Liverworts Flora of Parson’s valley, Nilgiri hills (Western Ghats), South India
Afroz Alam

Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Banasthali Vidyapith-304022 (Rajasthan), India, afrozalamsafvi@gmail.com

Abstract. Parson’s valley is an area explored for the first time in Indian Bryology; it is situated in Nilgiri hills (Western Ghats). The region is very conducive for the growth of liverworts and it is evident by the present study of recent collections from this area in which 27 taxa (under 12 genera and 5 families) of liverworts have been recorded, of which few are new to Nilgiri hills as well as south India.

Introduction
The present work is the result of an investigation of liverworts collected from the Parson’s valley (Nilgiri hills), an area explored for the first time in Indian Bryology. Parson’s valley is situated at cardinals 11°23′29″N 76°31′38″E in the eastern part of Nilgiri hill ranges at an altitude of about 2200m and is about 22 km from Ootacamund. The flora of the area is significant as it lacks tea and coffee plantations, commonly occurring on slopes of the Nilgiris and provides a natural cover of dense forest as it encircled by Mukuruthy National Park. The temperature, humidity, rainfall and elevation provide a favorably conducive environment for the luxuriance of liverwort flora, which remained neglected so far. In a recent collection from the area 26 taxa (under 11 genera and 5 families) of liverworts have been recorded, of which few are new to Nilgiri hills as well as south India. These include Plagiochila subtropaica St. and Plagiochila gracilis Lindenb. & Gott. Both of these were earlier restricted to eastern Himalayas. Plagiochila beddomei St., generally regarded as extremely rare, has been recollected after a long void since its inception from Dodabetta. Frullania inflexa Mitt., though earlier known from south India, is now a welcome addition to Nilgiri hills. The extensive collection of liverworts of the area are Metzgeria coorgens, M. nilgiriensis,

The following checklist is based on critical examination of recent collections from the Parson’s Valley and the specimens deposited in the Lucknow University Hepatic Herbarium, Bryology Unit, Department of Botany, Lucknow University (LWU).

**ENUMERATION OF TAXA**

**ORDER METZGERIALES SCHUST. EX SCHLJAK.**

**Family-** Metzgeriaceae Klinggr.

*Metzgeria* Raddi

1. *Metzgeria nilgiriensis* Srivastava and Udar

**Type locality:** Tamil Nadu: Ootacamund – Govt. Botanical Garden (Srivastava and Udar, 1975a).

**Range:** Endemic to India

**Distribution in India:** South India: Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills (Coonoor (Ketabettu, Law’s fall, Lamb’s rock, Sims park, Singara tea estate), Kotagiri (Kilkotagiri, Kodnad view point, Quinsholai), Gudulur (Anumapuram, Naduvattam reserve forest), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Govt. Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar reserve forest, on way to Idhuhatty, on way to Pykara lake, Thallakunda), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills – Kodaikanal (Perumalmalai, Shembaganur, Silver cascade) (see also Srivastava and Udar, 1975a).

**Ecology:** M. nilgiriensis is one of the most abundantly growing species in Nilgiri hills, forming corticolous as well as foliicolous population as thallose mats on twigs of several angiospermic as well as gymnospermic trees.


2. *Metzgeria coorgens* Srivastava and Srivastava

**Type locality:** Ootacamund (Nilgiri hills) (Srivastava et Srivastava, 2004).

**Range:** Endemic to India

**Distribution in India:** South India: Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills: Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, Mukuruthy lake, Parsons valley) Ootacamund (Dodabetta).
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Ecology: Plants closely creeping, mostly growing in thallose mats on tea plantations also, where the species forms pure green cover, also on other angiospermic trees.


ORDER JUNGERMANNIALES LIMPR.
Family Plagiochilaceae (Joerg.) Müll.

Plagiochila (Dum.) Dum.

Plagiochila sect. Subtropicae Carl

3. Plagiochila subtropica St.

Type locality: Assam – Khasia hills (So, 2001a).


Ecology: Plants growing in rough mats on angiospermic trees as an epiphytic population mainly in diffused or in loose segregated patches.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2200 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15261/20002 (LWU).

Plagiochila sect. Firmae Carl


Type locality: Indonesia – Java (So, 2001a).


Ecology: This species is very rare, growing in rough mats and found only in some small patches as epiphytic populations on angiospermic trees.
Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08-04-2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15278/2002 (LWU).

