

### *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*** Yunker 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.

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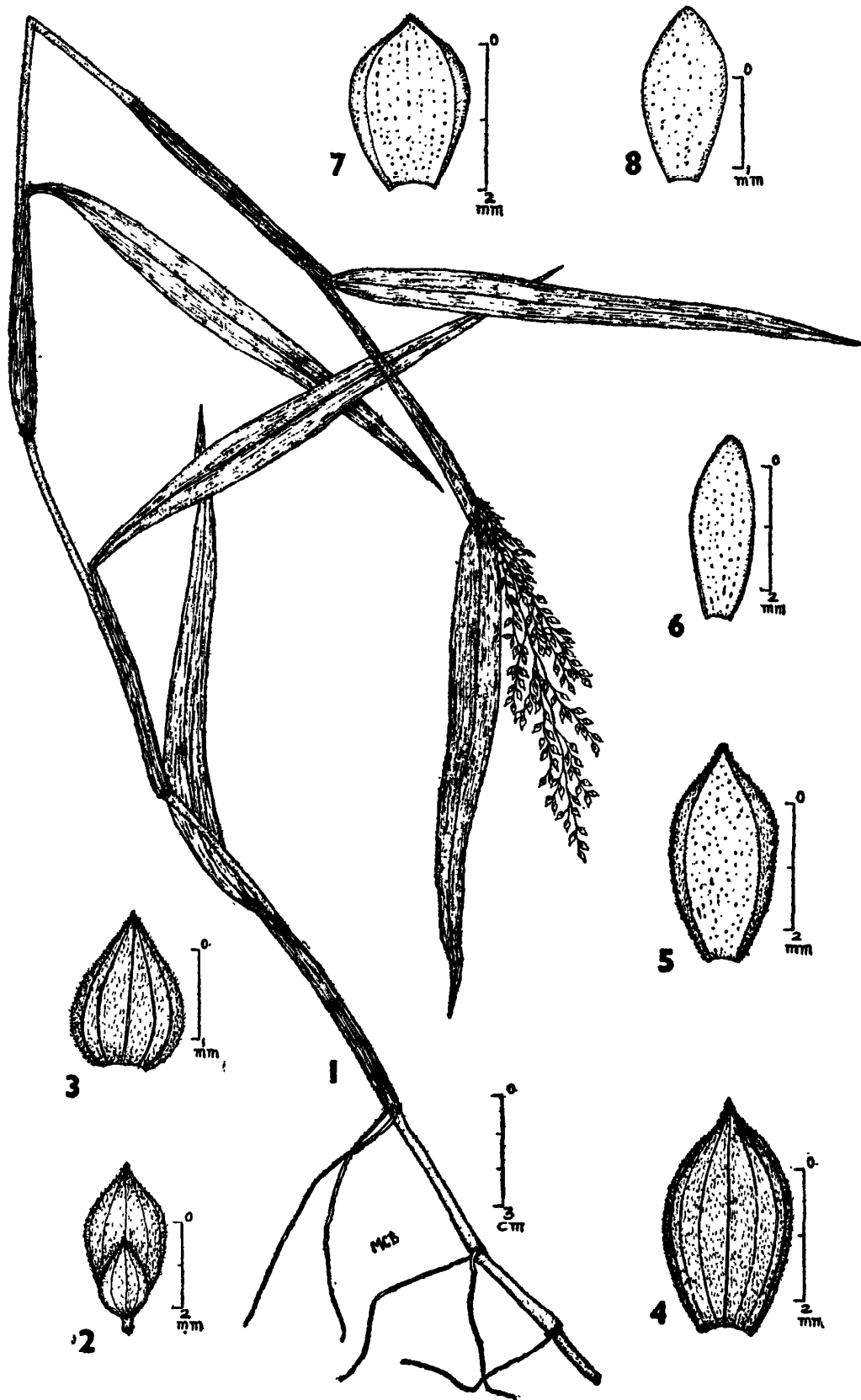
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### TWO NOTEWORTHY FLOWERING PLANTS FROM SOUTH INDIA

