10,000 ft), Dec. 1904. And these sheets are mentioned by Smith [*Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 4(7): 367, 1913] and there is a footnote 'a very interesting discovery as it is the first record of the occurrence of the genus within the Indian area'.

H. M. G. Nepal, Deptt. Med. Pl. Herb No. 5608 was also collected at the same locality where I collected my specimen (*Banerji* 1825). *Stainton* 4619 comes from Chaunri kharka, 2,550 m (8,500 ft) on 11-6-1964, and also *Zimmerman* s.n. is from 'region of Ghate' altit. 2,800 m, 9-5-1952. I have had the chance to study *Stainton* 4619, and find that *Banerji* 1825 is exactly the same as *Stainton* 4619. From the description that Baehni (*Candollea* 16: 220, 1958) has given of *Zimmerman* s.n. I find that all these three specimens from Nepal (*Zimmerman* s.n., *Stainton* 4619 and *Banerji* 1825) are one and the same species. And as to the identity of the species I am of the opinion that it is *pinnata* Franch, although Baehni (*loc. cit.*) has discussed the resemblences of *Zimmerman* s.n. with *R. podophylla* A. Gray, *R. aesculifolia* Bat., *R. pinnata* Franch, and *R. sambucifolia* Hemsl.

I have seen the plant in nature, and I have observed that the leaflets are generally 7-9 in the lower portion of the stem, and in the region of inflorescence the number is generally 3, shape of the leaflets is oblanceolate, the inflorescence is a much branched panicle and the ultimate branches bear flowers in cymes, further the stem is hollow, and the plants are about one metre in height. However Baehni (*loc. cit.*) suggests that *Zimmerman* s.n. may be *podophylla* Gray, but I have a strong feeling that the resemblences with *pinnata* are more than with any other, also the material *Banerji* 1825 matches with *Searight* 21 and *Ribu & Rhomo* 4681, which are however not in a very good state at present.

This, then, further extends westwards the distribution limit of the species in the Himalayas.

Soliva anthemifolia (Juss.) R. Br.

In a previous communication Bhattacharjee (*Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 5: 375, t. i. 1963) has reported on this species as a new record for India occurring in two localities in the northern districts of U. P., also Babu (*Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind.* 8: 201, 1966) has recorded the species from Dehra Dun. This is an introduced species.

There are two sheets of this species in H. M. G. Nepal Deptt. Med. Pl. Herbarium and one sheet in Herb. Banerji, and all these are collected in West Nepal. It appears to me that under all probability the species got introduced by germules that may have come along with some mountaineering party or tourists of which there have been many in recent years visiting Nepal. Once the species got established somewhere in West Nepal, it was able to send down germules that were washed by the rains or by the streams. I express this idea because the locality from which the specimens were collected was by the side of a stream and ideally suited as a camping place. Now the species has undergone 'perfect naturalisation' in localities at Bahraich, near Ramnagar, and at Dehra Dun.

Securidaca inappendiculata Hassk.

Specimens of this species (*Banerji* 1978) have been collected on 16-2-1967 from the banks of Jirga khola on way from Sindhuli Marri to Tinpatan (approx. N. 27°12′: E. 86°07′) at altit. ca. 750 m. It is a woody scandent small tree with very characteristic fruits which are 1-seeded, indehiscent and have a long coriaceous wing at the upper end. There were a few trees in shade and moist place.

The distribution of this species, as it comes to my notice, is in Assam, Chittagong and Burma. Raizada (*Journ. Bomb. nat. Hist. Soc.* 48: 668, 1952) records the species from Orissa also. The collection of the species in East Nepal is of interest as regards its distribution, and it is the first record of the species from Nepal.

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THE FERN GENUS *ARACHNIODES* BLUME IN INDIA

Few genera of ferns have perhaps suffered from such great vicissitudes of nomenclatural confusion as the few compound leaves of oriental ferns now recognised as *Arachniodes* Blume. As far back as 1819, Raddi established the genus *Rumohra,* to accommodate a Brazilian fern *R. aspidioides* Bl. It remained a singularly unrecognised and neglected genus for over a century, till Ching (1934) published

