

SOME PLANT RECORDS—IV

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ABSTRACT

Brief notes are given on three rare plants of the Western Himalayas, viz. *Stylophorum lactucoides* Baill. (Papaveraceae), *Triosteum hirsutum* Wall. (Caprifoliaceae) and *Epipogium tuberosum* Duthie (Orchidaceae). The last named, a terrestrial, leafless orchid previously known only from Kashmir, has now been collected in the Kulu Himalayas.

In this fourth paper of the series (Rau and Rao, 1959, 1960 a, b), brief notes are given of three rare plants of Western Himalayas which have been collected by the authors during their recent collection tours.

PAPAVERACEAE

Stylophorum lactucoides Baill. Hist. Pl. 3: 114, 1872;
Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 189, 1872.

A perennial hairy herb with large yellow flowers (Fig. 1), this plant has been known from the collections of

Fig. 1. *Stylophorum lactucoides* Baill.

Strachey and Winterbottom and Duthie during the nineteenth century. As far as is known there have been no subsequent collections from Western Himalayas and specimens in Indian herbaria are few and very old. The

species has, however, been collected in the Manaslu region of Nepal during the Japanese Expedition of 1953. During a recent tour of Eastern Kumaon, specimens were collected from the Garbyang area in Pithoragarh District at an altitude of 3200 metres.

Chhetothanga, Garbyang, Pithoragarh Dist., U.P. 3200 metres.

T. A. Rao 11864, 13 June, 1960.

Distribution: Inner ranges of Garhwal Himalayas at 3300 m. (Strachey and Winterbottom; Duthie 5326). Nepal: Hulbe, Manaslu (Japanese Expedition 1953).

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Triosteum hirsutum Wall. in Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 180, 1824; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 8, 1882.

An erect hairy herb with connate, opposite leaves and narrow tubular, greenish flowers (Fig. 2), this rare plant

Fig. 2. *Triosteum hirsutum* Wall.

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of the Western Himalayas was recently collected in the Garbyang area of Eastern Kumaon at an altitude of 3200 metres. There are specimens of Duthie collected from rocks above Garbyang in the year 1884, but subsequent collections, if any, from Western Himalayas are not represented in Indian herbaria. There are, however, a few specimens from Nepal and Sikkim.

Chhetothanga, Garbyang, Pithoragarh District, U.P. 3200 metres.

T. A. Rao 11857, 13 June, 1960.

Distribution: Nepal: Gossainthan (Wallich), Nampa Gadh (Duthie 5619), Naur Khola (Japanese Expedition 1953). Sikkim (J. D. Hooker; Gammie). Kumaon (Strachey and Winterbottom; Duthie 3773).

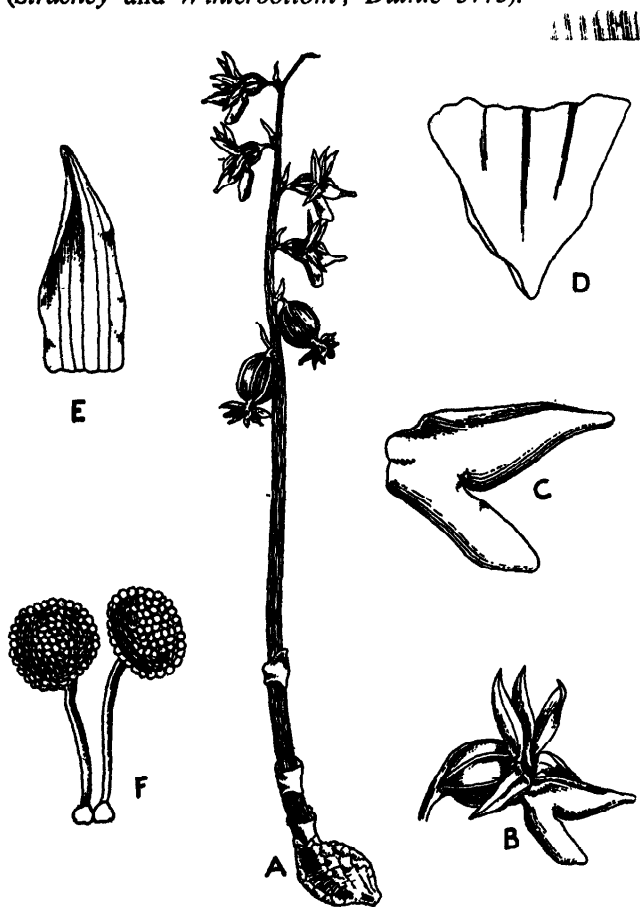


Fig. 3. *Epipogium tuberosum* Duthie.
A. Habit. $\times 5$. B. Flower. $\times 2$. C. and D. Views of Lip. $\times 3$. E. Bract. $\times 3$. F. Pollinia. $\times 10$.

ORCHIDACEAE

Epipogium tuberosum Duthie in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 9 (2): 151, 1906.

This terrestrial, leafless brownish herb (Fig. 3) has been previously known only from Kashmir. C. B. Clarke collected it in Sind valley and Inayat (Duthie's collector) in Lidder valley. Duthie (1906) based his type on the latter specimen (Inayat 25386) which is now housed in the herbarium of the Forest Research Institute in Dehra Dun.

E. tuberosum is best distinguished from *E. aphyllum* Sw. by its tuberous, non-coralloid roots and the entire lip without the side lobes. This rare orchid was recently collected in the interior of a thick fir-oak forest near Rahla, at an altitude of 2800 metres, on the way to Rohtang Pass in Kulu Himalayas. The orchid is found in shade in forest undergrowth amidst decaying leaves and is apparently saprophytic. The present collection is, therefore, a new distributional record for the species. There are no specimens in the Calcutta herbarium and according to the authorities at Kew, who kindly examined these specimens and confirmed our determination, there are very few gatherings of this rare orchid even in Kew herbarium.

Rahla forest, Kulu Division, Panjab. 2800 metres. In fir-oak forest undergrowth. (*Epipogium aphyllum* Sw. was also collected here).

M. A. Rau 12799, 28 September 1960.

All the specimens recorded in this paper are preserved in the herbarium of the Northern Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun.

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