

PAPILIONACEAE

Rhynchosia minima DC. var. **laxiflora** Baker
in Fl. Brit. India 2: 223. 1876.

This plant is a common climber on hedges during monsoon period and occurs more frequently in Siwaliks in comparison with plains.

Specimens examined: Surajpur Siwaliks, Sharma 2127 (PAN); Phawara Chowk, Ludhiana, Sharma 207; Punjabi University, Patiala, Sharma 931, 1579; Gandakheri, Sharma 2215 (PUN).

Flowers and fruits: March-November.

HALORAGACEAE

Myriophyllum spicatum Linn. Sp. Pl. 992. 1753; Subramanyam, Aquatic Angiosperms 17. 1962.

Subramanyam (loc. cit.) records the occurrence of this species at about 500-2000 m in Kashmir, northern boundary of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. This plant has been collected from the localities at an altitude of about 240 m. It is very common in irrigation canals along with *Potamogeton perfoliatus* Linn. which has also descended from W.

Himalaya (alt. 1200-2500 m). So far I have not seen this plant outside Patiala district.

Specimens examined: Rakhra, Sharma 2290, 3217; Patiala, Sharma 2537; Samana, Sharma 3279 (PUN).

UMBELLIFERAE

Apium tenuifolium (Moench.) Thell. in Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mitteleur. 5(2): 1140. 1926.

A native of America. Previously this plant was collected from Pinjore gardens (alt. 600 m), near Kalka hills. The plant was collected again at an altitude of 250 m from Patiala and 330 m from Bhankarpur, growing as a weed in moist and shaded places of gardens and in Ghaggar river-bed respectively.

Specimens examined: Pinjore gardens, Sharma 2610 (PAN); Baradari gardens, Patiala, Sharma 2509; Bhankarpur, Sharma 3489 (PUN).

Flowers and fruits: March-May.

M. SHARMA

Department of Botany, Punjabi University, Patiala

TWO NEW RECORDS OF THE GENUS OXALIS FOR JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE

Floristic studies of Jammu City have brought to light two species of genus *Oxalis* namely *O. latifolia* H. B. & K. and *O. martiana* Zucc. as additions to those already recorded from this state. Specimens of the two species have been deposited in the herbarium of Jammu University.

Oxalis latifolia H. B. & K. Nov. Gen. & Sp. 5: 237, t. 467. 1821.

A stemless perennial herb; sparingly pubescent; bulbs ovate, 0.8-1.2 cm thick; leaves digitately 3-foliate, borne on 22-25 cm long petiole; young leaves pilose; leaflets broadly obdeltoid or obsagittate, 1.5-2.0 cm long and 2.5-3.5 cm broad; stipules scaly, adnate

to the petiole, 1.9-1.5 cm; flowers violet in umbels on 22-28 cm long peduncles; bracts lanceolate, 0.3 cm; pedicels filiform, 1.2-1.5 cm long; sepals lanceolate, 0.4 cm long; petals cuneate, twice the size of sepals; capsule cylindrical, 0.5 cm; seeds round, concave, 3-5 in each cell.

Shady locations in the lawns of Government Guest House, Canal Road, Jammu (JL₁).

Flowers: March-June.

O. martiana Zucc. in Denkschr., Akad. Muench 9: 144, n. 6, 1823-24.

Pubescent perennial herb; bulbs globose, 1-1.5 cm across; petioles 10-15 cm long; leaf-

lets obcordate with obtuse or rounded bases, 1.8-2 cm long and 2.3-2.7 cm across; stipules lanceolate, 0.8-1.0 cm; umbellate violet flowers borne on 10-13 cm long peduncles; bracts lanceolate, 0.3-0.4 cm; pedicels 1.5-2 cm long; sepals obovate-lanceolate, glabrous within, 0.3-0.4 cm long; petals spatulate with purple striations running down to the base; capsule erect, tomentose; cells bearing 5-7 seeds.

Profuse on shady banks of channels near Canal Road (JL2).

Flowers: February-June.

The two species are native of Mexico and

have got naturalized in Delhi, Assam and north-western Himalayas in North and Penninsular India and Western ghats in the South. The bulbs and sour aerial parts of *O. martiana* Zucc. are reported to be edible. *O. latifolia* H. B. & K. is used for the purposes of inducing sleep (Wealth of India, 7: 200).

A. K. KOUL

AND

J. L. KARIHALOO

Department of Bio-Sciences, University of Jammu,
Jammu

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *DIPLOMERIS HIRSUTA* LINDL. (ORCHIDACEAE) IN WESTERN HIMALAYA

Mrs. Geraldine Acomb of Plainfield, New Jersey, U.S.A., who has been painting some of the Himalayan flowers, particularly, of the Nainital-Bhowali region, recently brought some coloured photographs to us for determination of the plants. One of these depicted an orchid with a peculiar, curved spur which we had not, seen so far from any locality in Western Himalaya. On further study, this proved to be *Diplomeris hirsuta* Lindl., hitherto not recorded from any of the sectors of Western Himalaya. STAFF (1925), while illustrating this orchid in the Botanical Magazine, described it as a "rare and very interesting orchid growing on sandstone rocks in the Teesta Valley in Sikkim at 300-400 m and in similar situations in the neighbouring parts of Bhutan at 450 m". It was earlier known from Wallich's collections north of Kathmandu in Nepal (Wall. Cat. No. 7065). It thus appears that this orchid was known, till very recently, only from the Eastern Himalayan Botanical Province, east of 85°E. Long. It was of added interest to us to see the same orchid appearing in a collection of the Government Pharmaceutical

Laboratory, Ranikhet, brought to us for determination by H. C. Pande. This collection, made by Tiwary came from Bodoan on the Kathgodam-Nainital Highway. Mrs. Acomb's photograph had been taken only a few miles higher up along the same highway. In view of the interest thus aroused, one of us (C.M.A.) visited this area recently and succeeded in collecting good specimens of this extremely rare and interesting orchid for the BSD Herbarium.

***Diplomeris hirsuta* (Lindl.) Gen. & Spec. Orchids, 333. 1835; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 167. 1890; King & Pantling in Annals R. bot. Gardn. Calcutta 8: 337, t. 443. 1898. *Diplochilus hirsuta* Lindl. Bot. Reg. sub t. 1499. 1832.**

A terrestrial orchid, almost stemless, mostly 1-leaved, 1-flowered. Leaves oblong-ovate or linear-oblong, hairy on both surfaces. Scape hairy, 1-bracteate. Flowers solitary, very rarely 2, milky white. Sepals hairy, petals shortly apiculate, lip spurred, spur elongate, slender, curved, nearly 6 cm long. Column short, anther with a broad