

tate, unbranched (fig. c). Hypothecium yellowish-brown. Spores ovoid or elliptical (fig. d), measuring $13-15 \times 6 \mu$, 2-locular, faintly yellowish brown.

Chemistry: Thallus: Iodine = -ve.

(KOH). potassium hydroxide = +ve, turns deep yellow.

(CaCl). calcium hypochlorite = -ve.

(PD). P-phenylendiamine = -ve.

Hymenium: Gelatine of hymenium turns deep blue with iodine.

Matrix: On the bark of *Spondias pinnata* (Linn. f.) Kurz

The type of this taxon Roy Chowdhury 350A was collected from Saptagram, Birati, 24-Parganas, West Bengal, India on 16th November, 1966 and is deposited in the Herbarium of the Cryptogamic unit, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta. Isotypes 350 B and 350 C are deposited in the above herbarium and 350 is deposited in the herbarium of University of Vermont, Burlington, U.S.A.

This species is allied to *Buellia aethalea* (Ach.) Th. Fr. but differs in the following characters.

a) Thallus pale greenish.

b) Apothecia 0.5 to 0.25 mm in diameter, and a few are partly immersed.

c) Size of the spore $13-15 \times 6 \mu$.

d) KOH, +ve, turns the medulla yellowish followed with the formation of stellate and rod shaped crystals.

e) Pd, -ve.

This species is named after Dr. K. Subramanyam, the former Director, Botanical Survey of India.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very much indebted to Prof. Carroll W. Dodge, University of Vermont, Burlington for his comments regarding the new taxon. My thanks are also due to the Director, Botanical Survey of India and Dr. N. C. Nair, Regional Botanist, Cryptogamic unit for their encouragement, facilities and guidance. My thanks are also due to Dr. N. C. Majumder, Curator, Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, Howrah for latin diagnosis of the new species.

K. N. ROY CHOWDHURY

Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

SCLERANTHUS ANNUUS LINN.—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Scleranthus annuus Linn. Sp. Pl. 1: 406. 1753.

Hutchinson. J., Fam. Fl. Pl. 1: 433. t. 277 (ed. 2)

1959. Muenscher, Weeds, 208. t. 32 K-M. (ed. 2)

1955. Clapham *et al.* Ecr. Fl. Br. Isles 115. (ed. 2)

1968. Fl. Eur. 1: 149. 1964.

Annual or biennial herb 2.5-25 cm high. Tap root slender. Stems ascending or decumbent, glabrous or shortly hairy, much branched. Leaves exstipulate, 5-15 (-20) mm, simple, opposite, connate at the base by their narrow scarious margins, subulate, acute, usually ciliate on the lower margins. Flowers bracteate, bracts longer than the flowers, subsessile, solitary in the forks of the stem and in terminal and axillary clusters, ca 4 mm, small, green; sepals 5, triangular, acute, glabrous, margins narrowly scarious, suberect or slightly incurved in fruit; petals 0. Stamens 10 or fewer, ditheous, situated on the calyx,