Plagiochila sect. Contiguae Carl

5. **Plagiochila beddomei** St.

Type locality: India: Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills (So, 2001a).


Ecology: Plants growing in rough mats as epiphytic population on angiospermic trees.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2200 m.; 08-04-2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15358/2002 (LWU).

6. **Plagiochila nepalensis** Lindenb.

Type locality: Nepal (So, 2001a).


Ecology: Plants growing in rough mats as epiphytic population on angiospermic trees.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s Valley); ca. 2200 m.; 08-04-2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15358/2002 (LWU).

Family-Lejeuneaceae Cavers

Subfamily- Lejeuneoideae Herz.

*Cheilolejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn.

7. **Cheilolejeunea laeviuscula** (Mitt.) St.

Type locality: Sikkim (Mitten, 1861).

Distribution in India: Eastern Himalayas: Sikkim; West Bengal – Darjeeling (Mungpoo), South India: Karnataka – Mercara; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Dodabetta)] (Asthana et al, 1995).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on angiospermic trees.


8. Cheilolejeunea imbricata (Nees) Hatt.

Type locality: Indonesia-Java (Mizutani, 1961).


Distribution in India: Eastern Himalayas: Assam (Khasia Mts.); Meghalaya – Shillong (Elephant falls). South India: Karnataka – Agumbe; Kerala – Lakkidi; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Singara Tea Estate), Gudulur (Anumapuram, Devala, Naduvattam Reserve Forest, Naduvattam – on way to Wilson plantation from frog hill view point, Pandalur- on way to Cherambadi), Kotagiri (Denad, Kilkotagiri, on way to Kodnad view point, Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy national Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy National Park, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley) Ootacamund (Athecal, Dodabetta, Emerald, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Kendurai, Love Dale, on way to Iduhatty, on way to Pykara lake, Pykara water fall, Sholur), Upper Bhawani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills -Kodaikanal (Kodai lake side, Perumalmalai) (see also Asthana et al, 1995; Srivastava and Verma, 2004; Stephani, 1923).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on angiospermic tree and very frequent in occurrence.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Mukuruthy lake); ca. 2100 m.; 29.11.2001; P.K. Verma and A. Alam; 14535/2001, 14539/2001 (LWU). Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca.2250 m; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15312/2002, 15473/02 (LWU).

Taxilejeunea (Spruce) Schiffn. emend Schust.,

9. Taxilejeunea eckloniana (Lindenb.) Agarwal (MS).

Type locality: South Africa (Jones, 1974).

**Distribution in India:** Eastern Himalaya: Meghalaya – Kanchipur; Sikkim – Nathu La Road. South India: Karnataka – Agumbe, Mercara; Kerala – Devicolam, Lakadi, Munnar, Peermede; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Kotagiri (St. Catherine water fall), Gudulur (Pandalur- on way to Cherambadi), Mukuruthy National Park (on way to Mukuruthy lake), Ootacamund (Emerald, Ebanadu)].

**Ecology:** Plants growing in smooth patches as epiphytic population on very extreme conditions (as xeromorphic), on very hard bark and mainly near the base or subdividing branches towards the earth.

**Specimens examined:** South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills –Mukuruthy National Park (on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley); ca. 2200 m.; 29.11.2001; P.K. Verma and A. Alam; 14552/01 (LWU).

**Lejeunea Libert**

10. **Lejeunea flava** (Sw.) Nees

**Type locality:** Jamaica - Antilles (Mizutani, 1961).


**Distribution in India:** Western Himalayas: Himachal Pradesh; Uttaranchal – Nainital. South India: Kerala – Lakadi, Munnar, Peermede, Silent valley, Vagavurrai; Karnataka – Agumbe, Jog falls, Kudremukh; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Singara Tea Estate, Sim’s park, Lamb’s rock, Low’s falls), Gudulur (Anumapuram, Cherambadi, Nadvattam Reserve Forest, Nellakotta, Pandalur), Kotagiri (Elada, Honhatty, Kengara, Kilkatagiri, on way to Muduthorai, Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Athecal, Dodabetta, Emerald, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Kokal, Krutukuli, Love Dale, Melkahatty, on way to Pykara lake, on way to Pykara water fall, Sholur, Taneri, Thallakunda, Theekul), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills – Kodaikanal (Kodai lake side, Perumalmalai, Shembaganur, Silver Cascade) (Srivastava and Sharma, 2000).

