

### *CUSCUTA CAMPESTRIS* YUNCKER (CUSCUTACEAE)—A NEW RECORD FOR SOUTH INDIA

Santapau and Korlahalli (1965) recorded the occurrence of *Cuscuta campestris* Yunker, a native of North America, for the first time in India. Korlahalli's collections are from "just near the outer signal of the Dum Dum railway station" Calcutta. Singh (1972) recorded the occurrence of this species in Western India. Recently this stem parasitic species was found growing vigorously in Vellalur and Avanashi, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu, forming a new distributional record to South India.

Following are the additional hosts for this parasite, not recorded and reported hitherto: *Amaranthus spinosus* Linn., *Datura* sp., *Prosopis* sp., *Thevetia peruviana* (Pers.) K. Schum. and *Tribulus terrestris* Linn.

***Cuscuta campestris*** Yuncker in Mem. Torrey bot. Cl. 18: 138, f. 14. 1932; van Oostroom in Blumea 3: 68. 1938 et Fl. Males. 4: 392. 1953; Santapau & Korlahalli in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 62: 598. 1965; Singh in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 69: 456. 1972.

This species is often confused with *C. chinensis* Lamk. but can easily be disting-

uished in having the corolla lobes with incurved tips; infrastaminal scales long, abundantly fimbriate, exerted; and the capsules not circumscissile.

For a detailed description and text figures of this species see Santapau and Korlahalli (*loc. cit.*).

*Flowering*: October-December. *Fruiting*: March & April.

*Specimens examined*: Srinivasan 42495 (MH), Vellalur,  $\pm 465$  m, 18 November 1973; Joseph 40807 & 42498 to 42500 (MH), Avanashi Town Area, 10 April 1974.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express his sincere gratitude to the Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for confirming the identity of the specimen and to Dr. J. Joseph, Regional Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore for guidance and necessary help.

S. R. SRINIVASAN

*Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore*

### TWO NOTEWORTHY FLOWERING PLANTS FROM SOUTH INDIA

During a survey of the flora of Coimbatore, South India *Abutilon theophrasti* Medicus (Malvaceae) and *Brachiaria deflexa* (Schumach.) C. E. Hubb. ex Robyns (Poaceae) were collected. In India, the former is reported so far only from North-West India, Sindh, Kashmir and Bengal; and the latter from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. The common occurrence of these weeds in and around Coimbatore forms new distributional records for South India.

***Abutilon theophrasti*** Medicus, Malv. 28. 1787; Borssum in Blumea 14: 166. 1966. *A. avicennae* Gaertn. Fruct. 2: 251, t. 135 f. 1. 1791; Masters in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 327. 1874; Prain, Beng. Pl. 1: 176. 1963 (rep. ed.).

Erect undershrubs up to 1 m high, velutinous by stellate hairs and simple hairs. Leaves 5-12 cm across, orbicular, irregularly dentate, acuminate at apex, deeply cordate at base, 7-11 ribbed; petioles up to 12 cm