

Research Note

***Araucaria rulei* (F.) Muell. : An addition to gymnosperm of India**

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SUMMARY

The *Araucaria rulei* (F.) Muell, a member of the family Araucariaceae and a native of New Caledonia is being reported for the first time from India. It's nomenclature brief description is being presented to facilitate it's identification in the field.

Key words : Gymnosperms, Flora India, Addition, Araucaria.

During the course of study on 'Living gymnosperms of India' under 'All India coordinated Project on Taxonomy of Gymnosperms a perusal of a published Literature and a critical scrutiny of the Indian herbaria revealed the occurrence of a previously unrecorded species of the gymnosperm family *Araucariaceae* viz. *Araucaria rulei* (F.) Muell in Nilgiri Hills of Tamilnadu state. A brief taxonomic detail of this species is given below.

Araucaria rulei (F.) Muell. Ex Lindl. In Gard, Chron 868-1861. Trees ca 15m, very variable to different ages; branches in whorls of 5-7; branchlets elongate, horizontal or slightly pendent; leafly branchlets very long pendulous; leave veryvariable, oblong – lanceolate to elliptic, 12-15 mm long, 6-10 mm broad at base, imbricate, concave,

stiff, leathery, apex shortly pointed, arched towards the branch and stem, with a prominent dorsal nerve, silvery grey above, glossy green and with minute stomata beneath; cones globose-ovoid, 12-15 cm. long, 8-10 cm. across; scales 20 mm.long, terminating in a spiny apex; seeds about 10 mm. long, 6mm. wide; wings narrow.

Fl./Fr. : Not known

Specimens examined : Tamilnadu ; Nilgiri Hills.

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