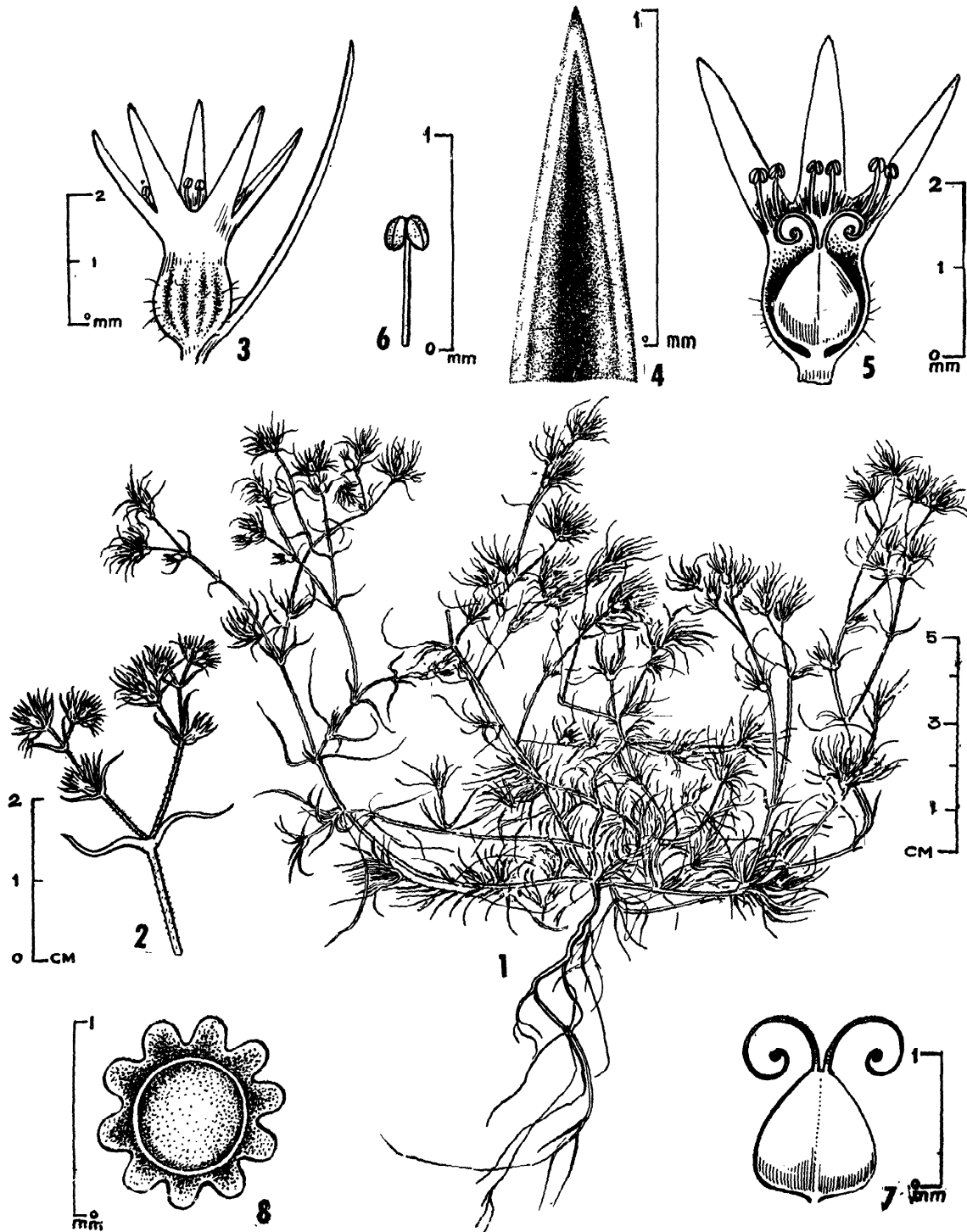
much shorter than the sepals. Ovary 1 celled, styles 2, long filiform, stigma capitate. Fruit indehiscent, hard ± 4 mm long, enclosed by the glabrous 10 furrowed and very hard perigynous tube.

TAMIL NADU (Madras state): Nilgiri Dt., on the slope of Kukal Betta Hill (1925 m), 29-11-1970, Subba Rao *et Kumari* 37399 (MH), common on the Hill slope and near fields on brown soil associated with *Wahlenbergia gracilis* Schrad. and *Senecio lesingianus* Clarke.

Distribution: Native of Europe but found in N. Africa and Asia also. Introduced in United States of America and Canada.

G. V. SUBBA RAO AND G. R. KUMARI

Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore



Figs. 1-8 : *Scleranthus annuus* Linn. 1. Plant. 2. A branch. 3. Flower and bract. 4. Sepal. 5. Flower partly cut showing ovary. 6. Stamen. 7. Ovary. 8. T. S. of capsule.