

**NATIONAL SEMINAR**  
on  
**ADVANCEMENT OF BIOSYSTEMATICS ON  
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

*Editor*  
**Dr. S. ANILKUMAR**

*Sponsored by*  
University Grants Commission

*Co - sponsored by*  
Kerala State Council for Science,  
Technology and Environment



*Published by*

---

**DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, SREE NARAYANA COLLEGE  
SIVAGIRI, VARKALA**



## THE GENUS *EPITHEMA* BLUME (GESNERIACEAE) IN INDIA

Janeesha A.P\* & Santhosh Nampy

Department of Botany,  
University of Calicut, Kerala  
Email : janeeshaap@gmail.com

The genus *Epithema* Blume (Gesneriaceae) is represented by 20 species in the world (Bransgrove & Middleton, 2015) and 3 species in India. This small lithophytic and monocarpic herb is distributed from tropical Africa, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, southern China and through south east Asia and Malesia to the Solomon Islands (Weber & Skog, 2007; Bransgrove & Middleton, 2015). The genus is characterised by strong unequal pair of cotyledons followed by solitary or pair of leaves and highly condensed axillary pair flowered cymes enclosed in cucullate bracts. During a revisionary study of the family Gesneriaceae in south India, we found that the names in *Epithema* are not correctly applied in many recent floras and papers. In the present paper, the identity and the updated nomenclature of the Indian species of *Epithema* are discussed and a key for easy identification is also provided.