

**CEROPEGIA MEDIA (HUBER) ANSARI STAT. NOV. FROM
WESTERN GHATS (MAHARASHTRA)**

Huber (1957) in his monograph on the revision of the genus *Ceropegia* Linn. has described a new variety of *Ceropegia evansii* McCann, known as *C. evansii* var. *media* Huber on the basis of herbarium specimens collected from Western ghats, in Maharashtra. The type specimen of the new variety (Irani 1194) and other specimens annotated by him are deposited in the Blatter Herbarium, Bombay. He has made the following distinguishing characters as the basis for separation between the species proper and its variety:

Leaves ovate; pedicels and sepals usually glabrous ... var. *evansii*
Leaves lanceolate; pedicels and sepals usually pilose ... var. *media*

Subsequently, Santapau and Irani (1958 and 1962) while studying the genus from Bombay have also,

following Huber, given an account of this variety.

While studying the different species of *Ceropegia* from Maharashtra, the author has also collected this variety from Sinhgadh National Park area, in Poona district and the same along with *C. evansii* and other species of the genus, is being grown in the experimental plots of the garden at Botanical Survey of India, Poona. A critical examination of this variety in living condition, both in its natural habitat and under cultivation, as also of all the available herbarium specimens, reveals some more distinct characters hitherto not described so far or have gone unnoticed. These salient features, along with the ones described above, are being placed in comparison with the salient features of *C. evansii* proper in a tabulated form below and also in plate I and text figures.

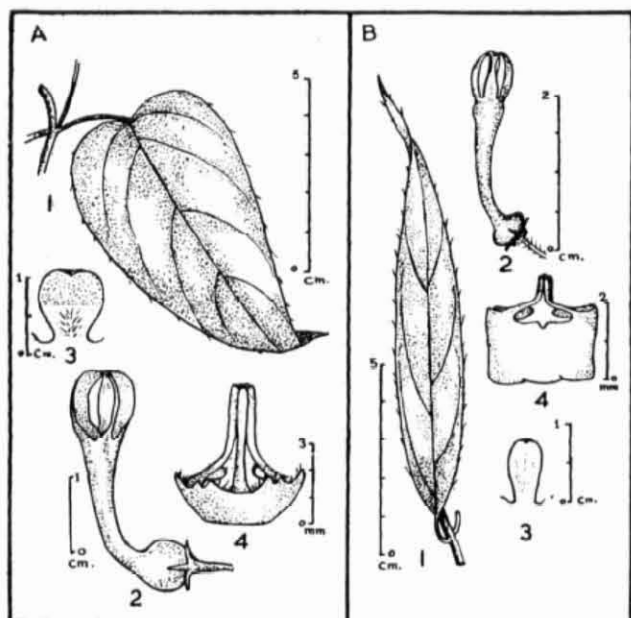
<i>C. evansii</i> McCann	<i>C. media</i> (Huber) Ansari stat. nov. (= <i>C. evansii</i> var. <i>media</i> Huber)
<i>Leaves</i> ovate	<i>Leaves</i> linear-lanceolate or lanceolate
<i>Pedicels</i> glabrous	<i>Pedicels</i> hairy
<i>Calyx</i> glabrous	<i>Calyx</i> hairy
<i>Corolla</i> curved, 3.5-4 cm long	<i>Corolla</i> slightly curved, upto 2.8 cm long
<i>Corolla tube</i> white with greenish streaks outside, the lower half purple within, glabrous; the inflated base <i>globose</i> in shape	<i>Corolla tube</i> pale green to white, greenish purple to green inside near the base; the inflated base <i>depressed</i> (broader than long) in shape
<i>Corolla lobes</i> ovovate-rounded completely folded longitudinally on the back, 10×8 mm, finely pubescent all over hairy in the middle inside, glabrous outside, upper half yellow, lower white, connate at tips forming a <i>globose head</i>	<i>Corolla lobes</i> linear, spathulate, 8×2.5 mm, margins reflexed in the upper part, glabrous inside and outside, pale green to white, faintly purplish on the top, connate at tips forming an <i>obovoid head</i>
<i>Outer corona</i> cupular, conical in outline, having 5 deltoid bifid lobes, 2 mm long, yellow	<i>Outer corona</i> cupular, sub-quadrate in outline, having 5 emarginate lobes, 2-2.5 mm long, dark purple
<i>Inner corona</i> of 5 erect linear-spathulate lobes, 4-4.5 mm long, creamy yellow, tinged with red or pale purple (longer than outer corona and gynostegium)	<i>Inner corona</i> of 5 linear lobes, 1-1.75 mm long, the upper half almost at right angle to the lower, white or creamy (shorter than outer corona and gynostegium)

