Two new combinations in Acilepis (Asteraceae)

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Abstract
Two new combinations, viz., Acilepis peninsularis var. kodayarensis and A. saligna var. nilghirensis, are proposed.

Keywords: Acilepis, Asteraceae, New Combinations

Introduction
Vernonia Schreb. was established in 1791. Hooker (1881) in The Flora of British India dealt with 45 species and 3 varieties of Vernonia. In India, the genus presently comprises 55 species, 1 subspecies and 7 varieties (Karthikeyan et al., 2009). While revising the paleotropic species of tribe Vernonieae, Robinson (1999) and Robinson & Skvarla (2009) resurrected the genus Acilepis D. Don which was treated as a generic synonym of Vernonia. Acilepis can be separated from Vernonia based on herbaceous habit, simple hairs on stems, separated heads, unequal and deeply separated cells of setulae of achenes, almost totally deciduous pappus and triporate pollen. He transferred V. peninsularis (C.B. Clarke) C.B. Clarke ex Hook.f. and V. saligna DC., the two species indigenous to India, to Acilepis as A. peninsularis (C.B. Clarke) H. Rob. & Skvarla and A. saligna (DC.) H. Rob. but overlooked two varieties endemic to the Western Ghats, viz., Vernonia peninsularis var. kodayarensis A.N. Henry & Gopalan (1987) and V. saligna var. nilghirensis Hook.f. (1881). This has necessitated the following two new combinations.

Acilepis peninsularis (C.B. Clarke) H. Rob. & Skvarla var. kodayarensis (A.N. Henry & Gopalan) Rasiya Beegam & Sibi, comb. nov.

Distribution: Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Endemic.

Acilepis saligna (DC.) H. Rob. var. nilghirensis (Hook.f.) Rasiya Beegam & Sibi, comb. nov.

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Literature Cited