

WOODSIA CYCLOLOBA HAND-MAZZ. (WOODSIACEAE) — A RARE FERN FROM NANDADEVI NATIONAL PARK, CHAMOLI DISTRICT, UTTAR PRADESH

During an exploration in August-September 1981 of Nanda Devi National Park in Chamoli District in Uttar Pradesh, the senior author collected a few interesting specimens of fern which on critical examination and subsequent scrutiny of protologue proved to be *Woodsia cycloloba* Hand.-Mazz. It was originally described from China (Yunnan) and has been reported from Sikkim and Nepal recently by Hara (1966, 1975). This species can be easily distinguished from all other species of *Woodsia* R. Br. by its delicate, imparipinnate fronds with 3-5-jugate pinnae, stipes wiry and very fragile and sori nearer to the margin.

***Woodsia cycloloba* Hand.-Mazz.** in Symb. Sinic. 6 : 19. t. 1. f. 5. 1929 ; Ching in Sinensia 3 (5) : 149. 1932.

Densely tufted 3-6 cm tall herb, glandular-hirsute throughout ; rhizome creeping, scales 1-3 mm long, lanceolate, pale brown in colour ; stipes 1-2 cm, wiry, very fragile, castaneous, a few persistent scales present at base ; fronds imparipinnate, 3-5-jugate ; pinnae broadly ovate, subcordate at base, obtuse at apex, undulate at margin, hairy ; hairs 4-6 celled, uniseriate ; veins free simple to one-forked ; sori round, on the veins, 3-4 on each side, nearer to margin than to costa ; indusium fragile, globose and enclosing the sori and breaking irregularly from the top. Spores monolet, 40-75 μ m in diameter, spinose with a translucent perispore.

Specimens examined : Uttar Pradesh : Chamoli District : Nanda Devi National Park, above Ramani camp on way to Bhujgara, 4000 m, 26.8.1981, P. K. Hajra 73332 (BSD).

Ecology : On moist rocks in *Betula-Rhododendron* forest along with *Polystichum lachnense*, *Sibboldia cuneata* and *Saxifraga* sp. extremely rare in occurrence, only one patch seen.

Earlier records : SIKKIM (Gamothing) ; NEPAL (Sojupokhari-Topkagola) ; CHINA (Yunnan).

P. K. HAJRA

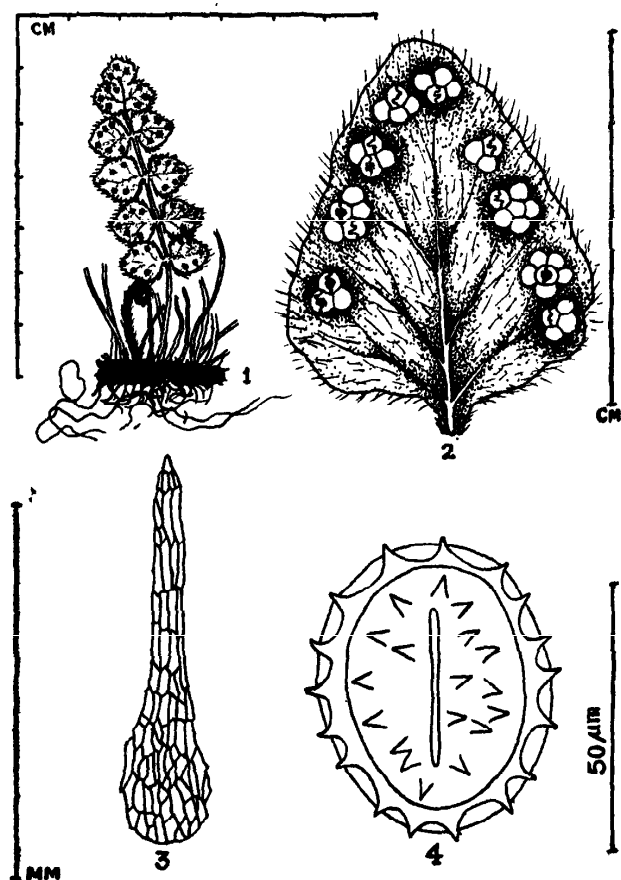
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Woodsia cycloloba Hand.-Mazz.

Figs. 1-4: 1, Habit. 2, Pinna. 3, Scale. 4, Spore.