**Ecology:** The plants are growing in smooth mats on variety of habitats mainly as epiphytic population, occasionally as terrestrial population.


Type locality: Indonesia – Java (Mizutani, 1971).


Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on base of the trunk of angiospermic trees.


12. *Lejeunea kashyapii* Agarwal (MS)

Type locality: Kerala – Munnar (Agarwal, 1986).

Range: Endemic to India.

Distribution in India: South India: Kerala – Munnar, Lakkidi, Abbi falls, Devicolam; Karnatak –Agumbe, Mercara; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Ootacamund (Emerald, Glenmorgan, on way to Pykara lake, on way to Pykara water falls), Gudulur (Anumapuram, Naduvattam), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley)].

Ecology: The plants are growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on tree trunk as well as twigs of angiospermic trees.


Type locality: India Orientalis
**Range**: Endemic to India (Oriental region).

**Distribution in India**: Eastern Himalayas: Manipur; West Bengal – Darjeeling (Kalimpong). Western Himalayas: Uttarakhand – Nainital (Chaubatia). South India: Karnataka – Mercara, Agumbe; Kerala – Lakki, Vadavurrai, Devicolam, Peermede, Nyamakad, Periyakulam. Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Ketty valley, Singara Tea Estate, Law’s fall, Kulakambay), Gudulur (Cherambadi, Naduvattam Reserve Forest, Nellakotta, Pandalur, on way to Yellamalai), Kotagiri (Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, Parson’s valley, Mukuruthy lake), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Love Dale, on way to Iduhatti, on way to Pykara lake, Taneri), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills, Madura (Agarwal, 1986).

**Ecology**: The plants are growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on main tree trunk as well as on primary and secondary branches of tree, on shrubs, occasionally as terrestrial vegetation.

**Specimens examined**: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15235/2002, 12258/2002 (LWU). Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai); ca. 2250 m.; 05.04.2003; P.K. Verma and A. Alam; 17126/2003, 17128/2003 (LWU).

**Microlejeunea** (Spruce) Jack and St.

14. **Microlejeunea ulicina** (Tayl.) Evans

**Type locality**: Ireland: Kerry county – Kenmore (Schuster, 1980)


**Distribution in India**: Eastern Himalayas: Meghalaya – Kanchipur, Vishnupur; Sikkim – Nathu La road. South India: Karnataka – Agumbe, Jog falls; Kerala – Lakki, Ponmudi, Silent valley; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Gudulur (Anumapuram, Cherambadi, Nellakotta, on way to Frog hill point to Wilson plantation, Naduvattam Reserve forest, on way to Yellamalai, Pandalur), Kotagiri (Elada, Kilkotagiri, on way to Kodnad, Neduval, Quin Sholai, Shollarmattum, St. Catherine water fall), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Athcal, Dodabetta, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Kendurai, Love Dale, Glenmorgan, Melkakatty, on way to Pykara water fall, Sholur, Theetkul), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)].

**Ecology**: Plants growing in thread like form as epiphytic population on tree trunks, primary and secondary branches as well as on leaves of angiospermic and gymnospermic trees.

**Specimens examined**: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills –Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15257/2002, 15309/2002 (LWU).
Subfamily- Ptychanthoideae Mizut. ex Schust.

*Lopholejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn.

**15. *Lopholejeunea sikkimensis* St.**

**Type locality**: Sikkim (Stephani, 1912).


**Distribution in India**: Eastern Himalayas: Manipur – Imphal (Kanchipur); Sikkim; West Bengal – Darjeeling (Llyod Botanical Garden). Western Himalayas: Uttaranchal. Central India: Madhya Pradesh (Pachmarhi). South India: Karnataka – Agumbe; Kerala – Lakkidi, Munnar; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Cooonoor (Lamb’s rock, Sim’s Park), Gudulur – (Anumapuram, Naduattam Reserve Forest, Pandalur-on way to Cherambadi, T.R. Bazar), Kotagiri (Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Athecal, Dodabetta, Emerald, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Krutukuli, Love Dale, Melkahatty, on way to Pykara lake, Pykara Water fall, Sholur, Theetkul), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills- Kodaikanal (Perumalmalai).

**Ecology**: Plants growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on main trunks, branches of angiospermic trees.


