

NOTES ON DISTRIBUTION OF SOME PLANTS FROM KEONJHAR DISTRICT,
ORISSA

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While persuing the district flora analysis of the Keonjhar district in Orissa, the following taxa were found to have some interesting distributional features. They are enumerated below with short description and appropriate distributional note for each.

Argyreia pilosa Arn. (Convolvulaceae)*Flowering & Fruiting* : July-October.*Occurrence* : Rare.

Distribution : So far recorded from Peninsular India (Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra), the present collection forms a new record for Orissa. It has been collected from damp hill sides growing on hedges and also on fences at Banspal of Keonjhar district. The occurrence of this species in Keonjhar, Orissa extends its range of distribution to further north and east.

Representative specimen : Banspal, Mondal 1035, 7.11.1985.

Cycas circinalis L. (Cycadaceae)*Flowering & Fruiting* : June-August.*Occurrence* : Rare.

Distribution : In India this species is reported from the Peninsular India (Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala) and Orissa. Haines (1924) reported it from Puri and Angul, Mooney (1950) stated that it occurs in all types of forests in Orissa, the northern limit being the border line of Sambalpur and Keonjhar. Saxena and Brahmam (1983) reported it to be vulnerable from Puri and

Ganjam. While collecting this in the Sal dominated Atai Reserve Forest in Keonjhar, we have seen a good population there. Contrary to Mooney's observations it has not been seen in any of the other forests in Keonjhar during the last five years of exploration.

Representative specimen : Atai Reserve Forest, Mondal 660, 3.6.1984.

Gnetum scandens Roxb. (Gnetaceae)Syn. *G. ula* Brongn.*Flowering & Fruiting* : April-July.*Occurrence* : Rare.

Distribution : Reported from Western Ghats, parts of Eastern Ghats, M.P., Andamans and Mayurbhanj district of Orissa. Collection of the species from hilly, moist mixed broad leaved forest of Guptaganga near the source of Baitarani, growing on *Diospyros embryopteris* is a new distributional record from Keonjhar. The nomenclature of this taxon follows the concept of Banerjee and Mazumdar (1969). However, it could not be collected in reproductive stage and is the only specimen seen in the district.

Representative specimen : Guptaganga, Mondal 114, 14.8.83.

Schefflera stellata (Gaertner) Harms (Araliaceae)*Flowering & Fruiting* : May-June.*Occurrence* : Rare.

Distribution : Previously reported from

Sri Lanka and Peninsular India (Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka). The present collection from hilly, moist mixed forest if Daitari and near the source of Baitarani (Gonarika) in Keonjhar District extends its northern distribution limit into Orissa.

Representative specimens : Daitari, Mondal 688, 4.6.84 and near source of Baitarani, Gonasika, Mondal 1173, 31.1.88.

***Strobilanthes auriculatus* Nees (Acanthaceae)**

Flowering & Fruiting : October-December.

Occurrence : Rare.

Distribution : A periodically flowering species previously reported from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, the southern limit of which was held by Mooney (1950) to be the Sambalpur-Keonjhar line. The present observation of this species growing in the Tarmakant Tea Estate in the north-west Keonjhar is further south in Keonjhar.

The previous years of flowering as mentioned by Meher-Homji (1971) have been 1905, 1911, 1919-1920, 1924, 1930, 1937-38, 1945-46, 1953-55 and 1970. He observed simultaneous flowering of this species in Saranda (Bihar), Simlipal hills (Orissa) and on the hills of South India. The flowering

time reported by Meher-Homji was February-March. The present authors collected it in flowers in November 1985. It appears that the periodicity of flowering is at a gap of 6-7 years.

Representative specimen : Tarmakant Tea Estate, Mondal 1107, 8.11.85.

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