a detailed revision of the compound-leaved ferns of polystichoid affinity. Ching pointed out that *R. aspidioides* is synonymous with the earlier described *Polypodium adiantiformis* Forster of Africa, and renamed the plant *Rumohra adiantiformis* (Forster f.) Ching, choosing the specific epithet on the basis of priority. *R. adiantiformis* was recognised as the type species of *Rumohra* Raddi. In addition, he transferred to *Rumohra* nearly 50 other species, most of them till then included under either *Dryopteris* or *Polystichum* (some even under *Aspidium* and *Nephrodium*). *Rumohra,* construed thus, is a genus with about 35 species in the China-Himalayan region, a dozen or so species in America and the rest in Africa. The genus came to be accepted as an entity as presented by Ching, even though himself commented that it was "more than probable that the species listed ... represent a synthetic group; they arrive at the present state along two quite distinct evolutionary lines" (*Ching* 1934: p 29). Later authors like Copeland (1947) accepted *Rumohra* of Ching as a natural genus related to *Polystichum* Roth.

In 1954, Holttum pointed out that *Rumohra adiantiformis,* the type species of *Rumohra* Raddi, is a fern of davallioid affinity whereas most of the oriental species (viz. *R. aristata* and its allies) included under it by Ching (1934, 1940), Copeland (1947) and others are of dryopteridoid affinity. He, therefore, excluded the species added to *Rumohra* by Ching, restricting the generic name *Rumohra* to the single species *R. adiantiformis* and including it in his Davallioideae. Since 1955, Tardieu-Blot has described five other species allied to *R. adiantiformis* from Madagascar, thus making *Rumohra* a genus of six species. The davallioid affinity of *Rumohra* (*sensu stricto*) has since been accepted by pteridologists. The compound-leaved dryopteridoid ferns included by Ching under *Rumohra* were recognised by Holttum (*l.c.*) as a separate genus which he named *Polystichopsis* (C. Chr.) Holttum, choosing the generic name from Christensen's subgenus of the same name under the genus *Dryopteris* (*Christensen,* 1934). In choosing the name *Polystichopsis,* Holttum (*l.c.*) overlooked the fact that *Dryopteris* subgenus *Polystichopsis* (J. Sm.) C. Chr. is based upon *Dryopteris pubescens* (L.) O. Ktze. of the West Indies, which unfortunately proves to be generically different from *Rumohra aristata* (Forster) Ching (*Polystichopsis aristata* of Holttum) which Holttum choose to typify the new genus *Polystichopsis.* This was pointed out by Morton (1960) who then restricted the generic name *Polystichopsis* to the four American species related to *R. pubescens.* The oriental species included by Holttum in the genus were given a new generic name *Byrsopteris* Morton. *Byrsopteris* was typified by *B. aristata.*

A year after Morton proposed the generic name *Byrsopteris,* Tindale (1961) pointed out that Morton had overlooked the generic name *Arachniodes* published by Blume to represent *Polystichum aristatum* Presl, as early as 1828, and thus, the name *Byrsopteris* is invalid. Also, she pointed out that in choosing the generic name *Polystichopsis* to inclule *P. pubescens* and its allies, Morton made the mistake of assuming that Christen (1938) raised *Polystichopsis* to generic rank. She maintained that *Polystichopsis* as a generic name is invalid since Holttum who first proposed it violated the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature by not stating the place and date of publication of the basionym. She preferred the generic name *Lastreopsis* Ching to represent *Dryopteris pubescens* and its allies. Ultimately, Ching (1962) accepted the newly restricted genera *Rumohra* Raddi (as defined by *Holttum,* 1954) and *Arachniodes* Blume (as defined by *Tindale;* 1961) and commented: "And therefore, Morton's statement, which runs 'the proper authority for the genus is *Polystichopsis* (J. Sm.) C. Chr.' is entirely groundless and it also naturally follows that the new transfers made by him of names of the four American species to *Polystichopsis* .. are illegitimate, since his '*Polystichopsis* (J. Sm.) C. Chr.' is invalidated by *Polystichopsis* Holttum, thus leaving the American *Dryopteris pubescens* (L.) O. Ktze. and its allies yet without a proper generic name, if they are really distinct from *Lastreopsis* Ching, as Morton has thought it to be the case," (*Ching, l.c.*: p. 263).

Thus, the long confusion in nomenclature of this group of ferns appears to have been cleared. However, the Indian species related to *Arachniodes aristata* (Forster f.) Tindale seems to have no name so far assigned under the genus *Arachnioides* to which they obviously belong. As such the following new combinations are made:

Arachniodes assamica (Kuhn) comb. nov.

