# ALIENS NATURALISED IN THE FLORA OF BILASPUR, M.P.

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#### ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with 68 exotic species of flowering plants which are naturalized in the Flora of Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh. These species were collected during three seasonal field-collection tours undertaken from 1970 to 1973 and have been deposited in the herbarium of Central Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad (BSA). Short notes on habitat, nativity etc. are appended with most of the species. The 68 species have been put into 5 major groups according to their nativity viz., 1. Neo-tropical, 2. North temperate, 3. North-African, Afro-Asian and Arabian, 4. Tropical and South-African and 5. Austro-Asian.

#### INTRODUCTION

According to Hooker (1904) and Champion and Trevor (1938) the flora of India is merely a mixture of floras of the surrounding countries like Malaya, Africa, Tibet, China and Japan. Good (1947) has considered India as a region of the Indo-Malayan sub-kingdom under the Paleotropical Kingdom. Chatterjee (1940, 1962), however maintains that more than 60% of our Dicotyledonous species are endemic and there is a distinct Indian flora.

Nevertheless, there are many foreign elements in our flora, brought mainly by Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, the French and the English people either knowingly or unknowingly. The surrounding countries contributing to the Indian-Flora are Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Japan, South-West China, Tibet, West Asia and Africa. Maheshwari (1962) has recognised four distinct categories amongst the naturalised elements viz., (1) Pluri-regional species or 'Wides', (2) Weeds of cultivation and other introduced weeds, (3) Exotics and escape from cultivation and (4) Species of limited distribution in India and adjoining regions. He considers various factors responsible for the spread and increase of alien plants in our

country. Mention may be made of deforestation, faulty pasturage methods, shifting cultivation, faulty method of harvesting and sale and introduction of impure seeds.

In most cases the time of actual introduction of any species is fixed only with a rough degree of approximation. Lantana camara L. var. aculeata (L.) Mold. is not mentioned in Roxburgh's Flora Indica which was published in 1824 but by 1921-25, when Haines Botany was published, it was known from many parts of India and thus it is mentioned in this work. Acanthospermum hispidum DC. and Gomphrena celosioides Mart. were introduced into Madras Presidency by 1915-39, so they are mentioned in Gamble's Flora but are not mentioned in Hook. f. Flora British India (1872-97).

The author's studies under the project of Flora of Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh' have yielded 68 introduced and naturalised elements from outside India. It would not be out of place to mention that there are also such alien species which are commonly cultivated in the field or planted in the gardens and elsewhere. These have also been collected along roadsides, at the edge of forests and various other places as an escape

from cultivation. The total number of such species is 37. They may be grouped as follows:

1. Neo-tropical: Agave americana L., Anacardium occiden tale L., Annona squamosa L., Capsicum annuum L. C. frutescens L., Carica papaya L., Carthamus oxyacantha Bieb., Datura metal L., Hibiscus subdariffa L., Lycopersicon esculentum Mill., Mirabilis jalapa L., Thevelia peruvia-na Sch., Turnera ulmifolia L. and Zea mays L.

2. North-temperate: Brassica compestris L., Coriandrum sativum L., Cuminum cyminum L., Foeniculum vulgare Gaertn., Lathyrus sativus L., Punica granatum L. and

Vicia sativa L.

3. North-African, Afro-Asian and Arabian: Lawsonia inermis L., Phaseolus trilobus Ait. and Portulaca oleracea L.

- 4. Tropical and South African: Citrullus lanatus (Tnunb.) Mansf., Hibiscus canabinus L. Kalanchoe pinnata (Lamk.) Pers., Plumbago zeylanica L. Ricinus communis L. Sansevieria thyrsiflora Thunb. and Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr.
- 5. Aus ro-Asian: Acacia auriculiformis A. Cumm., Dodonzea viscosa (L.) Jacq. and Eucalyptus tereticornis Sm.

 Madagascar: Delonix regia Raf.
 East Indies: Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp. and Sesamum indicum Linn.

