

SOME RARE AND NOTEWORTHY PLANTS FROM MAHARASHTRA

During the botanical explorations in Kolhapur district some rare and noteworthy plants were collected from moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests and sacred groves (Dev Raies) along the Sahyadris, which generally occur in the forests of adjoining Karnataka and Kerala States. However, Cooke in his Flora of the Presidency of Bombay also sometimes mentions these plants from obscure localities or by terms meaning wider regions e.g. 'Konkan' comprising Thane, Bombay, Kulaba, Ratnagiri and Goa, 'Southern Maratha (s. m.) country' comprising parts of Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts from Maharashtra and Belgaum, Dharwar & Bijapur districts from Karnataka. The present report is significant as these plants are collected after a lapse of a very long time. Besides, these are scantily represented in the Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL) that too mostly without any specific locality and are not at all represented in the Regional Herbarium at Pune (BSI).

In this paper nomenclature has been brought upto-date and the citations include only the regional Floras for the sake of brevity. All the specimens cited are deposited in the herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune (BSI) under the senior author's name.

RANUNCULACEAE

Naravelia zeylanica (L.) DC. Syst. 1: 167. 1818; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 4. 1967 (repr. ed.).

Cooke (*l.c.*) records it from 's. m. country': Dharwar & North Kanara (Karnataka). There is but one sheet in CAL labelled only 'Bombay Presidency' collected by J. Fernandez (1754) on 9-11-1950. So the present report from Maharashtra is an extension northwards besides being a collection from a specific locality.

Only a solitary plant of this climber was

found in a sacred grove, in association with *Solena heterophylla* Lour.

Specimens examined: Hanumante Rai near Patgaon, Gargoti 162170.

RUTACEAE

Clausena indica (Dalz.) Oliver in Journ. Linn. Soc. 5, Suppl. 2: 36. 1861; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 194. 1967 (repr. ed.). *Piptostylis indica* Dalz. in Hook. Journ. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 3: 33. t. 2. 1851.

This species is recorded by Cooke (*l.c.*) from 's. m. country': Parva ghat in Belgaum district & Ainshi in North Kanara district in Karnataka. There are 4 sheets in CAL collected by Talbot (1885) & Calzell (1878) without any locality. The present collection from Kolhapur district indicates northward extension of distribution from a specific locality.

A few shrubs were growing in a sacred grove along with *Ixora bractiata* Roxb.

Specimens examined: Gangoba Rai at Nervei, Gaganbavda 162315.

CELASTRACEAE

Euonymus indicus Heyne ex Wall. in Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 409. 1824; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1: 242. 1967 (repr. ed.).

This species is reported by Cooke (*l.c.*) from 's. m. country': North Kanara district in Karnataka State based on collections by Woodrow, Kanitkar and Talbot. There are no sheets of this species in CAL. The present collection from Kolhapur district is made after 79 years and is a northward extension of distribution in Maharashtra.

Only a few trees were seen in a sacred grove associated with *Clausena indica* (Dalz.) Oliver.

Specimens examined: Gangoba Rai at Nervei, Gaganbavda 162314.

RUBIACEAE

Hedyotis nitida Wight & Arn. Prodr. 412.

1834; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 14. 1967 (repr. ed.).

Cooke (l.c.) reports this species from 's. m. country': Dharwar and North Kanara districts in Karnataka State. There is but one sheet in CAL labelled 'Bombay Presidency' collected by J. Fernandez (1881) on 25-11-1950.

The present report from Kolhapur district indicates northern extension of distribution from Maharashtra.

A rare prostrate herb in moist shady places along a stream with *Headyotis auricularia* L.

Specimens examined: Sambarpani, Dajipur Bison Sanctuary, Radhanagari 162272.

Lasianthus acuminatus Wight in Calcutta Journ. Nat. Hist. 6: 511. 1845; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 456. 1967 (repr. ed.).

The species is reported by Gamble (l.c.) from the Nilgiris, Pulney and Tinnevely in Tamil Nadu and is represented in BSI from Shimoga, Chikmagalur and South Kanara districts in Karnataka and Travancore & Devikulam from Kerala. There is no sheet of this species in CAL from Maharashtra. The present collection from Kolhapur district extends its northward distribution and also is an addition to the Flora of Maharashtra.