**16. *Lopholejeunea subfusca* (Nees) St.**

**Type locality**: Indonesia – Java (Mizutani, 1961).


**Distribution in India**: Eastern Himalayas: Sikkim – Gangtok; West Bengal. South India: Karnataka – Mercara; Kerala – Devicolam, Lakkidi, Ponnudi, Vagavurrai; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri.
hills [Kotagiri (Kengarai, Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy National Park (on way to Mukuruthy National Park), Ootacamund (Emerald, Glenmorgan)] (Awasthi et al., 2000).

**Ecology:** Plants growing in smooth mats on main trunk as well as primary and secondary branches of angiospermic trees as epiphytic population; occasionally as terricolous populations.

**Specimen examined:** South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (on way to Mukuruthy National Park, Parson’s Valley); ca. 2100 -2250m.; 01.10.2002; P.K. Verma and A. Alam; 16227/2002, 16260/2002 (LWU). Kotagiri (Shollarmattum); ca. 1800 m.; 05.10.2002; 16434/2002, 16443/2002. Ootacamund (Emerald); ca. 2000 m.; 03.04.2003; P.K. Verma and A. Alam; 17006/2003 (LWU).

*Spruceanthus* Verd.

17. *Spruceanthus semirepandus* (Nees) Verd.

**Type locality:** Indonesia – Java (Mizutani, 1961).

**Range:** Oriental region: Asia – Bhutan, China, INDIA, Indonesia (Java), Nepal, Philippines, Sumatra, Taiwan, Sri Lanka. Palearctic region: Asia – Korea, Japan (Gradstein and Inoue, 1980; Tan and Engel, 1986).

**Distribution in India:** Eastern Himalayas: Meghalaya – Cherrapunji, Jowai; Sikkim – on way to Nathu La pass; West Bengal – Darjeeling (Llyod Botanical Garden, Senchal, Sukia, Tiger hill), Mungpoo, Tongloo, Teesta valley. Western Himalayas: Uttaranchal. South India: Karnataka- Kudremukh; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills (Gudulur (Pandalur- on way to Cherambadi), Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley), Ootacamund – Dodabetta, Emerald, Government Botanical Garden, Pykara water fall), Upper Bhavani (on way to Avalanche).

**Ecology:** Plants growing in fan life as epiphytic population on main tree trunk as well as on secondary branches.

**Specimens examined:** South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15258/2002, 15269/2002, 15298/2002 (LWU).

*Ptychanthus* Nees

18. *Ptychanthus striatus* (Lehm. et Lindenb.) Nees

**Type locality:** India (Mizutani, 1961).

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**Distribution in India:** Eastern Himalayas: Sikkim – Gangtok, Nathu La pass; Assam; Arunachal Pradesh; Meghalaya – Shillong, Cherrapunji; West Bengal – Darjeeling (Tiger hill, Ghoom, Sukia, Himalayas Mountaineering Institute, Llyod Botanical Garden, Tongloo, Teesta valley, Mungpoo). Western Himalayas: Uttaranchal – Garhwal Himalayas, Jamunotri, Nainital, Mussoorie; Jammu and Kashmir; Himachal Pradesh - Kullu, Manali. Central India: Madhya Pradesh – Pachmarhi. South India: Karnataka – Jog falls (Mahatma Gandhi water fall), Agumbe, Bangalore (Nandi hills); Kerala – Munnar, Vagavurrai; Maharashtra – Mahabaleshwar; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills, Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Emerald, Kendurai, Glennmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, on way to Pykara lake), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche); Palni hills –Kodaikanal (Pariyakulam, Shembaganur) (Awasthi and Srivastava, 1987).

**Ecology:** Plants growing in fan like life form on different habitats, varying from decaying logs to angiospermic trees as epiphytic population as well as on wet rocks.


Family Jubulaceae Klinggr. ex Massal.

*Frullania* Raddi

*Frullania* subgen. Chonanthelia Spruce


**Type locality:** Nepal (Taylor, 1846)


**Distribution in India:** Eastern Himalayas: Meghalaya – Khasia, Jaintia, Shillong (Circuit house); Sikkim; West Bengal – Darjeeling, Teesta valley, Tongloo. Western Himalayas: Uttaranchal. South India: Karnataka – Agumbe, Mercara, Coorg; Kerala – Lakki, Wyanad, Silent valley, Vagavurrai; Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Hidden forest, Law’s fall), Kotagiri (On way to Kodnad view point, Kengarai, Kilkotagiri, Shollarmattum), Masangudi Reserve Forest (Kaladatti slope reserve forest), Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley, Governorsholai, On way to Mukuruthy lake), Ootacamund (Athcal, Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Emerald, Glennmorgan, Good’s Shepenherd school, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar R. forest, Melkahetty Pykara lake, Pykara water fall, on way to Idhhaty, Sholur, Theekkul), Gudulur (Naduvattam, On way to Wilson plantation, Anumapuram, Nellakotta), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills-Kodaikanal (Kodai
lake, Silver cascade, Perumalmalai, Bryant park) (Nath and Asthana, 1998; Srivastava and Alam, 2002).