There are two important observations made during this study. Adenostemma lavenia (L.) Kuntze, collected from Bilaspur, M.P., has been considered as the native of South America by Srivastava (1964). The type locality of A. lavenia is Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and that of its synonym A. viscosum J. R. & G. Forst. is Tahitee [see Panigrahi, Kew Bull. 30 (4): 647, 1975]. Secondly, Cissampelos pareira L., also collected from Bilaspur, M.P., an American taxon, does not occur in India; the Indian taxon generally identified as above, represents C. pareira L. var. hirsuta (Buch.-Ham. ex DC.) Forman (see Forman, Kew Bull. 22: 356, 1968).

The following account of 68 species with notes on the habitat, source of their introduction and other important informations, as available, is given below. Most of the species enumerated in the present paper are represented by more than one collections but for convenience only one representative field-number has been mentioned in each case. The specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Central Circle, Allahabad (BSA). species are grouped into following groups:

Neo-tropical 2. North-temperate, 3. North-African, Afro-Asian & Arabian, 4. Tropical & South-African, 5. Austro-Asian.

### 1. Neo-tropical:

#### Acanthospermum hispidum DC.

Growing on the bund of rice field in alluvial soil, the plant is hairy with yellow flowers.

Srivastava (1964) thinks it to be a native of Brazil. It was first noticed in the year 1917 round about Tirupattur railway station in the Salem district and at Nileshwar in South Canara (Maheshwari 1962). On the other hand Ridley (1930) thinks it to be a native of Tropical Africa. It appears that from Brazil this species came to South Africa and from here it came to South India.

Specimen examined: Katghora. Arora

### Ageratum conyzoides Linn.

In shady moist situations, as a common weed in gardens and near water channels of fields.

A native of South America, probably introduced to India in the 16th Century. It travels by adhesion to clothes or to hairs of animals and is a weed of cultivation (Ridley 1930).

Specimen examined: Parasi, Murti 19047. Argemone mexicana Linn.

In waste places, dry open grounds, on river banks and as a winter weed in fields and gardens.

A native of Central America and West Indies (Ridley, 1930; Baker & Brink 1963), probably introduced during the 17th Century. Its earliest record in the east, according to Ridley (l.c.) is from Cochin-Chin in

Specimen examined: Bilaspur city, Murti 19530.

#### A. ochroleuca Sweet.

Growing alongwith A. mexicana L. on the waste ground.

A native of Mexico, most probably introduced at the time when Duthie was writing his Flora, because under A. mexicana L. he describes the "flowers rarely white". The white-flowered biotypes seen by Duthie could be those of A. ochroleuca Sw.

Specimen examined: Aurapani, Panigrahi 15481.

## Alternanthera pungens H. B. K.

Growing in dry situations, waste places and along road sides.

A native of tropical America (Baker and Brink 1963; Raizada 1950) introduced into India early in the 20th Century. Its first record in India is in 1908 by Woodhouse from Colgong and Bhagalpur in Bihar in 1914 (Srivastava 1954). Its rapid spread can be attributed to the stiff perianth enclosing the utricle, which readily attaches itself to clothes, to passing animals and to the tyres of the vehicles.

Specimen examined: Anup Pur, Panigrahi 16855.

## Blainvillea acmella (L.) Phil.

In shady situations and moist places.

A native of S. America (Ridley 1930) and was probably introduced during the 18th Century.

Specimen examined: Bilaspur city, Panigrahi 12989.

# Cardiospermum halicacabum Linn.

Climbing over bushes.

Ridley (1930) states that this genus has its headquarter in S. America and this species, also a native of the same country, has spread all over the tropics. It seems to have been partly sea-dispersed, also spread by rivers and to a considerable extent accidentally and intentionally by man.

Specimen examined: Karidongari, Murti 19331.

## Cassia alata Linn.

Shrub in sandy alluvium, sometimes also planted.

Brink 1963). Time of introduction is not known. Panigrahi and Singh (1967) state that this was introduced from West Indies.

Specimen examined: Kota, Panigrahi 13064.

#### C. obtusifolia Linn.

Shrub in waste places.

It is a native of America (Baker and Brink 1963). Time of introduction is not known.

Specimen examined: Ratanpur, Murti 19524.

#### C. occidentalis Linn.

Common in waste places, along road sides and as a weed in cultivated land.

