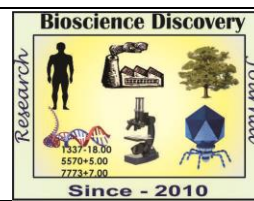


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**Research Article**



## ***Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert (Family: Hypoxidaceae) – A new addition to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India**

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### Article Info

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### Abstract

*Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert, an angiosperm species from shady and damp places near the forest edge, belongs to family Hypoxidaceae reported as a new distributional record to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Keywords:

Angiosperm, Hypoxidaceae, new distributional record, Little Nicobar Island.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Molineria* Colla belongs to family Hypoxidaceae. These family mostly having herbaceous perennial flowering plants which comprises ca. 169 species throughout the world under 10 genera namely *Curculigo* Gaertn., *Empodium* Salisb., *Hypoxidia* F. Friedmann, *Hypoxis* L., *Molineria* Colla, *Pauridia* Harv., *Rhodohypoxis* Nel, *Saniella* Hilliard & B.L. Burtt, *Spiloxene* L., and  $\times$  *Rhodoxis* B. Mathew (The Plant List 2013). The genus *Molineria* Colla consist of 7 species and one variety (The Plant List 2013). In India the genus is represented by 7 species such as *Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Herb., *M. crassifolia* Baker, *M. gracilis* Kurz, *M. latifolia* (Dryand. ex W.T. Aiton) Herb. ex Kurz, *M. oligantha* C.E.C. Fisch., *M. prainiana* Deb and *M. trichocarpa* (Wight) N.P. Balakr. (Hooker 1894, Fischer 1932, Deb 1965). In A & N Islands the genus is represented by one species namely *M. latifolia* (Dryand. ex W.T. Aiton) Herb. ex Kurz.

During recent floristic survey at Little Nicobar Island, the authors collected a specimen form Makachua village forest area (Fig. 1) in its flowering and fruiting stage. After critical observation of the specimen and literature surveyed

it's confirmed as *Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert; commonly known as Palm grass. Reviewing of literature revealed that so far the species is not described from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Pandey & Diwakar 2008; Shina, 1999; Hajra *et al.*, 1999; Lakshminarasimhan & Rao 1996). This is a new addition to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A comprehensive description with color photographs are illustrated for quick identification.

### TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

*Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert, Amaryllidaceae 84. 1837. *Curculigo capitulata* (Lour.) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 703. 1891. *Leucojum capitulatum* Lour., Fl. Cochinch. 199. 1790. *Molineria plicata* Colla, Hortus Ripul. App. 2: 333. 1826. *Tupistra esquirolii* H.Lev. & Vaniot, Nouv. Contrib. Liliac. Chine 15. 1906. *Veratrum mairei* H. Lev., Bull. Acad. Int. Geogr. Bot. 25: 39. 1915. (Fig. 2).

Perennial herb, ca. 0.6-1 m high, with tuberous rhizome and bulbous stem. Leaves simple, ca. 30-60 × 10-15 cm, leaf blade is elliptic-lanceolate to sub-oblong, longitudinally ribbed or folded, papery, apex long pointed, margin entire,

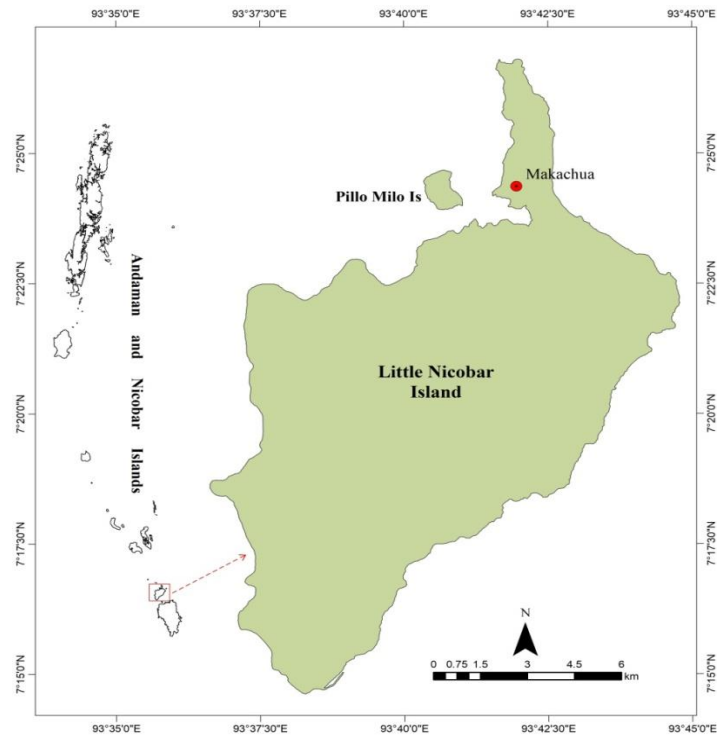


Fig. 1: Distribution of *Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert, in Little Nicobar Island.



Fig. 2: *Molineria capitulata* (Lour.) Hebert (Hypoxidaceae): A- Habit; B- Leaf blade; C- Rhizome; D- Inflorescence; E- Flowers; F- Fruits

petiole long, ca. 20-50 cm long, deeply grooved on the upper surface. Flowers yellow in pedunculate heads, ca. 2.5-5 cm across, densely many flowered, head nodding, peduncles about 10-20 cm long from the base with brown villous. Bracts lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, ca. 1.5-2.5 cm, densely hairy, pedicel ca. 6-7 mm. Perianth ovate-oblong, ca. 8-9 × 3.5-4 mm, pubescent on both surfaces. Stamens 6, ca. 5-6 mm, filament very short, ca. 1 mm, anther linear, ca. 5 mm. Ovary hairy, sub-globose to oblong. Style slender, ca. 8-10 mm, stigma subcapitate. Berries white, beakless, ca. 5-6 mm in diameter, having densely brown stellate hairs. Seeds black, ribbed, ca. 1.5-2 mm long.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** December-April.

**Habitat:** Naturally occurring in shady and damp places near the forest edges.

**Distribution:** Australia, southern China, India, Indonesia, Bhutan, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

**Specimen examined:** India: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Little Nicobar Island, Makachua (7°24'18.36"N & 93°42'39.65"E), 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019, Apurba Kumar Das (ZSI/ANRC-003747).

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