 2008). The genus *Solanum* is represented by 48 species reported in India

(Reema Kumari, 2004). Previously, *Solanum dulcamara* were collected from Dharwar in 1949. In this species of *S. dulcamara* was first time collected and reported from Manjolai, KMTR region, Southern Western Ghats, South India.

Description:

Climbing nightshade / *Solanum dulcamara*

Rhizomatous perennial, erect or sprawling, up to 2 m (6.9ft) in length. Alternate dark green leaves; lower leaves have three lobes with the terminal lobe much larger than the two lateral lobes. Flowers with five recurved purple petals and bright yellow fused anthers; bloom from May-November. Fruit a shiny red berry.

Habitat: Low wet woods, fence rows, thickets, roadsides, paths and pond edges; tolerates low light levels.

Mode of spread: Spreads by its bird-dispersed fruits.

Survey: Purple flowers with bright, yellow, fused stamens appear from May to November, red berries ripen gradually throughout the season.

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