**Ecology:** Plants mainly growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population on variety of habitat mainly on tree trunk, primary and secondary branches and even on logs.


20. *Frullania (Chonanthelia) arecae* (Spreng.) Gott.

**Type locality:**?


**Distribution in India:** Eastern Himalayas: Meghalaya – Khasia; Sikkim; West Bengal – Darjeeling. South India: Karnataka – Agumbe; Kerala – Lakki, Silent valley, Vagavurrai; Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills (Gudulur (Naduvattam R. Forest, Anumapuram), Kotagiri (Muduthorai, Kilkotagiri, Denad Reserve Forest-Elada), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, Parson’s valley, on way to Mukuruthy lake), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Emerald, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar R. forest, on way to Iduhatty, Pykara lake, Pykara water fall, Theetkul), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)]; Palni hills-Kodaikanal (Silver cascade, Perumalmalai, Bryant park). (see also Nath and Asthana, 1998; Srivastava and Alam, 2002).

**Ecology:** Plants growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population on angiospermic tree as well as saxicolous population.


*Frullania* subgen. *Trachycolea* Spruce


**Type locality:** India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri Hills (Mitten, 1861).
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Range: Oriental region: Asia- INDIA, Indonesia (Borneo, Java), Sri Lanka (see also Hattori, 1979; Mitten, 1861).

Distribution in India: South India: Kerala – Vagavurrai, Lakkidi, Silent valley; Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (on way to Mettupalayam), Kotagiri (on way to Kodnad view point, Shollarmattum), Gudulur (Anumapuram, Naduvattam), Mukurthy National Park (Governorsholai, on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parsons valley), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Emerald Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar R. forest, Pykara water fall, on way to Pykara lake, on way to Iduhatty, Sholur, Theetkul), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)] (Nath and Asthana, 1998; Srivastava and Alam, 2002).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population on angiospermic trees especially on branches, tree trunks, bushes, occasionally terrestrial.


22. Frullania (Trachycolea) ericoides (Nees) Mont.

Type locality: Brazil (Schuster, 1992a)


Distribution in India: Eastern Himalayas: Assam; Sikkim – Gangtok, Yoksam; West Bengal – Darjeeling, Kurseong, Lopchu, Llyod Botanical Garden, Tiger hill; Western Himalayas: Himachal Pradesh – Chamba; Uttaranchal – Garhwal, Mussoorie, Nainital. Central India: Madhya Pradesh – Amarkantak, Pachmarhi. South India: Karnataka – Kudremukh; Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Droog, Ketabettu, Kulakambay, Laws fall, on way to Mettupalayam, Singara tea Estate, Sims Park, Wellington), Gudulur (Cherambadi, Naduvattam R. Forest, on way to Frog hill view, Nellakotta, Pandalur-on way to Cherambadi, T.R. Bazar), Masangudi Reserve Forest (Kalahatty slope) Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, Parson’s valley, on way to Mukuruthy Lake), Kotagiri (Kengarai, Kilkotagiri, on way to Kodnad view point, Nedgula, Shollarmattum), Ootacamund (Athecal, Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Emerald, Government Botanical Garden, Ebanadu, Emerald, Glenmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar R. Forest, Kendurai, Love Dale, on way to Iduhatty, M. Palada, Pykara water fall, on way to Pykara lake, Sholur, Taneri),

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Upper Bhavani (Avalanche); Palni hills- Kodaikanal (Perumalmalai, Shembaganur), Madura (see also Chopra, 1938a; Nath and Asthana, 1998; Srivastava and Alam, 2002).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population on angiospermic trees as well as saxicolous populations.


23. Frullania (Trachycolea) campanulata Sande Lac.,

Type locality: Indonesia-Java (Hattori, 1974b).

Range: Oriental region: Asia – INDIA, Indonesia (Borneo, Java, Sumatra), Sri Lanka (see Hattori, 1974b).