The comparative study of these two species brings into light the distinct status of the so called variety *media* as a separate species in no way related to *C. evansii* proper. This species can easily be identified in the field by virtue of its leaves and flowers, so different from the species proper. Hence this variety *media* is being elevated to specific status and is being named, as per recommendation of the Article 60 of the Code as *Ceropegia media*

(Huber) Ansari stat. nov. Since some of these salient features of the species are not included in the earlier description, it is desirable to provide an amended description of the same with its proper nomenclature etc., which is as follows:

***Ceropegia media* (Huber) Ansari stat. nov. *C. evansii* var. *media* Huber** in Mem. Soc. Broter. 12: 67, t. 3, f. 33b, 1957; Santapau and Irani in

Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal, 12 (1 & 2): 12, t. 1, f. E, t. 2, f. 3, t. 3, f. A-D, 1958; and in Bot. Mem. (No. 4) Univ. Bombay: 32, 1962.



A. *Ceropogia evansii* McCann

Text figs. 1-4: 1. A leaf. 2. A flower. 3. Inner view of a corolla lobe when flattened out. 4. A lateral view of outer and inner corona.

B. *Ceropogia media* (Huber) Ansari stat. nov.

Text figs. 1-4: 1. A leaf. 2. A flower. 3. Inner view of a corolla lobe when flattened out. 4. A lateral view of outer and inner corona.

sub-coriaceous, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, acute, or acuminate, hispidulous above, glabrous or nearly so beneath; lateral nerves 4-6 pairs; petioles 1.5-2.0 cm long, glabrous, grooved on the upper side. *Flowers* 2-4 in lateral umbellate cymes; peduncles arising from in between the petioles, 1-2 cm long, terete, pubescent, bracts and bracteoles 1-4 mm long, linear-lanceolate or subulate, acute glabrous; pedicels upto 10 mm long, terete, hairy. *Calyx* lobes 4 mm long, subulate, hairy on the dorsal side. *Corolla* upto 2.8 cm long, slightly curved; tube upto 2 cm long, glabrous inside and outside, pale green to white outside, green to greenish purple inside near the base, inflated base depressed (broader than long) in shape; lobes linear-spathulate, 8×2.5 mm, glabrous, greenish-white to white, faintly purplish above, margins reflexed above, connate at the tips forming an obovoid head. Outer corona cupular, sub-quadrate in outline, 2-2.5 mm long, fleshy, dark purple, usually glabrous outside, hairy inside, lobes emarginate, inner corona of 5 linear thin lobes,

A weak twining perennial herb. Tuber globose or sub-globose. *Stem* unbranched, terete, dull purple, glabrous. *Leaves* petiolate, 5.15×1.5 cm,

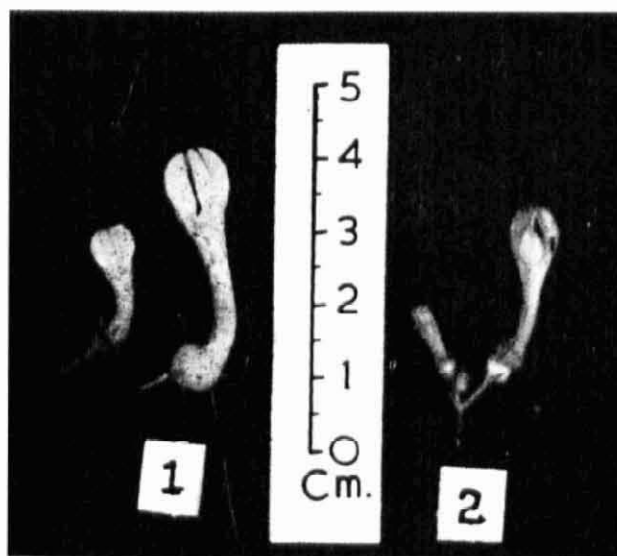


Plate I: Figs. 1-2: 1. A close-up of the flowers (mature and immature) of *C. evansii* McCann. 2. A close-up of the flowers (mature and immature) of *C. media* (Huber) Ansari.

white or creamy white, 1-1.75 mm long, the upper half almost at right angle to the lower, shorter than the outer corona and gynostegium. *Gynostegium* 2-3 mm long. *Pollen masses* minute, yellow, ovoid.