It is a native of S: America (Duthie 1903; Baker and Brink 1963); probably introduced long back before Roxburgh's Flora Indica was written.

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Murti 19294.

## C. tora Linn.

An undershrub on sandy gravelly soil, in waste places.

Its native country is not known with certainty but the way this species follows new roads and railways; its gregariousness and its habit of flowering during rainy season, show that it is an alien, probably south American (Srivastava 1964).

Specimen examined: Pasan, Panigrahi 13275 A.

### Chloris virgata Sw.

Very common in waste places, at the edge of the forests and forest clearings.

It is a tropical American Plant (Maheshwari 1962). Its time of introduction is not known.

Specimen examined: On way to Bilaspur from Kota, Panigrahi 13048.

### Coldenia procumbens Linn.

Prostrate herb in moist places and river banks.

Coldenia is exclusively a new world genus It is a native of America (Baker and (Good 1947). This is the only species of the genus in India and was probably introduced before Roxburgh's Flora Indica was written.

Specimen examined: Parasi, Murti 19038. Cosmos sulphureus Cav.

Herb near nalas and moist places on sandy alluvium.

It is a native of Central America and the northern part of S. America (Baker and Brink 1963).

Specimen examined: Kabirchabutra, Panigrahi 13396.

## Croton bonplandianum Baill.

Woody herb in waste places and along roadsides.

It is a native of tropical America and was first introduced into Chittagong (now in Bangla Desh) with ballast of mud from S. America. To get rid of the mud, it was supplied to a local gardener for soil. In it were seeds of *Croton* which germinated and grew. Thence it moved to Calcutta (Prain 1903) and further west, having been collected from Sabour in 1911 by Woodhouse (Srivastava 1954), Cuttack and Balasore (Haines 1921-25).

Specimen examined: Champa, Murti 19360.

## Digitaria adscendens (H.B.K.) Henr.

Semi erect grass forming mat near wet places.

It is a tropical American plant (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Lamni, Murti 19216.

## Eclipta prostrata Linn.

In moist places near ponds and drainage, as a weed in lawns. This species shows great plasticity in its growth habit, from prostrate herb to erect plant with succulent stems.

Ridley (1930), who considers it a native of S. America, suspects that it spreads by attaching to plumage of birds and also by human agency since the achenes are viscid.

Specimen examined: Parasi, Murti 19057.

### Euphorbia heterophylla Linn.

Erect herb in waste places, fallow lands and as a weed in gardens.

A native of tropical America, introduced in gardens before Hooker wrote the Flora of British India (Rajagopal 1965).

Specimen examined: Pasarkhet, Murti 19438.

#### E. hirta Linn.

Herb in fallow lands, in lawns, waste places and along roadsides.

Baker and Brink (1963) consider it as a native of tropical America, probably introduced before Roxburgh wrote his Flora Indica.

Specimen examined: Marwahi, Murti 19037.

### E. thymifolia Linn.

Abundant in the forest clearings, in lawns, waste places and along roadsides.

Probably tropical American in origin (Baker and Brink 1963) and might have been introduced at a very early time.

Specimen examined: Marwahi, Murti 19033.

#### Evolvulus nummularius (Linn.) Linn.

Abundant in waste places, fallow lands, along roadsides, river banks and on bunds of cultivated fields.

A native of tropical America (Roberty 1952) probably West Indies and probably introduced to India during last part of the 18th century, since it is recorded in Flora of British India 4: 734 under additions and corrections. It was probably introduced first around Howrah and Calcutta. This species was reported from Arrah, Champaran and Darbhanga by Burkil (Bruhl 1908) and from Bhagalpur in 1910 by Woodhouse, though both records were missed by Haines.

Specimen examined: Marwahi, Murti 19017.

#### Gomphrena celosioides Mart.

In waste places, on river and canal banks, bunds of fields and along roadsides.

Native of tropical America (South Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina), introduced into South Africa, India, Australia and Malaysia (Baker, 1954). First reported in India from Madras, Coimbatore by Gamble (1915) and then from Ranikhet and Dehradun in 1939, Allahabad, Delhi and Meerut (Raizada 1950) and Bastar (Mooney 1950).

