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CORRECT IDENTITY OF SOME INDIAN PLANTS

Correct identification of seven taxa of misapplied names of plants in Indian floristic literature is indicated and discussed.

1. ***Hypocoum pendulum*** Linn. Sp. Pl. 124. 1753. *H. procumbens* auct. mult. non Linn.; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 120. 1872; Dhillon & Bhandari, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 70 : 577. 1973.

This species has been confused with *H. procumbens* Linn. which has erect, jointed fruit. In the present species, however, the fruit is deflexed and indehiscent.

Specimens examined : Samana, Rohar ; M. Sharma 3965, 4274 (PUN).

2. ***Fagonia schweinfurthii*** (Hadidi) Hadidi, Osters. Bot. Zeitschr 121 : 273. 1973. *F. indica* Burm. f. var. *schweinfurthii* Hadidi in Rech. f. Fl. Iran. 98 : 6. t. 6. 1973. *F. arabica* auct. pl. non Linn.; Edgeworth & Hook. f. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 425. 1874; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 48. 1978. *F. cretica* auct. pl. non Linn.; Parker, For. Fl. 59. 1918; Kashyap & Joshi, Lahore Dist. Fl. 56. f. 42. 1936; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi 91. 1963; Ill. Fl. Delhi 39. 1966.

This species which is characterized by 5 mm long flowers and 4×2 mm cocci has often been wrongly identified as *F. cretica* and *F. arabica* both of which occur in south Mediterranean region only and differ from the present taxon in having the

flowers and capsules of about double the size of those in *F. schweinfurthii*.

Specimens examined : University Campus Patiala, Patiala City ; M. Sharma 2043, 2088 (PUN).

3. ***Cucumis melo*** Linn. var. ***flexuosus*** (Linn.) Naud. Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 4. II. 34. 1859; Bailey, Man. Cult. Pl. 955. 1949. *C. flexuosus* Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 1437. 1763. *C. melo* Linn. var. *utilissimus* (Roxb.) Duthie & Fuller, Field & Gard. Crops 2 : 55. tt. 53, 54. 1883; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 1 : 341. 1960, repr. ed.; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi 170. 1963; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 117. 1978. *C. utilissimus* Roxb. Fl. Ind. ed. Carey 3 : 721. 1832.

This long, snake-like melon is cultivated in the plains of India and recorded under the name of *C. melo* var. *utilissimus*. But as will be clear from the synonymy cited above, it should bear the correct name *C. melo* var. *flexuosus* in accordance with Art. 11 of International Code of Botanical nomenclature.

Specimens examined : Sector 14, Chandigarh ; M. Sharma 3574 (PAN).

4. ***Filago pyramidata*** Linn. Sp. Pl. 1199. 1753; Holub in Davis, Fl. Turkey 5 : 104. 1975; in Tutin *et al.* Fl. Europ. 4 : 122. 1976. *F. spathulata* Presl, Delic. Prag. 99. 1822; Nair, Fl. Bashahr Himal.

152. 1977 ; Babu, Herb. Fl. Dehra Dun 266. 1977. *F. germanica* Linn. var. *spathulata* (Presl) DC. Prodr. 6 : 247. 1838. *F. germanica auct. pl.* non Linn. ; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3 : 277. 1881 ; Collett, Fl. Siml. 254. 1902 ; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 1 : 419. 1960, repr. ed.

In Indian floras, this taxon has often been described as *F. germanica* Linn. (= *F. vulgaris* Lam.) which is characterised by linear-lanceolate to lanceolate leaves and heads in clusters of 20-40. In *F. pyramidata*, on the other hand, leaves are obovate-oblong or spathulate and heads in clusters of 5-20.

Specimens examined : Samana, Bhankarpur, Ropar, Nangal ; M. Sharma 3249, 3518, 5653, 8503 (PUN).

5. *Sonchus wightianus* DC. Prodr. 7 : 187. 1838. *S. arvensis auct. pl.* non Linn. ; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3 : 414. 1881 ; Collett, Fl. Siml. 288. 1902 ; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 1 : 449. 1960, repr. ed. ; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi 190. 1963. *S. brachyotus auct. pl.* non DC. ; Babu, Herb. Fl. Dehra Dun 282. 1977 ; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 147. 1978.

The present species, so often described as *S. arvensis* in Indian literature, can be easily separated by smaller heads (1-1.5 cm long), achenes (2.5-3.5 mm long) and pappus-hairs (0.9-1 cm long). In contrast, *S. arvensis* possesses larger heads (2-2.5 cm long), achenes (4-4.5 mm long) and pappus-hairs (1.5 cm long). Recently, some authors have adopted the name *S. brachyotus* DC. for this taxon. The latter species is characterized by glabrous stems and glabrous or sparsely hairy heads. In *S. wightianus*, on the other hand, stems are glandular-hairy particularly on younger parts and heads are also glandular-hairy and frequently mixed with white tomentum at base.

Specimens examined : Baradari Gardens Patiala, Nabha, Banur, Bassi Pathanan ; M.

Sharma 144, 919 & 2037 ; 1326, 1886, 2665 (PUN).