(Basionym: *Aspidium assamicum* Kuhn in Linnaea 36: 108, 1869. Synonyms: *Dryopteris assamica* Rosenst., *Polystichum assamicus* Ching, *Rumohra assamica* Ching, *Byrsopteris assamica* Morton).

Arachniodes amabilis (Blume) comb. nov.

(Basionym: *Aspidium amabile* Blume in Enum. Pl. Jav. 165, 1828. Synonyms: *Polystichum amabile* J. Sm., *Dryopteris amabilis* Ktze., *Rumohra amabilis* Ching, *Byrsopteris amabilis* Morton).

Arachniodes coniifolia (Moore) comb. nov.

(Basionym: *Aspidium coniifolium* Wall. ex Kunze in Linnaea 24: 293, 1851, non Presl, 1822; *Lastrea coniifolia* Moore in Index Fil. 88, 1857. Synonyms: *Rumohra wallichii* Ching, *Polystichum himalayense* Ching ex C. Chr.).

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NEW AND LITTLE KNOWN TAXA FROM ANAIMUDI AND SURROUNDING REGIONS, DEVICOLAM, KERALA—I: A NEW VARIETY OF *LEUCAS VESTITA* BENTH.

Leucas vestita Benth. var. **devicolamensis** Shetty et Vivek. var. nov.

Differt a var. *vestita* capillis longis mollibus per totam plantam dispersis, foliis ovatis vel late ovatis ad basin cordatis vel rotundis.

Subfrutices, 30 cm-1 m, pallide fulvo-villosi, capillis densis patentibus; caules et rami quadrangulares, sulcati, quarta parte inferiore caulis et ramorum prostrata et radicante. Folia 1.5-7 × 1.5-3 cm, simplicia, opposita, decussata, villosa in utraque pagina, ovata vel late ovata, serrata, obtusa, rotunda vel cordata ad basin; nervis lateralibus 4-7-jugis; petiolis 0.3-1.6 cm, villosis. Inflorescentia terminalis, verticillata, verticillis vulgo singulis, rarius binis, floribus plurimis; bracteis calyci subaequilongis, linearibus, dense ciliatis. Calyx sub flore ± 0.9 cm longus, sub fructu ± 1.2 cm; tubo lato supra, angusto infra, eminenter nervoso, dimidio superiore faciei externae et fauce villosis, fauce recta; dentes 10, breves, villis oris breviores. Corolla ampla, ± 1.5 cm, bilabiata, tubo incluso, annulato infra medium, pilis crassis lineariter dispersis ornato supra annulum; labium superius erectum, concavum, dense barbatum pilis rufobrunneis; labium inferius album, patens, 3-lobum, lobo medio magno, emarginato, marginibus irregularibus. Stamina didynama, superiora breviora; parte inferiore filamentorum pilis gracilibus ornata. Discus 4-lobus. Ovarium 4-partitum; stylo gracili, ad apicem subulato, lobo superiore minuto. Nucellae 0.2-0.3 cm longae, obovatae, triquetrae, brunneonigrae vel nigrae, leves, nitentes.

Holotypus, *Shetty & Vivekananthan* 28372 A et isotypi, *Shetty & Vivekananthan* 28372 B-S. lecti in Upper Vagavurrai, Devicolam, Kottayam Dist. in ditione Kerala in India meridionali die 11.8.1967; paratypi, *Shetty & Vivekananthan* 26441 A-G lecti eodem loco 16.11.1965. Holotypus positus in CAL; isotypi et paratypi in MH.

Leucas vestita Benth. var. **devicolamensis** Shetty & Vivek. var. nov.

Differs from var. *vestita* in having long, soft hairs all over the plant and leaves ovate to broadly ovate with rounded or cordate base.

Bushy undershrubs, 30 cm-1 m, pale tawny villous with dense spreading hairs; stems and branches 4-angled, grooved, about one-fourth of the lower portion of stems and branches prostrate and rooting. Leaves 1.5-7 × 1.5-3 cm, simple, opposite, decussate, villous on both surfaces, ovate to broadly ovate, serrate, obtuse, base rounded or cordate; lateral nerves 4-7 pairs; petioles 0.3-1.6 cm, villous. Inflorescence in terminal whorls, whorls usually solitary, rarely two, dense with many flowers; bracts more or less as long as calyx, linear, densely ciliate. Flowering calyx ± 0.9 cm long, fruiting calyx ± 1.2 cm long; tube broad above and narrow below, prominently nerved, upper half of the outer side of the tube and throat villous, mouth straight; teeth 10, short, shorter than the villi of