



## Research Article

## ***Striga masuria* (Orobanchaceae) – A new record to the flora of Kerala, India.**

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**Abstract:** *Striga masuria* (Buch.-Ham. ex Benth.) Benth. (Orobanchaceae) is reported from Kerala state for the first time.

**Keywords:** New Record, Kerala, Orobanchaceae, *Striga masuria*

### Introduction

The genus *Striga* Lour. (1790) belongs to the family Orobanchaceae, comprises about 43 species (Mohamed *et al.*, 2001) with the highest diversity in tropical Africa (Fischer *et al.*). Out of this, nine species were recorded so far from India (Omalsree *et al.*, 2015). As a part of the ongoing taxonomic revision on the genus *Striga* in India, the authors collected one unknown species of *Striga* from Kodikuthimala regions of Malappuram district, Kerala, India. Further studies based on relevant literature and comparison with type specimens its identity has been confirmed as *Striga masuria* (Buch.-Ham. ex Benth.) Benth. (1836), a very rare species in India, earlier recorded only from Tamil Nadu. Therefore, it is the second distribution record in India and also a new addition to the flora of Kerala.



### Taxonomic Treatments

***Striga masuria*** (Buch.-Ham. ex Benth.) Benth. in Hooker, Companion Bot. Mag. 1: 364. 1836.

*Buchnera masuria* Buchanan-Hamilton ex Benth., Scroph. Ind. 41. 1835.

Type:—NEPAL, Morang hills, Francis (Buchanan) Hamilton, 1419 (K!).

Erect annual, chlorophyllous herbs, 32–68 cm tall. Stem densely hispid, quadrangular, green, branched from middle to apex. Leaves opposite at base alternate towards apex, sessile, 12–40 × 1–4 mm, linear-lanceolate, margin ciliate with strigose hair, acute at apex, cuneate at base, hairy on both surfaces especially on mid-rib; mid-rib prominent. Inflorescence terminal or from axils of upper leaves, 15–45 cm long. Rachis angular, strigose hairy. Flowers zygomorphic, sessile, hypogynous, lax, alternate, 22–34 per inflorescence. Bract 1, 2.6–2.9 mm long, linear-lanceolate. Bracteole 2, 1.8–2.1 mm long, linear-lanceolate. Calyx tubular, 15-ribbed, ending up to the teeth and sinuses; lobes 5, 2.4–2.8 mm long, linear-lanceolate. Corolla bilabiate; tube 8.8–9.8 mm long, prominently curved above the middle, greenish; lobes creamy-white, 3.8–4.4 mm long, broadly obovate, pubescent without, glabrous within; throat 4–4.2 mm long, hairy. Stamens 4, included, didynamous, epipetalous, attached to the distal end of the tube; filaments 1.5–3.2 mm long; anthers 1-celled. Ovary superior, many ovuled. 2–2.2 mm long, oblong to ellipsoid, glabrous; style 4.8 mm long, white, brown at apex, glabrous; stigma brown. Fruit 5.5 mm long, ellipsoid, apex beaked. Seeds 0.3–0.4 mm long, ellipsoid with parallel striations.

**Phenology:** July–November

**Distribution:** In India, the plant is narrowly endemic to Tamil Nadu (Hooker, 1884) and Kerala (present collection) parts of Western Ghats.

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**Habitat and biotic association:** Collected from grasslands in Kodikuthimala hills, Perinthalmanna, Malappuram District, Kerala. The plant is growing in association with four members of Poaceae family viz. *Ischaemum rangacharianum* C.E.C. Fisch., *I. tumidum* Stapf ex Bor var. *calicutensis* (Sreek., V.J. Nair & N.C. Nair) R. Kr. Singh & P.S.N. Rao, *Arundinella mesophylla* Nees ex Steud. and *Pennisetum polystachyon* (L.) Schult.


**Specimens examined:** Kerala: Malappuram, Kodikuthimala, 28 October 2016, Omalsree M 627; 17 November 2017, Omalsree M 629 (MH).

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**Conflict of interest:** Nil