

A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOST RANGE OF *DENDROPHTHÖE FALCATA* (L.f.) ETTINGSH.

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Dendrophthoe falcata (L. f.) Ettingsh., a partial stem parasite belonging to Loranthaceae, has attained a very important position amongst the phanerogamic parasites, because of the damage and losses caused to various hosts, in addition to the possible uses some of its parts could be put to. Considerable attention has been paid to this parasite on its different aspects and the most recent contribution is from Singh (1962).

The enumeration of the host range of this has drawn the attention of various workers, the earliest being Fischer (1907, 1926) who was followed by many others. For the first time, all the scattered data of the host range was consolidated along with further additions by Ravindranath and Narasimha Rao (1959) who gave the upto-date host range as consisting of 268 species. Singh (1959) reported further 54 species of hosts from Uttar Pradesh, and Murthy (1960) added one more host, *Ficus elastica*. Singh (1962) has published a comprehensive contribution on a wide variety of aspects of this parasite and further, while adding six more hosts, compiled all the host range which according to him is 319, whereas it should be 329 (268 + 54 + 1 + 6). It is found that in his list the following published hosts do not find a place.

1. *Flacourtia* Sp.
2. *Glycosmis cochinchinensis* Pierre
3. *Stereospermum personatum* (Hassk.) Chatterjee
4. *Lagerstroemia speciosa* Pers.
5. *Limonia acidissima* Linn.
6. *L. alata* W. & A.
7. *L. crenulata* Roxb.
8. *Murraya paniculata* (Linn.) Jack.
9. *Toddalia asiatica* (Linn.) Lam.
10. *Murraya koenigii* Spreng.

Of these missing hosts, 1 and 2 were recorded by Fischer (1926), 3 to 9 by Singh (1956) and 10 by Sayeeduddin and Waheed (1936).

The previous workers who compiled the host range overlooked another host, *Carissa congesta* Wight noted by Santapau (1953) and attention to this omission was drawn by Oza (1962). This omission might have been due to the rather confused status between *C. carandas* Linn. and *C. carandas* Wt. The former was reported as a host species by Fischer (1926). Santapau (1953) mentions that in

Western India, the species available is Wt.'s species and not the Linnean species. This brings the total number to 330.

During the course of continued observations on the new hosts of this parasite, the authors have come across the following 13 new hosts in Hyderabad-Secunderabad area. With the addition of these hosts, the total of hosts becomes 343. The new hosts recorded are as follows:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. <i>Anthocephalus cadamba</i> | Miq. | ... | Rubiaceae |
| 2. <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> | Willd. | ... | Nyctaginaceae |
| 3. <i>Cananga odorata</i> (Lam.) | Hook. f. Thoms. | ... | Annonaceae |
| 4. <i>Cestrum diurnum</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Solanaceae |
| 5. <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> (Jacq.) | Walpers | ... | Leguminosae |
| 6. <i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i> | Linn. | ... | Oleaceae |
| 7. <i>Jatropha hastata</i> Griseb. | (Syn. <i>J. pandurifolia</i> Andr.) | ... | Euphorbiaceae |
| 8. <i>Lantana camara</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Verbenaceae |
| 9. <i>Michelia champaca</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Magnoliaceae |
| 10. <i>Ocimum sanctum</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Labiatae |
| 11. <i>Quisqualis indica</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Combretaceae |
| 12. <i>Tecoma stans</i> (Linn.) | H. B. K. | ... | Bignoniaceae |
| 13. <i>Vitis vinifera</i> Linn. | ... | ... | Vitaceae |

It is interesting to note that although this Parasite has a very wide host range covering sixty families, no monocot host has been recorded, at least as far as Indian hosts are concerned.

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