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, R. K. Arora.
Poona.

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

Hooker (*loc. cit.*) has described this plant as growing in India only in Konkan. Cooke (I: 46 p., 1903) has mentioned that it is distributed in Konkan, Western Ghats, South Maratha Country and in Kanara. Talbot (I: 58 p.) has also recorded the plant from North Kanara and Konkan giving Kumpta, near sea-coast and Khandala on Western Ghats as its localities. The recent search in the Ghats around Khandala and Lonavala, however, revealed that the plant grows scattered in the moist forests particularly near forest fringes. It is quite common in some spots around Khandala town.

No information is so far available about the cultivation and expansion of this plant but it is hoped that cultivation should be possible by sowing seeds. One fruit contains numerous seeds of the size of a bean. We intend studying cultivation aspects of this plant. The Herbarium at Poona has a number of specimens of this species collected by earlier workers such as Garade, Gammie, Cooke, Chibber, Talbot and also by our own collectors.

Botanical Survey of India, G. S. Puri
Western Circle, Poona. S. K. Jain

REFERENCES

1. COOKE, T.—Flora of the Presidency of Bombay vol. **I, 1903.**
2. HOOKER, J. D.—Flora of British India vol. **I, 1872.**
3. KRISHNA MURTY, G.—*Curr med. Practice* **2** (3): **1958.**
4. SHAH, C. S. & SUKKAWALA, V. M.—Pharmacognostic study of *Capparis moonii* Wight fruits. *Indian J. Pharm.* **21** (11): 305-307, **1959.**
5. TALBOT, W.—Forest flora of Bombay **1, 1909.**

THE GENUS DIPTERYGIUM DECNE. IN INDIA

The genus *Dipterygium* Decne. (Capparidaceae) is interesting phylogenetically. The plants of this genus have some characters of the family Cruciferae and some of Capparidaceae. Bentham and Hooker placed the genus in the family Cruciferae ; Engler and Prantl assigned it to Capparidaceae.

Characters resembling Cruciferae—Flower actinomorphic and in long racemes ; cruciform corolla ; stamens 6.

Characters resembling Capparidaceae—Undershrub with long woody root ; racemes bracteate ; stamens all equal ; fruit indehiscent samara.

Dipterygium is a small genus of 3 species distributed from Nubia (Egypt) through Arabia to western India.

Hooker (I, 164 p., 1872) recorded the species *Dipterygium glaucum* Decne. from Mooltan. Cooke (I, 40 p., 1903) reported it from Jacobabad, Sind.

This plant has recently been collected from a number of places in Rajasthan. Its first collection was from Chhayan, a place about 18 km. north-west of Pokran in Rajasthan-"Chhayan, Rajasthan, *Jain* 40740, 10-8-1958". The plant was seen growing on the top of a high sand dune in very hot and very loose dry sand. The plant was later found to be common and abundant at Suratgarh in northern Rajasthan "*Puri* 44474, 26-10-1958 ; Karnisar, *Jain* 45113, 26-6-1959, abundant on sandy plain and sand dunes, almost dominant species, in flowers and fruits ; *Wadhwa* 58312".

The Poona herbarium has only one earlier sheet—"near Jacobabad *Woodrow*, Sept. 1893" ; this obviously is the sheet on which Cooke's report is based. The plant has not been reported from Rajasthan or any other part of present India.

The divaricate branching habit, white lilac-tinged flowers and wrinkled small pendulous fruits make the plant very attractive and conspicuous in field.

Dipterygium glaucum Decne. in Ann. Sc. Nat. Ser. **2** (iv) 67 p., 1835 ; Hook.f. Fl. Br. Ind., **1** : 164 p., 1872.

An undershrub 10-50 cm. high ; root woody, long, pale or light brown ; stems pale green, slender, almost terete, grooved, ultimate branches wiry ; leaves 5-15 mm. long, 2-3 mm. broad, acute, slightly glandular ; flowers in long bracteate racemes, pedicels short 2-3 mm. long, filiform ; sepals 4, ovate, acute about 1 mm. long, pale green ; petals 4, midrib green, margins white or lilac tinged, ovate, obtuse, shortly clawed ; fruit drooping, transversely wrinkled, narrowly winged, wings translucent ; seed 1.

I am grateful to Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Dr. G. S. Puri and Dr. S. K. Mukerjee for some useful suggestions in preparation of this note.

Botanical Survey of India, S. K. Jain.
Poona-1.
31-3-1960.

1. COOKE, T.—Flora of Bombay, Vol. **1, 1903.**
2. HOOKER, J. D.—Flora of British India, Vol. **1, 1872.**