

CORRECT NAME OF TRICHOSANTHES HIMALENSIS CLARKE. VAR. INDIVISA CHAKRAVARTY.

Kundu in his revision of the Indian species of *Hodgsonia* and *Trichosanthes* (1943) described a new variety *Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume var. *sikkimensis* from Sikkim Himalayas. The type of this variety e.g. C. B. Clarke No. 36925a, October, 1884, is available in the Central National Herbarium. This variety is distinguished from the type in having the leaves very slightly puberulous on the upper surface and in structure of the fruit and seeds. Chakravarty in his monograph on the Indian Cucurbitaceae (1959) has removed this variety from *Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume, and placed it under *Trichosanthes himalensis* Clarke, stating that the fruit and the characteristic drum-shaped seeds of this variety match exactly with *Trichosanthes himalensis* Clarke while the seeds of *Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume, are obliquely obovate. For this variety he proposed a new epithet *Trichosanthes himalensis* Clarke var. *indivisa* and thereby making *Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume var. *sikkimensis* Kundu, a synonym of the above-mentioned new variety.

In accordance with the priority rule of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the oldest

varietal epithet should have been retained and the new combination should have been called *Trichosanthes himalensis* Clarke var. *sikkimensis*. The correct nomenclature and synonym are given below.

Trichosanthes himalensis Clarke var. *sikkimensis* (Kundu) Thothathri Comb. nov. Basynym: *Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume var. *sikkimensis* Kundu. Synonym: *Trichosanthes himalensis* Clarke var. *indivisa* Chakravarty.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. S. K. Mukerjee, Keeper, Central National Herbarium for his kind help in preparing this note.

Central National Herbarium,
Sibpur, Howrah.

K. Thothathri.

REFERENCES

1. KUNDU, B. C.—A revision of the Indian species of *Hodgsonia* and *Trichosanthes* J. Bomb. nat. Hist. Soc. 43: 383, 1943.
2. CHAKRAVARTY, H. L.—Monograph on Indian Cucurbitaceae. Rec. bot. Surv. India 17 (1): 51, 1959.
3. International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, Paris, 1954.

NEW PLANT RECORDS FROM NORTH KANARA

The present note deals with three new plant records for North Kanara i.e., *Achyranthes aquatica* R. Br., *Hibiscus cancellatus* Roxb., and *Polygonum viscosum* Ham. The species assume importance because of their rare occurrence along the western ghats and to the best of author's knowledge they are being reported from this area for the first time.

Achyranthes aquatica R. Br. (Hooker F.B.I. IV, 730 p., 1885): The species has been earlier reported from the eastern regions of India, i.e., North Circar, Ganjam, Coromandel Coast, Assam, while the present material was collected from Katur (North Kanara) during a tour to that area in November 1957.

Description: A moderately tall, rather robust aquatic herb, 64 to 120 cms. in height; stem striated, hollow, strigosely hairy; leaves 4.5 cms.-10.0 cms., nervation more prominent beneath; flowers in terminal glistening spikes; bracts small, scarious, ovate-acuminate; bracteoles 2, thin and papery; flowers sessile, large for the genus and about 1.25 cms. in diameter; perianth shining with a thickened base; perianth segments 5, variable in thickness and length, hard, green, bristle tipped; one exterior segment longer than the rest four; stamens 5, staminodes fimbriate, alternating,

anthers reddish when mature; ovules suspended from long funicles. The species flowers during rainy season and fruits in Nov.-Dec. Bharatnalli, Katur, North Kanara (Jain, 28280; 21-11-57).

Hibiscus cancellatus Roxb.: The species has not been described by Cooke (1903), Duthie (1903), and Gamble (1915), in their respective floras. Its earlier reports are from Simla hills and plains of Punjab, Chota Nagpur, Samhalpur, Kumaon and Nepal.

Description: Plant herbaceous; clothed with bristly shining orange brown hairs; leaves variable in size and shape, 8 cms.-15 cms. by 7 cms.-12 cms. or so, lower leaves usually unlobed, upper with 3-5 long narrow lobes, base cordate, obtuse and crenately toothed, with petioles upto 10 cms., stipules linear, flowers large, in terminal racemes, bracteate, bracts 2, peduncles upto 5 cms., bracteoles linear, hairy, 2-3 cms. long; corolla yellow; anthers scattered; fruit a subglobose capsule, 2-3 cms. long, densely covered with yellowish rusty hairs; bracteoles upto 12; filiform, persistent, 2 cms.-3 cms., long, hairy. Seeds numerous reniform, black. Flowers from Aug. to Nov. Fruits from Oct. to Jan.