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



*Brachiaria deflexa* (Schumach.) C. E. Hubb. ex Robyns

Figs. 1-8 : 1. Plant, 2. Spikelet, 3. Lower glume, 4. Upper glume, 5. Lemma of the lower floret, 6. Palea of the lower floret, 7. Lemma of the upper floret, 8. Palea of the upper floret.

long. Flowers *ca* 2 cm across, yellow, axillary, solitary, but by later development of accessory buds forming few-flowered racemes; pedicels up to 3.5 cm long, stout, jointed above the middle. Schizocarps  $1.5 \times 2$  cm; mericarps 12-15, reniform, with 2 erectopate, stout, ciliate awns, 1 or 2 seeded; seeds brownish black, smooth, stellate hairy.

Masters (*loc. cit.*) has stated its distribution from North-West India, Sindh, Kashmir and Bengal, and Prain (*loc. cit.*) as "Bengal, Dacca & c; somewhat rare".

The reason for the spreading of this weed in and around Coimbatore could not be traced.

This species can easily be distinguished from *A. indicum* (Linn.) Sweet, in having the pedicels much shorter than the petioles; mericarps 12-15 and distinctly awned.

*Flowering and fruiting*: May-August.

*Specimens examined*: TAMIL NADU: Coimbatore Dt., Coimbatore, 3 June 1968, Chandrabose 29963 (MH).

*Distribution*: Subtropical countries of Asia, Westwards to South Europe and North America.

***Brachiaria deflexa*** (Schumach.) C. E. Hubb. ex Robyns in Bull. Jard. Brux. 9: 177. 1932; Bor, Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India & Pakistan 281. 1960. *Panicum deflexum*, Schumach. Beskr. Guin. Pl. 63. 1827.

Perennial herbs; culms up to 75 cm high, rooting at lower nodes, puberulous. Leaf blades  $10-15 \times 1-1.5$  cm, linear-lanceolate, glabrescent or puberulous, acuminate at apex, rounded at base; sheaths up to 8 cm long, puberulous; ligules membranous, with a row of hairs. Panicles up to 20 cm long, of spiciform or branched racemes. Spikelets  $ca$   $3.5 \times 2.5$  mm, elliptic or elliptic-obovate, hermaphrodite or unisexual, 2-flowered; primary pedicels 5-7 mm long. Caryopsis not seen. (Figs. 1-8).

Bor (*loc. cit.*) has indicated its distribution

from Uttar Pradesh and the Punjab, though the occurrence of this species has not been mentioned in any other Indian Flora. The specimens examined do fit very well with the characters as keyed out by Bor. *B. deflexa* (Schumach.) C. E. Hubb. ex Robyns is closely allied to *B. ramosa* (Linn.) Stapf, and may even fall within the delimitation of the latter. However, more field studies are required to determine their conspecificity.

*Flowering and fruiting*: Almost throughout the year.

*Specimens examined*: ANDHRA PRADESH: Bellary Dt.: Hampi, 14 October 1919, Collector? 15988; Hagari, Collector? 13868. Chittoor Dt.: Panappakkam, 25 December 1918, Collector? 15767, 15783; Palmaner R. F., 8 October 1938, K. C. Jacob 464. Ganjam Dt.: Curangi, 19 August 1931, Narayanaswami 5800. Vizagapatnam Dt.: Anakapalli, 4 January 1917, Collector? 14154. TAMIL NADU: Coimbatore Dt.: Coimbatore, 15 October 1966, Chandrabose 28897. North Arcot Dt.: Chittoor, October 1902. Barber 4895; Ranipet, 14 March 1917, Collector? 14743. Salem Dt.: Hosur Cattle farm, 8 June 1930, Narayanaswami 3017. Trichinopoly Dt.: Kollimalai, 19 June 1916, Collector? 12914 (All in MH).

*Distribution*: Africa, India (Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu).

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