6. *Nonea edgeworthii* A. DC. in DC. Prodr. 10 : 30. 1846 ; Riedl in Rech. f. Fl. Iran. 48 : 249. 1967 ; Kazmi, J. Arn. Arb. 52 : 674. 1971 ; in Stewart, Fl. W. Pak. 598. 1972. *N. pulla auct. pl.* non DC. ; Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4 : 169. 1883 ; Santapau & Henry, Dict. Fl. Pl. India 116. 1973 ; Raizada, Suppl. Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 158. 1976 ; Bhandari, Fl. Ind. Desert 238. 1978.

N. pulla, the name under which the present species has hitherto been described in India, is a more or less glandular-pubescent, perennial herb with dark reddish- or blackish-purple, 1-1.5 cm long flowers with its range of distribution from central and eastern Europe to Pakistan. The Indian specimens belong to *N. edgeworthii*—a hispid annual with white flowers which range in length from 0.7-1.1 cm.

Specimens examined : Sirhind, Banur, Rajpura, Dakala, Gandakheri, Devigarh, Ropar ; M. Sharma 2006, 2528, 2557, 2568, 2650, 3871, 8514 (PUN).

7. *Plantago amplexicaulis* Cav. subsp. *bauphula* (Edgew.) Rech. f. Fl. Iran. 15 : 11. 1965 ; Kazmi in Nasir & Ali, Fl. W. Pak. 62 : 10. 1974. *P. bauphula* Edgew. in Hook. J. Bot. 2 : 285. 1840. *P. amplexicaulis* Cav. var. *bauphula* (Edgew.) Pilger, Notizb. Bot. Gart. Berlin 9 : 1102. 1927. *P. amplexicaulis auct. pl.* non Cav. ; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4 : 706. 1885 ; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 2 : 123. 1960, repr. ed. ; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 217. 1978.

According to Rechinger f. and Kazmi, subsp. *amplexicaulis* is distributed from Algeria to Arabia. The type of subsp. *bauphula*, on the other hand, was collected from "Malwa et Pentapotamia, Sikh State" by Edgeworth. This area belongs to the Punjab state of India. Subsp. *bauphula* is

characterized by glabrous sepals and 2-2.5 mm long corolla-lobes while in the subsp. *amplexicaulis* the posterior sepal is with hairy keel and corolla-lobes are 3.25-3.75 mm long.

Specimens examined : Univ. Campus Patiala, M. Sharma 2565.

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ADDITIONS TO THE PTERIDOPHYTIC FLORA OF SIKKIM HIMALAYAS

The fern flora of Sikkim Himalayas is fairly rich. Smith & Cave (1911), Smith (1913) and Rao (1963) mentioned some species of ferns. A comprehensive treatise is by Mehra & Bir (1964). Recently Ohasi (1975) also reported on the ferns of Sikkim. After the establishment of a circle of the Botanical Survey of India in December 1979 at Gangtok, 11 species of ferns not so far reported from the State could be discovered and they are enumerated below. All the specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Sikkim Himalayas Circle, Gangtok.

OSMUNDACEAE

Osmunda regalis L. Sp. Pl. 1065. 1753 ; Clarke in Trans. Linn. Soc. Ser. 2 (Bot.) 1 : 583. 1880 ; Bedd., Handb. Ferns Brit. India 450, t. 276. 1883 ; Panigrahi et Dixit in Journ. Ind. Bot. Soc. 48 : 95. 1969.

Stipe tufted *ca* 35 cm tall. Fronds pinnate 20 cm long. Fertile segments *ca* 30 cm long. Sporangia cylindrical. Spores trilete.

Raj Bhavan Campus, East District, *ca* 1850 m, 27.4.1980, P. K. Hajra 152.

POLYPODIACEAE

Lepisorus amaurolepida (Sledge) Bir et Tir-kha in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 11 : 266. 1969 ; *Pleopeltis amaurolepida* Sledge in Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. 2 (5) : 136. 1960.

Rhizome creeping scaly. Fronds linear-lanceolate, base decurrent on stipe, *ca* 25 cm

long, 8 mm broad. Sori globose many arranged on either sides of the distinct midrib.

Balwakhani, Gangtok, East District *ca* 1800 m ; 25.4.1980, P. K. Hajra 99.

DENNSTAEDTLACEAE

Oleandra pistillaris (Sw.) C. Chr. Ind. Fil. Suppl. iii : 132. 1934 ; Dansk. Bot. Ark. 9 : 17. 1937 ; *Aspidium pistillare* Sw. Schrad. J. 1800 : 30. 1801.

Epiphyte, stem erect, densely covered with scales. Fronds digitate *ca* 25 cm long, 7 mm broad, narrowed at the base, widest above the middle and narrowed at apex. Sori arranged in a row on either sides of the midrib.

Burtuk Basti near Gangtok, East District, *ca* 1700 m, 25.4.1981, P. K. Hajra 84.

Pteris aspericaulis Wall. ex Agardh, Rec. Spec. Gen. Pterid. 22. 1839 ; Alston & Bonner in Candollea 15 : 201. 1956 ; *Pteris quadriaurita* Retz. var. *aspericaulis* Bedd., Handb. Ferns Brit. India (with Suppl.) 111. 1892.

Terrestrial *ca* 1 m tall. Stipe rigid *ca* 50 cm tall, red. Pinnae *ca* 20 cm long, 3 cm broad, nerves red. Sori arranged along the edge of the pinnules.

Rumtek, East District, *ca* 1750 m, 17.4.1980, P. Chakraborty 112.

P. rigida Sod. Sert. Fl. Ecaud. 11 : 15. 1908 (non Swartz 1806).