Specimen examined: On way to Kapil-dhara from Kabirchabutra, Murti 19179.

Heliotropium indicum Linn.

On moist grounds, along river banks and roadsides.

South American in origin, introduced at about 1500 A.D. in India.

Specimen examined: Khuria, Murti 19306.

### Hyptis suaveolens Poit

An aromatic undershrub in moist waste places.

It is a native of South America (Epling 1936). In India, reported from Deccan peninsula, Cachar, Bengal and Bihar. In Haine's time found only in Chota Nagpur (Srivastava 1964).

Specimen examined: Khuria, Panigrahi 15484.

## Ipomoea fistulosa Mart.

Very troublesome stragling bushy shrub in waste places, also growing as hedge plant.

It is from tropical America and is of recent introduction (Baker and Brink 1963).

Specimen examined: Khootaghat, Murti 19525.

### Iseilema laxum Hack.

Diffused grass in waste grounds on sandy alluvium.

It is a tropical American plant. Time of its introduction not known (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Champa, Murti 19381.

#### Jatropha curcas Linn.

Large shrub in waste and abandoned places, also planted as a hedge.

A native of tropical America (Duthie 1903; Baker and Brink 1963), probably introduced at an early time.

Specimen examined: Marwahi, Murti 19022.

### J. gossypifolia Linn.

Shrub in waste places, also planted as hedge.

A native of tropical America (Brazil), introduced into India probably after 1850 as it was not collected by Hooker in 1848 (Srivastava 1964).

Specimen examined: Narainpur, Murti

#### Lagascea mollis Cav.

Herb at the edge of the forest and on the bund of cultivated fields.

A native of Mexico, got introduced into various warm countries including India quite early. In Bengal introduced between 1824 and 1845. It is not mentioned in Haines Botany.

Specimen examined: Kabirchabutra, Panigrahi 13371.

Lantana camara Linn. var. aculeata (Linn.) Mold.

In waste places, as an escape in gardens and generally grown as hedge also.

A native of Central America, introduced, according to Ridley (1930) as an ornamental plant to Ceylon in 1824. In Haines time the plant was just beginning to run wild in Ranchi.

Specimen examined: Champa, Murti 19369.

#### Malvastrum coromandelianum Garcke

Herb or undershrub along forest roads.

A native of South America (Baker and Brink 1963), introduced into India during 1900. It was collected from Sabour in Bihar by Woodhouse in 1911 though Haines did not know about it

Specimen examined; Khondra, Panigrahi 12712,

### Martynia annua Linn.

Large herb in waste places and along roadsides.

A native of Mexico and Brazil and introduced into India before 1843. It spreads by attachment of its hooked fruits to beasts, goats and sheep (Ridley 1930).

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Murti 12995.

## Mecardonia dianthera (Sw.) Penn.

Herb in moist sandy alluvium near canals and in cultivated fields.

A native of tropical America, it is of recent introduction in this country. The first record of this species is from Bengal (Prain 1903). It is not mentioned by Voigt (1845) who completed his account of the Calcutta plants in 1843 or Hooker in his Flora of British India, the last volume of which, was published in 1897. There is also no record of this species by Haines in his Botany of Bihar and Orissa. However, Mooney has collected it from Sarguja state.

Specimen examined: On way to Korbi from Pasan, Murti 19080.

### Nicandra physaloides Gaertn.

Herb in forest clearings and in waste grounds.

This plant belongs to Peru (Baker and Brink 1963).

Specimen examined: Lamni, Panigrahi 13237.

### Opuntia elatior Mill.

Growing in waste places and on the bundh of cultivated fields.

It is a south American plant (Maheshwari 1062).

Specimen evamined: On way to Ratanpur from Pondu. Panigrahi 13355.

#### Provifiora foetida Linn.

Climbino on hedges, bushes and forest undergrowths.

Native of Brazil (Duthie 1903), West Indies (Srivastava 1964) and America (Ridley 1930), introduced into India before

1845 but not quite well spread even in 1872-97.

Specimen examined: Karidongari, Murti 19330.

### Physalis minima Linn.

Herb in moist places under shade.

A native of South America probably introduced during the 17th Century to India from Malay peninsula (Ridley 1930).

