

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SOLANUM KHASIANUM* CLARKE
VAR. *CHATTERJEEANUM* SEN GUPTA IN BIHAR

Solanum khasianum Clarke var. ***chatterjeeanum*** Sen Gupta (*Bull. bot. Surv. India* 3: 411, 1961), has been reported from different parts of Eastern India and the Nilgiris but not reported from Bihar. We, during our collection trips in different parts of North Bihar, collected this plant from Madanpur-Bhainsalotan forests. As this is reported for the first time from Bihar and it has tremendous probabilities as a potential source for steroid hormone in India [Maity in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 63(2): 324, 1965], a list of places of collections of this variety, deposited in Herb. CAL is noted below:

BIHAR: Bhainsalotan, bushy prickly shrub on sandy soil, fairly common, flowers white (11.8.64), *Banerjee & Banerjee* 93; also from Bhainsalotan-Nepal border, *Banerjee & Banerjee* 617; Kotraha, *Banerjee & Banerjee* 571; Madanpur, *Banerjee & Banerjee* 481.

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TWO NEW TAXA OF FERNS FROM EASTERN HIMALAYAS

Polystichum levingei N. C. Nair sp. nov.

Affine *Polysticho stimulantii* Presl. et *P. setifera* (Forsk.) Woyнар. Differt a primo magnitudine minore totius plantae, natura et incissionibus pinnarum, pagina inferiore pinnarum fibrillosa, squamis stipitis paucis et minoribus, et distributione et directione sororum. Ab altero vero differt lamina pinnata, incissionibus pinnarum, distributione et directi one sororum et stipite et frondibus minoribus, squamis nonnullis dispersis.

Rhizoma breve et parvum, intextum radicibus longis fibrosis, supportans caespitem arctum stipitum multorum; stipes pallidus, gracilis, ca 6 mm longus, squamis linearibus vel lineari-lanceolatis dispersis ornatus, .5-.6 mm latis ad basin, 1-4 mm longis apice acuminato, margine integro. Lamina 15-22 mm longa, 2-2.5 cm lata, angusta gradatim versus apicem, subcoriacea, pinnata. Rachis nitens, nonnullis nitentibus squamis dispersis. Pinnae ad 70 numero, alternae, haud distantes et fere contiguae, maxima ca 1 cm longa, et .5 cm lata ad medium, basi truncato-auriculata supra setacea vel in spinam desinente et angustissime cuneata infra, marginibus superioribus crenatis, parte distali marginis inferioris dentata, apice spinuloso, superficie superiore glabra, inferiore vero squamosa squamis dispersis lanceolatis brunneolis vel triangularibus. Nervi indistincti. Singulae pinnae supportant 1-4 soros, in latere acroscopico; sorus rarius in latere basiscopo invenitur. Indusium peltatum, 1 mm diam., deciduum.

Holotypus *Sen-Gupta* 436 lectus ad Dochula in Bhutania ad altit. 3250 m (10420') die 22 septembris

anni 1964, et positus in herbario cryptogamico Bot. Surv. Calc. Paratypus *Levinge* 14593 lectus ad Koongma, in Bhutania ad altit. 3750 m (12000'), *Levinge* 14594-14596 lectus 15 octobris 1880 ad Darjeeling et *Levinge* sine numero et 8541 lectus ad Phullot in Bhutania ad altit. 3437 m (11000') in CAL. Species in honorem beauti H. C. Levinge, qui primo taxon legit.

Polystichum levingei N. C. Nair sp. nov.

Allied to *Polystichum stimulantii* Presl. and *P. setiferum* (Forsk.) Woyнар. It differs from the former in the smaller size of the plant, nature and cutting of the pinnae, fibrillose lower surface of the pinnae, few and smaller scales of the stipe and distribution and orientation of the sori. It differs from the latter in the pinnate nature of the lamina, cutting of the pinnae, distribution and orientation of the sori and smaller stipes and fronds with few small scattered scales.

Stock short and small enmeshed in the long fibrous roots, bearing a close tuft of numerous stipes; stipes pale, slender, to about 6 mm long, bearing scattered linear or linear-lanceolate scales .5-6 mm broad at the base and 1-4 mm long with acuminate tip and entire margin. Lamina 15-22 mm long and 2-2.5 cm wide narrowed gradually to the apex, subcoriaceous, pinnate. Rachis shining with few scattered narrow scales. Pinnae up to 70, alternate, not spaced and almost touching, largest pinnae about 1 cm long and .5 cm wide in the middle, base truncate auriculate above setaceous or spine-tipped and very narrowly cuneate below, upper edge crenate