

Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav. *Icon.* 3 : 22. t. 243. 1795—Erect, short lived prickly herbs, up to 30 cm tall; plants covered with dense, fine stellate, silvery canescence; stems unarmed, or with a few prickles. Leaves 6–12 × 1.5–3 cm, linear-lanceolate or narrowly oblong, repand-dentate, grey canescent on both surfaces, prickly along midrib, strongly petioled. Flowers few, in cymes; pedicels and peduncles with straight prickles; calyx lobes linear, subulate, up to 1 cm long; corolla violet to blue, 2–2.5 cm across; anthers connivent, 6–8 mm long. Berries round, 10–12 mm across, yellow; seeds lenticular, dark brown.

English name : Silver leaf-nettle.

Flowers : April-July; *fruits* : August (rarely observed).

Herbarium specimens examined : R. R. Rao 675 (M.G.M.), near Crawford Hall, Mysore City.

Distribution : Native of Mexico and Central American States, spreading towards North America; in Mysore rare, with isolated distribution.

Notes : Small gregarious plants, growing as compact population of 20–25 plants; fruit setting rare. We have not observed its spread in other localities round about Mysore City since 1969. The plants are conspicuous by their silvery canescence all over.

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Occurrence of *Solanum elaeagnifolium* Cav. in Mysore City, Karnataka

During the course of the botanical exploration in Mysore District, some interesting specimens of Solanums were collected, which on identifying keyed out to be *Solanum elaeagnifolium* Cav. The plant is a new record for Karnataka State since the occurrence of this is not mentioned in any of the South Indian floras and monographs. This species is a native of Mexico, and other States of Central America where it is a common weed. The plants were observed in only one or two isolated clumps in open places in Mysore City, and several attempts to locate this plant in other parts of the District were in vain. The introduction and occurrence of this taxon in a distant locality like Mysore City is intriguing and interesting. The nearest species among the South Indian Solanums with which they can be compared is *S. wightii* Nees; the two can be readily separated as indicated below :

Leaves ovate, cordate, softly tawny pubescent on both surfaces; corolla more than 5 cm across; stamens unequal *S. wightii*.

Leaves linear-lanceolate to narrowly oblong, grey canescent on both surfaces as are the other parts; corolla less than 2.5 cm across; stamens equal *S. elaeagnifolium*.