Specimen examined: Lamni, Murti 19211.

#### Ruellia tuberosa Linn.

In shady situations, growing as forest undergrowth and in gardens.

A native of tropical America that had become naturalised in Central Bengal by 1903 (Prain 1903).

Specimen examined: Ratanpur, Murti
19531.

### Scoparia dulcis Linn.

Woody herb on river and canal banks and as a weed in gardens.

A south American weed, introduced into India somewhere before 1845. Linneaus described it from Jamaica in 1753 (Ridley 1930). It had become common in Bengal by 1872-97 and in Bihar on waste lands nearer towns by 1921-25.

Specimen examined: Kabirchabutra, Murti 19196.

### Sida cordata (Burm. f.) Borss.

Trailing herb among bushes, forest undergrowths and waste lands.

It is a tropical American plant (Maheshwari 1962). Time of introduction not known.

Specimen examined: Khootaghat, Murti 19514.

## Siegesbeckia orientalis Linn.

Herb on sandy alluvium near streams.

It is probably indigenous to South America, but now largely a weed of cultivation, widely distributed over the warm and dry parts of both hemisphere (Ridley 1920).

Specimen examined: On way to Kapil-dhara from Kabirchabutra, Murti 19181.

## Tridax procumbens Linn.

In waste places, fallow lands, along roadsides, on old walls and on sandy river banks.

Introduced to India as an ornamental plant before 1830 from South America. By 1845 it had become a pest in Bengal.

Specimen examined: On way to Korbi from Pasan, Murti 19082.

## Xanthium strumarium Linn.

Weed in waste places, in drying ponds, forest clearings, on bundhs of fields and in gardens.

Ridley (1930) considers it as a native of Europe on the authority of Dioscorides who figures this plant from Europe in the 1st Century. But Srivastava (1964) attributes it to south America. It spreads by its spiny adhering fruits.

Specimen examined: Khondra, Panigrahi 16738.

## 2. North-temperate:

## Anagallis arvensis Linn.

Common winter weed along forest roads, amidst forest undergrowths, on slopes and in moist situations.

Taylor (1955) while revising the genus Anagallis for tropical and south Africa, considers A. arvensis indigenous to Europe and Mediterranean regions and 'as an introduced weed' in Africa; probably introduced to India at an early time.

Specimen examined: Khondra, Panigrahi 16742.

### Oxalis corniculata Linn.

Common in moist places, field-bunds, canal banks and near drainage channel.

Ridley (1930) states "this creeping plant is very widely spread all over the world mainly by human agency. It is certainly a native of south Europe and was described by Cluspius as coming from the region in 1549. It is also probably native in the north temperate zone of the old world, being specially common in India, where there is

a hairy form and which also occurs in other warm parts of the old world."

Specimen examined: Keonchi, Murti 19154.

### Polygonum hydropiper Linn.

Decumbent herb in marshy situations along rivers and canals.

According to Maheshwari (1962) it is native of temperate region.

Specimen examined: Khuria, Panigrahi 15488.

### Potamogeton crispus Linn.

Floating herb in canals, rooting in mud. According to Maheshwari (1962) it is a native of temperate region.

Specimen examined: Khuria, Panigrahi 15486.

### Setaria glauca Beauv.

In waste places and at the edge of the forests.

It is an Eurasian plant (Maheshwari 1962). Bor (1960) treats it as a native of the warm temperate zone of the old world.

Specimen examined: Karidongari, Murti 19319.

#### Sonchus oleraceus Linn.

A common weed near river and canal banks, in shady "situations.

Probably indigenous to Europe and Eurasian region (Duthie 1903) and it is now more or less cosmopolitan in its range.

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Murti 19275.

#### Veronica anagalis Linn.

In marshy places on the banks of ponds and rivers.

A native of temperate region (Maheshwari 1962), time of introduction uncertain.

Specimen examined: Pondu, Panigrahi 16781.

3. North-African, Afro-Asian and Arabian:

#### Aristida adscensionis Linn.

Growing at the edge of the forests, on field-bunds, near rivers, in open grounds.

According to Ridley (1930) it is a native of N. Africa but is described as a Madras plant by Plunket in 1806, evidently introduced to India prior to this date.

