

***CURCUMA KARNATAKENSIS* AMALRAJ, VELAYUDHAN AND
MURALIDHARAN: A NEW RECORD FROM DHARWAD, KARNATAKA
STATE**

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Abstract

Curcuma karnatakensis Amalraj, Velayudhan and V. K. Muralidharan is reported for the first time other than the type locality i.e. from Dharwad, Karnataka. Detailed description and illustration are provided.

Key words: *Curcuma karnatakensis*, Type locality, Dharwad, Karnataka.

Introduction

The Genus *Curcuma* L. is with about 120 species; distributed chiefly in India and South-East India with few extensions to Australia and South Pacific region. The Scientists are of difference in opinion regarding the actual number of species, as about 100 species by Sirirugsa (1996) and about 80 species by Larsen *et al.* (1998)

In India, there are about 29 species of *curcuma* (Karthikeyan *et al.*, 1989), distributed in almost all states and many are cultivated and naturalized. About 20 species of *Curcuma* are known from South India and out of which 14 species are reported from Karnataka only (Sabu, 2006). *Curcuma karnatakensis* was first time discovered on by Amaraj *et al.* (1991) Pora Hirahalli village, Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka. The relevant regional floras published after 1991 from different districts of Karnataka (Sharma *et al.* 1984; Seetharam *et al.*, 2000; Bhat, 2003 and Manjunatha *et al.*, 2004) did not stated any further report of this species. However, the same plant was collected from Dharwad, Karnataka on 08-06-2008. Thus this plant was collected for the first time other than type locality and presently deposited in Herbarium of the Department of Botany, Karnatak Science College, Dharwad, Karnataka.

Plant Description

Curcuma karnatakensis Amalraj, Velayudhan and Muralidharan in *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 15(2): 490-492.1991. **Fig. 1**

Type: Karnataka, Uttar Kannada Dt., 11.09.90, Hirahalli, *Amalraj 807* (Holo. MH).

Plant short; root stock small, 6 X 2 cm; stipitate tubers tapering, to 5 X 2 cm, fusiform or conical, white inside. Leaves more than 40 X 18 cm, broadly ovate-elliptic, spreading, horizontal, base unequal at acuminate at apex; veins closely arranged; glabrous; petioles shorter than lamina about, 6 cm long, petiole and sheath green or purple-tinged. Inflorescence lateral or central, up to 16 cm long; coma absent; peduncle to 7 cm long; bracts ovate to 3.2 x 2 cm, acute, green plant with pinkish petiole have pinkish green bracts. Flowers about 6 cm long, rosy-white; calyx about 2 cm long, minutely hairy outside, tube hairy at base transparent green, three-lobed, unequal, one lobe prominent, acute, split on one side, minutely hairy; corolla minutely hairy outside; tube pale yellow; segments rose-coloured; dorsal lobe with beaked tip; lateral lobes white with pale rose tinge; staminodes multicoloured, terminal portion white, middle rose-coloured and the base pale yellow tinge, laterals 3 x 1.2 cm, obovate; labellum 1.9 x 2 cm, clearly three-lobed; middle lobe larger, apex, bifid bright yellow band in throat; throat densely hairy; anthers about 4.5 mm long, hairy, white with incurved, downwards pointing coloured spurs, about 2 mm long; filaments broad, pale yellow; epigynous glands 2, about 5 mm long, linear; ovary 4 x 2 mm, trilocular, ovules in axile placentation.

Flowering and fruiting time : May-September.

Distribution: Endemic to Karnataka state, South India.

Habitat: Abundance under shade in dark and red clay soil slopes.

Specimens examined: Dharwad Dt., Dharwad, *et al.* (2145) Karnataka, India. Kotresha

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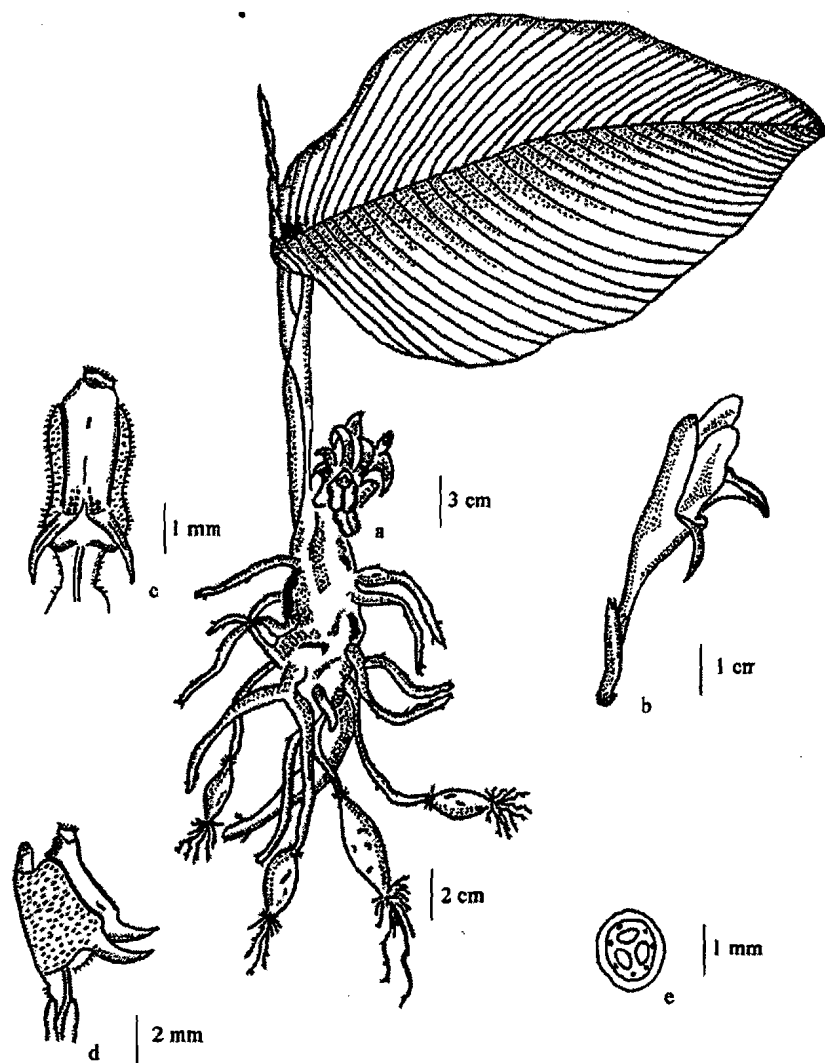


Fig. 1. *Curcuma karnatakensis* Amalraj et al. - a. Habit; b. Flower; c. Anther front view; d. Anther lateral view; e. T.S. of ovary.