

SOME PLANT RECORDS—II*

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ABSTRACT

This paper records new localities for the occurrence of the following flowering plants: *Allmania nodiflora* R. Br. var. *angustifolia* Hook. f., *Senecio levingii* Clarke and *Fritillaria cirrhosa* D. Don. Two very rare plants of Western Himalayas viz., *Falconeria himalaica* Hook. f. (= *Wulfenia himalaica* (Hook. f.) Pennell.) and *Balanophora involucrata* Hook. f. & Thoms. are also recorded in this paper.

In the course of their exploration tours for the collection of specimens for the Regional and Central Herbaria of the Botanical Survey of India, the authors have come across some flowering plants which are either new records for the respective localities or which are rare and very inadequately represented in the herbaria. The present paper gives a brief account of such plants.

Allmania nodiflora R. Br. var. *angustifolia* Hook. f. (Amaranthaceae). A herb with alternate, narrow leaves upto 10 cms. long and flowers in axillary and terminal globose heads nearly 2 cms. dia. This herb with conspicuous brownish heads was found amidst grasses along the Son river bank at Chopan in Mirzapur District. The distribution of this species is given by Hooker (Fl. Br. India. IV, 717 p., 1885) as Sikkim Terai, Mysore and the Carnatic, Malacca, Singapore and Ceylon, and none of the varieties listed under this species has been reported from any part of Uttar Pradesh as far as is known. There is no mention of the occurrence of this species or its varieties in the area covered by Duthie's Flora of Upper Gangetic Plains (1903-22). The present specimen is comparable to the variety, *angustifolia*.

M. A. Rau 6109: Son river bank, Chopan, Mirzapur Dist., U.P. 23rd August, 1958.

Senecio levingii Clarke. (Compositae). This tall, handsome species with yellow heads in racemes has been previously reported in the Western Himalayas in Kashmir at an altitude of 8,000-10,000 ft. (Hooker, Fl. Br. India. III. 353 p., 1882). This species has not been included in the list of Kumaon plants (Strachey 1906) and from an examination of the specimens in the herbaria, it appears to be a new record for Kumaon Himalayas.

T. A. Rao 4574: Pindari Glacier, 4000 m. Sept. 24, 1957.

Fritillaria cirrhosa D. Don. (Liliaceae). A more western distribution than what has hitherto been known is now recorded for this species. The present collection was made in Pindari glacier region and the distribution as given in Fl. Br. India (VI, 353 p., 1894) is Nepal and Eastern Himalayas.

T. A. Rao 4498: Pindari Glacier, 4000 m., Sept. 24, 1957.

In addition, the following species though recorded previously from the respective localities are, however, so rarely collected after their first discovery that specimens are few and very old in the Indian herbaria. Among these plants the rediscovery of the Scrophulariaceous, *Falconeria himalaica* Hook. f. (= *Wulfenia himalaica* (Hook. f.) Pennell.) is of considerable significance. As far as is known, there have been only two previous collections of this plant, both of them being more than a hundred years old. Hooker described it from Falconer's original collection and named it *Falconeria himalaica*. An illustration and a detailed description were also given in *Icones Plantarum* (1883-5). In this description it is stated that "its habit is that of a *Mazus* but it differs from that genus and from the tribe to which it belongs in the capitate stigma and in the lateral lobes of the corolla being (I think) outermost in bud. The specimens are unfortunately not very good and I have seen no fruit—J. D. Hooker". In the Flora of British India, the plant is included under genera of doubtful position. It is stated therein "apparently nearly *Wulfenia* but differing in the 2-lipped corolla and included stamens." Pennell. (1943) in a recent revision has considered that there can be little question of generic association of this species with the other two species viz., *Wulfenia carinthiaca*, the generic type and *Wulfenia amherstiana*. Of these three species, Pennell is of the opinion that *W. amherstiana* is hardly so close to the genotype as *W. himalaica*. He has accordingly made a new combination—*Wulfenia himalaica* (Hook. f.) Pennell.

The present collection includes very fine and complete specimens including fruits. There is a remarkable resemblance to the illustration and description given in *Icones Plantarum*. The only difference noted is in regard to the stigma which is somewhat bilobed in the present specimen and not capitellate as recorded by Hooker. The specimen was referred to Kew and they have kindly examined and confirmed our determination. It is proposed to publish a detailed description of this plant at a later date.

T. A. Rao 6701: Kalamuni Pass, Kumaon, 3000 m., 11 June, 1958.

* Paper read at the Indian Science Congress Session, Bombay, 1960.

Balanophora involucrata Hook. f. & Thoms., though commonly found in Eastern Himalayas is very rare in Western Himalayas. Hooker (Fl. Br. India, V, 237 p., 1885) mentions about its occurrence in Simla at 6000 ft. (Thomson) but there are no specimens of this collection in the Indian herbaria. In Sibpur Herbarium there is a sheet of Harmukh from Pangi in Chamba District and a collection of Inayat in Hazara District both in the year 1899. Good specimens (Fig. 1) were obtained recently from Kumaon Himalayas at an altitude of about 3000 m between Dwali and Furkia on the way to Pindari Glacier.

T. A. Rao 4389: Dwali-Furkia, Kumaon, 3000 m., 22 Sept., 1957.

We wish to thank Prof. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India for his interest and

encouragement. Our thanks are also due to the Director, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew for kindly examining and confirming our determination of *Falconeria himalaica* Hook. f. (= *Wulfenia himalaica* (Hook. f.) Pennell.).

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Fig. 1. *Balanophora involucrata* Hook. f. & Thoms.