

Mirashi 252 (BLAT). GUJARAT : Dangs, Unai, Westward along Rly. line, 3.11.1953, *Santapau* 17268 (BLAT); Saurashtra, Sasan-gir to Junvania, 5.10.1953, *Santapau* 16359 (BLAT).

Notes : *A. nagpurensis* T. Mathew et Nayar is closely allied to *A. multiflora* Roxb. but can easily be distinguished from it by having : sparsely branched stem, very long peduncles (up to 15 mm), subrotund calyx lobes with mucronate tip, stamens as long as or shorter than the calyx tube and flowers and fruits lax, whereas in the latter species stem densely branched, peduncles shorter (up to 5 mm), calyx lobes triangular with acute or acuminate apex, stamens longer than the calyx tube and flowers and fruits

crowded. Spermoderm of both the species have been studied under the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) and observed that the shape, orientation as well as thickenings of the cells are different from each other.

This species is named after its type locality.

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A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *ROTALA RITCHIEI* (CLARKE) KOEHNE

In course of the revisionary studies of Lythraceae, the authors came across an interesting herbarium specimen, which on critical examination turned out to be *Rotala ritchiei* (Clarke) Koehne, a very rare plant that was hitherto known to be strictly endemic to the northern W. Ghats as it was known only from two isolated collections from Belgaum and Pune. This particular specimen (*Fischer* 1419, CAL), collected from Devarakerai at ca 1575 m altitude in the Coimbatore hills of Tamil Nadu State, was earlier misidentified as *Ammannia pentandra* Roxb. The correct identification of this specimen thus extends the distribution of *R. ritchiei* to the southern W. Ghats as well. Apparently at one time the species had a much wider range in the W. Ghats. The species, *R. ritchiei*, is based on Ritchie's collection from the "rice fields amongst floating weeds" in Belgaum and was originally described as *Ammannia ritchiei* Clarke.

After a lapse of nearly a hundred years

since the type collection, it was recollected in the year 1966 (Janardhanan, 1979). The locality from which it was then collected is now completely disturbed owing to urbanisation and no populations of *R. ritchiei* could be located there later on. This threatened species is already listed in the Indian Plant Red Data Book (1987).

The plant is an annual, half-submerged, aquatic herb with a very short life span. It appears soon after monsoon in the submergible areas at the shallow fringes of ponds and starts flowering from August onwards. The specialised habitat of the plant is obviously the reason why it escapes notice and, as such, has such a poor representation in herbaria. An intensive survey of the Devarakerai and similar habitats in the adjoining areas is warranted to see if any surviving populations of this very interesting plant can be found. Since the species is at present feared to be vulnerable, every attempt should be made to locate this species in its

known range and study its biology for conservation purposes. Since wetland ecosystems are getting depleted, it is necessary to identify areas of its distribution.

Specimens examined : INDIA : Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore Dt., Devarakerai, 5200 ft. 13 Feb. 1907, *C. E. C. Fischer* 1419 (CAL); Maharashtra, Poona Dt., Kochala cha talao, on Chakan-Alandi Road, 16 Aug. 1966, *Janardhanan* 68579 (BSI); *ibid* 8 Oct. 1966, *Janardhanan* 92784 (BSI); Karnataka, Belgaum, Oct. *Ritchie* 1184 (TYPE, PHOTO-CAL).

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— In : NAYAR, M. P. & A. R. K. SASTRY. (Ed). *Red Data Book of Indian Plants* 1 : 190-191. 1987.

A NEW *OIDIUM* SPECIES FROM COIMBATORE, INDIA

Sesbania grandiflora (L.) Poir. of Fabaceae is extensively cultivated in the backyards of Coimbatore for its use as a green vegetable. For the past two years, a particular powdery mildew fungus was noticed on these plants. To study the fungus in detail, these plants were planted on December 15, 1987 and were kept under continuous observations. The infection started appearing only after the plants attained the age of one month. The severity of infection was during the month of February, 1988. The infection was mostly restricted to the upper surface of the lower leaves with less infection on the young leaves. Severely infected leaves turned yellow and resulted in defoliation. Such plants were easily noticed even from a distance with yellow-coloured lower leaves covered with a mass of white patches. However, by the end of March, 1988 the plants were almost free from the disease. The disappearance of the disease may be due to the decrease of humidity in the air. Throughout the observations, the fungus persisted in its

anamorph stage only. This disease has been reported on the same host from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam but the fungus was indicated as *Oidium* sp. with a specific name. Since the fungus persists only in its anamorph stage, it is necessary to propose a name. Hence the fungus is described here as a new species.

Oidium fabacearum Hosagoudar, *sp. nov.*

Plagulae infectionis foliicolae, epiphyllae, albae, densae, ad 4 mm diam., confluentis. Hyphae mycelii effusae, albae, septatae, 3-5 μ m latae. Appressoria moderatim lobata. Conidiophora erecta, cellulis (1-) 2(-3) sequentibus, 25-50 $\times$ 5-9.5 μ m : fundus pedis rectus, plerumque curvatus vel anfractus. Conidia solitaria, ellipsoideo-ovoidea vel doliiformio-cylindracea, 25-45 $\times$ 12-19 μ m.

Infection spots foliicolous, epiphyllous, white, dense, up to 4 mm in diameter, confluent. Mycelium effuse, white, septate, 3-5 μ m broad. Appressoria moderately lobed. Conidiophores erect, followed by (1-) 2(-3) short cells, 25-50 $\times$ 5-9.5 μ m ; basal portion