Haines describes three forms of this species, and the

present specimen resembles his a form which differs from others in having an ovoid fruit. Kulgi, North Kanara (Talbot, 2289; 5th Sept. 1890).

The species has been described from Talbot's Sheets in Poona Herbarium. Few doubtful specimens have been checked and corrected. One herbarium sheet differed from others in having deeply dissected leaves and matched satisfactorily with *Hibiscus cancellatus* Roxb. var. *fusiformis* Hook. (Hooker I, 342). Sambrani, N. Kanara (Talbot, 1352; 1st Nov. 1885).

Polygonum viscosum Ham.: The species has not been described by Bamber (1916), Cooke (1908), Collett (1902), Duthie (1920), Gamble (1925), and Kanjilal (1940), in their respective floras. The only available report of its occurrence exists in 'The Flora of British India', where it is reported for Nepal and Khasia mountains, Silhet and Cachar (De Silva, Griffith vide Hooker). From Talbot's collections, the species is reported here from Supa, North Kanara.

Description: Moderately tall herb; stem hard and hairy, hairs glandular, leaves 5 cms.-15 cms. long, and 1 cm. to 2 cms. broad; minutely glandular on the under surface, elliptic, lanceolate, stipulate, stipules 1 cm.

long, tapering above and entire; flowers in slender racemes, peduncles glandular, bracts short, corolla red; stamens 8; nut brown, trigonous. Flowers from December to January, Supa, N. Kanara (Talbot, 1383; 12th Jan. 1886).

The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude to Dr. G. S. Puri, Regional Botanist and to Shri S. K. Jain, Systematic Botanist of the B.S.I., Western Circle, for their needful guidance. He is equally grateful to Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Chief Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, for valuable suggestions.

B.S.I., Western Circle,
Poona.

R. K. Arora.

LITERATURE CITED

1. BAMBER, C. J.—Plants of Punjab, 1916.
2. COLLETT—Flora Simlensis, 1902.
3. COOKE, T.—Flora of The Presidency of Bombay, 1903-8.
4. DUTHIE, J. F.—Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plains, 1903-20.
5. GAMBLE, J. S.—Flora of the Presidency of Madras, 1915-25.
6. HAINES, H. H.—Botany of Bihar and Orissa, 1922.
7. HOOKER, J. D.—The Flora of British India, 1872-85.
8. KANJILAL, P. C.; et al.—Flora of Assam, 1940.

A NOTE ON CAPPARIS MOONII Wight

Capparis moonii Wight locally called as 'Kadu Waghata' or 'Rudanti' has recently gained some prominence due to its reported efficacy in the treatment of tuberculosis, Krishna Murty (1958). Short notes regarding the first indication about its possible use against this disease have been published in the 'Times of India' by Patanjali Sethi. This note is intended to give a correct description of the plant and its occurrence in India as far as known at present. This will enable naturalists and botanists to collect this plant. The hunt for the available literature revealed that some of the important works on medicinal plants of India such as Kirtikar & Basu's Indian Medicinal Plants Vol. I, "Banoushadhi Chandrodaya" and Wealth of India Vol. II have made no mention of any medicinal importance for this plant. Recently Shah & Sukkawala (1959), have made pharmacognostic study of the fruits of this taxon.

Capparis moonii Wight (Hooker, I: 175 p., 1872) is a large robust woody climber, its stem sometimes reaching 15 cms. or more, in diameter. Its leaves are coriaceous, 8-10 cms. long and lanceolate or ovate, usually obtuse or shortly acuminate with a callous tip. The plant is conspicuous by its short recurved stipular thorns. Its flowers are large 10-12 cms. in diameter, white, borne in terminal corymbs. The fruit which is the most conspicuous part of the plant is globose or subglobose upto about 12 cms. diameter, and is borne on a long stout jointed stalk. There has apparently been some confusion regarding the size of the fruit. The size generally varies

from about 5 cms. to 10 cms. or so, though sometimes fruits of even larger dimensions nearly 10 cms. broad and about 12-13 cms. long have been collected. The photograph shows the habit of the plant and also some fruit bearing branches. The fruiting starts in the beginning of the summer season and continues till about early August. Most of the fruits decay and fall by middle or end of August. So far we have not observed profuse fruiting on one single plant and consequently collection of large quantities of fruits involves search for a number of plants. The plant is in great demand now for investigation work.



Capparis moonii Wight