A few shrubs were found growing along the bank of a stream in association with *Agrostistachys indica* Dalz.

Specimens examined: Sambarpani, Dajipur Bison Sanctuary, Radhanagari 162271.

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Genianthus laurifolius (Roxb.) Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 16. 1883; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 2: 213. 1967 (repr. ed.). *Asclepias laurifolia* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 49. 1832. (PLATE I).

This species is recorded by Cooke (l.c.) from 'Konkan' based on collections by Dalzell & Stocks at Nilkund & Gairsoppa ghats in North Kanara from Karnataka State. There is only one sheet in CAL collected by



Plate I: *Genianthus laurifolius* (Roxb.) Hook. f.

Stocks showing distribution: Malabar to Konkan. The present collection from Kolhapur district indicates its specific locality of occurrence in Maharashtra State for the first time besides being a re-collection after more than a century.

A solitary climber, found on forest slopes on *Mallotus philippensis* (Lamk.) Muell.-Arg.

Specimens examined: Slopes of the Gaganad (Gaganfort), Gaganbavda 162302.

EUPHORBIACEAE

Blachia denduata Benth. in Journ. Linn. Soc. 17: 226. 1880; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 3: 100. 1967 (repr. ed.).

This species is reported by Cooke (l.c.) from 'Konkan': Goa jungles and 's. m. country': Chorla ghat in Belgaum district & Gairsoppa in North Kanara district in Karnataka. This species is not represented in CAL for Maharashtra. The present re-

port from Kolhapur district extends the northward distribution of the species from a precise locality in Maharashtra besides being collected after more than a century.

Occasional shrubs in moist deciduous forests along with *Nilgirianthus* sp.

Specimens examined: Dajipur Bison Sanctuary, Radhanagari 162257.

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IMPATIENS SCITULA HOOK. F. —A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Hooker (1905) in his epitome of the British Indian species of *Impatiens* L. treated several new Eastern Himalayan species with only a key to them. One of these is *I. scitula* Hook. f. based on a collection from Tibet, Chumbi valley gathered by King's Collector in 1882. Subsequently, other collections of G. King and B. Safui from Tonglo, Darjeeling, West Bengal are identifiable to this species showing its extension of distribution to India. As Hooker's key included only the bare outline of this plant, a detailed description with an illustration is now provided.

Impatiens scitula Hook. f. in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. 4: 14. 18. 1905.

Herb, succulent, somewhat swollen at the nodes, glabrous. *Leaves* elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, 2-3 × 1.0-1.5 cm, acute, crenate, with bristles in the notches; secondary veins 3-4 pairs with faint reticulations, whitish beneath; petiole slender, 2-9 mm long. *Inflorescence* a raceme; peduncles both axillary and subterminal, slender, 1.0-1.7 cm long, simple or 2-pedicelled; pedicels filiform, 0.8-1.5 cm long, bracteate; bracts 1 or 2, ca 2.0 × 1.5 mm. *Flowers* 3.0-3.5 cm long. *Sepals* 4, the outer sepals ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 4-5 × 2-3 mm, acuminate, entire with a slightly cordate base, the

posterior one saccate, suddenly narrowed into the incurved spur. *Petals* 5; standard ovate, 5-8 × ca 5 mm, acute, entire; base cordate; wings with broad lateral lobes, 2.5-3.0 cm long, distal lobe loriform with caudate base. *Stamens* 5; filaments dilated, 4-5 mm long. *Carpels* 5; ovary linear-oblong, on a cup-like disc at the base; style absent; stigma 5-lobed. *Capsule* (immature) linear, 1.0-1.7 cm long. *Seeds* many. (Figs. 1-8).

Distribution: Tibet (Chumbi); India (West Bengal-Tonglo).

Flowering and fruiting: September to October.

Specimens examined: TIBET: Tibet, 1882, King's Collector s. n. (3 gatherings). INDIA: West Bengal, Tonglo, 3300 m, 11.10.1876, G. King 3076; Tonglo North, 3071 m, 11.9.1962, B. Safui 1604 (2 gatherings) [CAL].

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