

very slightly attached, limbs wide-spreading, making the flower convolvulate, with the petals rotating to right, bright yellow with dark purple, large spots on the claws and purple tinge on maturity, hairy outside, especially along the outer margin. Fruit hardly exceeding the accrescent bracteoles, ovate, acuminate, beak often deflexed or hooked, 3-celled; ripe capsules opening widely; lint white, long. Seeds large, ovate-rotund.

According to Watt (1907), the plant is easily recognised from all the other Indian cottons, though certain states of *G. Nanking* come very near to it indeed, if such are not hybrids between the two species.

Hutchinson (1950) mentions that the annual sub-shrubs, the commercial strains of Peninsular India, are small, almost unbranched.

The African *arboreums* are perennial forms also. The author, following Silow (1944), concludes that such 'finds' from the Western India have a close parallel with those occurring in Madagascar and the East African Coast and, therefore, fit in with Silow's primitive component—*G. arboreum* race *indicum*!

Hutchinson (1971, in a personal communication) has suggested to the author to grow

some specimens from seed and supplement the type with well grown specimens from the garden.

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OCCURRENCE OF *CHONEMORPHA GRIFFITHII* HOOK. F. AND *PSILOTRICHUM FERRUGINEUM* (ROXB.) MOQ. IN THE KUMAON REGION

New distributional records for plants are now being increasingly reported, consequent on the detailed plant exploration and collection programme of botanists in several parts of the country. This note is one such report of two such finds in the Kumaon region where until now they were unknown.

Chonemorpha griffithii Hook. f. *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 3: 662. 1882; Kanjilal, *Fl. Assam* 3: 265-266. 1939; Chatterjee in *Kew Bull.* 2: 49. 1947; Seshagiri Rao in *Journ. Ind. Bot. Soc.* 32: 43. 1953.

Liane with large, fragrant, showy white flowers, easily recognised and differentiated from the hitherto known species in N.W. India [*Chonemorpha fragrans* (Moon) Alston and *C. pedicellata* R. S. Rao] by its deeply 5-partite calyx lobes as against the tubular calyx of the other two. *C. griffithii* Hook. f. was so far known from Khasi Hills, Sikkim and the north-eastern region. It is now collected, along Nachni-Tejum road \pm 2400 m in the Kumaon region. Possibly this may be further spotted in similar altitudes and

habitat in the intervening parts of the country in the near future.

Specimen examined: Pant 28228 (BSD).

Psilotrichum ferrugineum (Roxb.) Moq. in DC. Prodr. 13: 279. 1849; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 725. 1885; Backer and Bakhuizen Van Den Brink, Fl. Java 1: 237. 1963. *Achyranthes ferruginea* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 227. 1874.

Herbaceous weed of moist habitats. Flowers in terminal or axillary spikes. Tepals lanceolate, strongly nerved, 2-3 mm long. Seeds glossy.

P. ferrugineum (Roxb.) Moq. is distributed throughout Malaysia. In India, it was hitherto known in Sunderbans, and in Calcutta as a weed of gardens and cultivated fields. This has now been collected at Gar-

gia and Sarpadull environs (Ramnagar Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh), along the margins of forest and forest paths, within Corbett National Park. The present finding of this weed in the park area suggests that it has come in the wake of the tourists visiting this National Park.

Specimens examined: Pant 43013, 43215 (BSD).

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A NOTE ON *URTICA URENS* LINN. (URTICACEAE)

The author collected an Urticaceous plant, growing profusely as a weed along the boundaries of cultivated fields and waste places at Bhandari Bagh, Dehra Dun, which on critical study and comparison with the authentic specimens turned out to be *Urtica urens* Linn., a species which does not appear to have been recorded in published literature on the Indian Flora.

Urtica urens Linn. (Urticaceae), generally known as the "Small Nettle" is a common weed, found in cultivated fields, gardens, orchards and waste places throughout the British Isles. It is distributed in the sub-temperate and temperate zone in Europe, California, Soviet Russia and Tropical Africa. A record of its occurrence along with a detailed description is given here for its easy identification.

Urtica urens Linn. Sp. Pl. 1: 984. 1753; Butcher, New Ill. Brit. Fl. I: 945. 1961; O. Polunin in Fl. Europea 58. 1969.; Stella Ross-Craig, Draw. Brit. Pl. 9. 1970.

Erect, branched, annual herb up to 65 cm high. Stem 4-angled with sparse stinging hairs. Leaves opposite, olive-green; petiole 3-5 cm long; blade 1-4 cm × 3-5 cm, ovate or elliptic-ovate, obtuse, truncate or sub-cordate at the base, deeply dentate, glabrous except for the stinging hairs; stipules 4, free, about 1.5 mm long, lanceolate-acute, hairy. Flowers in small, dense, monoecious clustered cymes in the axils of the leaves, the female flowers more numerous than the male. Male flowers: perianth segments 1-1.5 mm × .75-1.4 mm, ovate-lanceolate, acute to sub-acute, membranous. Female flowers: perianth segments unequal, outer segments minute, about half the length of the wide ovate inner segments, inner segments larger, 1.5-2.2 mm × 1-1.5 mm, ovate-obtuse enclosing the fruit, ciliate on margins with a stinging hair on the back, otherwise glabrous. Nut about 1.4-2 mm × 1-1.4 mm, compressed, ovate, smooth and shining.

Flower and Fruit: March-May.