Distribution in India: South India: Karnataka – Agumbe; Kerala – Lakkidi, Silent valley, Vagavurrai, Periyakulum; Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Lamb’s rock, Singara Tea Estate), Gudulur (Cherambadi- Pandalur, Naduvattam, Nellakotta, on way to Anumapuram, Nellakotta), Kotagiri (Kilkotagiri, on way to Kodnad view point, Om Nagar, Nedgula, St. Catherine water fall, Shollarmattum), Mukuruthy National Park (Governorsholai, Parson’s valley), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Emerald, Kendurai, on way to Pykara lake, Pykara water fall, Glennmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve forest, Krutukuli, on way to Iduhatty, Taneri), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche) (see also, Nath and Asthana, 1998; Srivastava and Sharma, 2000; Srivastava and Alam, 2002).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population on angiospermic tree trunk as well as on primary and secondary branches.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.0.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15319/2002 (LWU).

Frullania subgen. Australes (Verd.) Hatt.

24. Frullania (Australes) inflexa Mitt.

Type locality:?

Range: Oriental region: Asia - Bhutan, China, INDIA. Palearctic region: Asia- Korea, Japan (see Hattori and Lin, 1985).

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Gudulur (Cherambadi- Pandalur), Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley) and Ootacamund (Emerald)].

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as an epiphytic population, mainly in small diffuse patches on middle of tree trunk as well as on secondary branches of angiospermic trees.
Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills – Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.08.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15313/2002 (LWU).

Frullania subgen. Frullania Raddi

25. Frullania (Frullania) tamarisci subsp. obscura (Verd.) Hatt.

Type Locality: Japan (Hattori, 1972b)

Range: Oriental region: Asia – China, INDIA, Indonesia (Borneo, Java, Sumatra), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan. Palearctic region: Asia – Asia Minor, East of Russia (Siberia), Japan, Korea, northern China (Hattori and Lin, 1985; Yamada and Choe, 1997).

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Hidden forest, Ketty valley), Mukuruthy National Park (on way to Mukuruthy lake, Parson’s valley, Governorsholai), Kotagiri (Kilkotagiri, Nedgula), Ootacamund (Atheyal, Dodabetta, Emerald, Glennmorgan, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve forest, Kendurai, Love Dale, on way to Pykara lake, Pykara water fall, Sholur), Upper Bhavani (Avalanche)].

Ecology: Plants growing in pendulous festoons as an epiphytic population on angiospermic trees.


Family- Radulaceae (Dum.) K. Müll.

Radula Dum.


Type locality: Madagascar – Ambaranvaranututa (Yamada, 1975).


Ecology: Plants growing as smooth mats forming epiphytic population on main tree trunk as well as primary branches of trees.
Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills –Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15278/2002, 15284/2002 (LWU).

27. Radula nilgiriensis Udar et Kumar.

Type locality: Tamil Nadu – Nilgiri hills-Avalanche (Udar and Kumar, 1982).

Range: Endemic to India.

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu - Nilgiri hills [Coonoor (Hidden forest, Singara Tea Estate), Kotagiri (Muduthorai, Shollarmattum), Ootacamund (Dodabetta, Ebanadu, Emerald, Love Dale, Government Botanical Garden, Kamraj Sagar Reserve Forest, Kendurai, Glennmorgan, Melkahatty, Pykara water fall, on way to Pykara boat house, on way to Iduhatty, Theetkul), Upper Bhawani (Avalanche)] (Udar and Kumar, Dh. 1982).

Ecology: Plants growing in smooth mats as epiphytic population on angiospermic trees.

Specimens examined: South India (Tamil Nadu): Nilgiri hills –Mukuruthy National Park (Parson’s valley); ca. 2250 m.; 08.04.2002; P.K. Verma, A. Alam and N. Sahu; 15288/2002, 15289/2002 (LWU).

Discussion
The liverwort flora of Parson’s Valley includes 27 species belonging to 12 genera distributed to 5 families and 2 orders. Order Metzgeriales is limited to family Metzgeriaceae with only a single genus while order Jungermanniales is predominant as it comprises 4 families, of which Lejeuneaceae is most flourished and diversified in the region with 7 genera. In terms of species Frullania is most diversified genus in the region with 7 species followed by Lejeunea and Plagiochila with 4 species each. The present communication provides 27 recognized taxa from parson’s valley and revealed its potential in harboring the liverworts and it is certain that further explorations may prove to be highly valuable.

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