Specimen examined: Khootaghat, Murti 19518.

### Cleome monophylla Linn.

Growing in waste places, at the edge of the forests and near nalas, streams.

It is an Afro-Asian plant (Maheshwari 1952).

Specimen examined: On way to Pendra from Pasan, Murti 19135.

## Cymbopogon martinii (Roxb.) Wats.

Occasionally found at the edge of the forests, in forest clearings, sometimes planted also.

According to Maheshwari (1962) it is an Afro-Asian plant.

Specimen examined: Katra, Panigrahi 16733.

## Emilia sonchifolia (Linn.) DC.

Common in waste places, near river and canal banks, growing on sandy alluvium.

It is an Afro-Asian plant (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Pasan, Panigrahi

## Ipomoea cairica (Linn.) Sweet

C'imbing over hedges.

Baker and Brink (1963) think it to be native of Africa and Asia. Time of introduction not certain.

Specimen examined: Champa, Murti 19380.

#### Ocimum americanum Linn.

Commonly found in plant-nurseries and near cultivated fields.

According to Maheshwari (1962) it is an Afro-Asian plant.

Specimen examined: Karidongri, Murti 19326.

## 4. Tropical and Scuth-African:

#### Corchorus olitorius. Linn.

Commonly found in moist situations, near ponds, in the gardens.

According to Brizicky (1965) it is an African element and cultivated as a pot herb in the eastern Mediteranean, particularly in Egypt from ancient time. Probably introduced at an early time.

Specimen examined: Khondra, Panigrahi 12711.

## Guizotia abyssinica (Linn. f.) Cass.

Growing near cultivated fields.

Baker and Brink (1963) think it to be a native of tropical Africa.

Specimen examined: Pasarkhet, Panigrahi 16824.

## Leonotis nepetaefolia (Linn.) Ait. f.

In waste lands and open ground.

Baker and Brink (1963) think it to be a native of tropical Africa.

Specimen examined: Kukdur, Panigrahi
16721

#### Themeda triandra Forsk.

In waste places, forest clearings and at the edge of the forest.

It is a native of Africa (Ridley 1930).

Specimen examined: Katghora, Arora 6029.

#### Urena lobata Linn.

In waste places, on slopes and at the edge of the forests.

Probably an inhabitant of Africa (Ridley 1930), spreads by its spinous adhering fruits. It was introduced into India before Roxburgh wrote his Flora Indica.

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Panigrahi 13201.

### 5. Austro-Asian:

#### Cassytha filiformis Linn.

C'imbing over shrub near streams, rivers and canals.

According to Ridley (1930) it is a native of Australia.

Specimen examined: On way to Korbi from Madai, Murti 19481.

#### Crota!aria medicagenea Lam.

Growing in waste places and near cultivated fields

According to Maheshwari (1962) it is an Austro-Asian plant.

Specimen examined: On way to Semera from Pasan, Panigrahi 15351.

## Dimeria crnithopoda Trin.

Growing at the edge of the forests and in the forest clearings.

It is an Austro-Asian element (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Kota, Panigrahi 13072.

## Indigofera linnaei Ali

Occasionally found in waste places, on slopes and near cultivated fields.

It is a native of tropical Australia and Asia (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Murti 19287.

## Ottelia alizmoides (L.) Pers.

Commonly found in stagnant water pools. According to Maheshwari it is an Austro-Asian element.

Specimen examined: On way to Pendra from Keonchi, Panigrahi 15376.

## Salvia plebia R. Br.

Herb in nursery beds and near fields.

It is an Austro-Asian plant (Maheshwari 1962).

Specimen examined: Karidongari, Murti 19333.

## Sporobolus diander Beauv.

Growing in waste places, forest clearings and in cultivated fields.

According to Maheshwari (1962) it is an Austro-Asian plant.

Specimen examined: Achanakmar, Murti 19274.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am indebted to the Director, Botanical Survey of India and Dr. G. Panigrahi, Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium for providing encouragement and valuable suggestions in the present study. Thanks are also due to Sri G. Sengupta, Systematic Botanist,

Central Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad for going through the manuscript critically.

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