Flowering: July-September.

Herbarium specimens examined: WESTERN GHATS: Sinhagadh National Park, Ansari 99835, 104821, 97555; Lonavla-Ambavane, Reddi 100934, 101211 (in Herb. BSI); Khandala, Irani 2169; Purandhar, Santapau 7085-89, 7122-23; Irani 1039; Bhimashankar, Irani 1194 A-B, 1196 A-C (in Herb. BLATT); Sinhagadh hill, Kokani 2472; Poona (Law College hill), Patwardhan 2469 (in Herb. P.U.); Rajgad, Vartak 10701; Rairashwar, Vartak 13994 (in Herb. M.A.C.S.).

Notes: So far the plant has not been collected in fruit in its natural habitat. It has so far failed to set follicles even under cultivation; however, efforts will be continued to observe the same in coming seasons.

Huber (l.c.) has classified the genus *Ceropogia*

into 21 new sections and along with *C. evansii*, this species is placed in section *Buprestis* Huber. One of the characters of this section is "inner corona longer than the outer corona and gynostegium" which is true for *C. evansii* but in the case of *C. media* the inner corona is shorter than the outer corona and gynostegium, which may be another point in favour of the elevation of the variety into a species. However, the position of this taxon in the relevant section, in relation to other species will be discussed in future publication.

The following abbreviations have been used above in citing the different herbaria:

- BLATT Blatter's Herbarium, St. Xavier's College, Bombay.
BSI Botanical Survey of India, Poona.
M.A.C.S. Maharashtra Association for Cultivation of Science, Poona.
P.U. Poona University Herbarium, Poona.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. R. S. Rao, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Poona for his keen interest, guidance and help in the subject. Grateful thanks are also due to late Rev. Fr. H. Santapau, former Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta for providing facilities and encouragement. He is also grateful to all colleagues for their helpful suggestions.

M. Y. ANSARI
Botanical Survey of India, Poona

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SILENE ALBA (MILL.) KRAUSE—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Silene alba (Mill.) Krause, (Caryophyllaceae), popularly known as the "White Champion", is a very common weed found in corn fields and waste places throughout the British Isles. It is distributed in the temperate zone in Europe, North Africa, Siberia and Western Asia. As far as is known, this taxon has not yet been reported from any part of India. A record of its occurrence at Dehra Dun, along with a description is given here.

Silene alba (Mill.) Krause in Sturm, Fl. Deutschl. ed. 2, 5: 98, 1901; Chowdhry, P. K. in Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edin. 22: 221-278, 1957. *Lychnis alba* Mill. Gard. Dict. ed. 8, 1768; Butcher, New Ill. Brit. Fl. 1: 414, Fig. 301, 1961. *Melandrium album* (Mill.) Garcke, Fl. Deutschl. ed. 4, 55, 1858; Stella Ross-Craig, Draw. Brit. Pl. Part 5, Pl. 15, 1951.

Erect perennial herb upto 40 cm tall, branching from the base. Stem, leaves and calyx hairy, hairs of two kinds—soft spreading simple hairs and gland-tipped hairs. Lower leaves elliptic or lanceolate, acute, margins wavy, 10-17×1-3 cm, lamina gradually narrowed into a petiole; leaf base broadened, stem clasping. Upper leaves linear-

lanceolate or elliptic, sessile. Flowers dioecious or rarely monoecious, in a few flowered terminal dichasium. Pedicels upto 1.5 cm long. Calyx upto 17 mm long, with 5 lanceolate teeth; cylindrical, constricted above and 10-veined in staminate flowers and ovoid and upto 20-veined in pistillate flowers. Petals white; limbs obovate, bifid half way down, upto 8 mm long; coronal ligules 2 fringed at the apex; claw exserted, upto 2 cm long, auricled at the top. Stamens 10. Styles 5. Ovary green, more or less cylindric, 7×4 mm, unilocular. Ovules many on the central placenta. Capsule opening at the top by 10 sub-erect teeth. Seeds 1.25-1.5 mm in diam., bluntly tubercled.

(See Butcher, *loc. cit.* and Stella Ross-Craig, *loc. cit.* for illustrations and Chowdhry, *loc. cit.* for discussion regarding the nomenclature of this species).

This taxon was observed for the first time, near a canal bank on Raipur Road, Dehra Dun, in August, 1967. This year, in July, the plants have reappeared in the same locality.

Flowers and fruits: July-August.

V. J. Nair 37672.

V. J. NAIR
Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun