

Editorial Note

PLANTS AND THE INDIAN WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT

The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, of the Government of India provided for the protection of wild animals and birds and included in its Schedules, several groups of animals. Schedule I, Part (i) included mammals, Part (ii) Amphibians and reptiles and Part (iii) Birds. Schedule II included Special Game, Schedule III, the Big Game, Schedule IV, Small Game and Schedule V, the Vermin.

There was no provision for protection of plants as such, except the protection which the vegetation received indirectly through certain clauses which referred to as the habitat(s) of animals.

A Special Sub-Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. K. Seth to examine the various amendments to the sections of the Wild Protection Act. The Botanical Survey of India was represented in this Committee and was actively involved in preparing the draft incorporating in the Wild Life Act the various aspects relating to protection of the flora of the country. The draft proposals for amendments to the Wild Life Act were placed before the 14th meeting of the I.B.W.L. which was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 9th February, 1981. The draft now includes plants and plant-products at almost all those places where animals and animal-products had a reference in the Act. Similarly, two schedules are proposed to be added to the draft of the Act, which relate to the plant-products (Schedule I-B and Schedule II, Part (B)). These draft Schedules are as below:

Proposals—Wildlife (Protection) Act (IBWL)

SCHEDULE I-B

1. *Aconitum* spp.
2. *Cephalotaxus griffithii*
3. *Colchicum luteum*

4. *Coptis teeta*
5. *Costus speciosus*
6. *Cypripedium* spp.
7. *Dendrobium densiflorum*
8. *Dioscorea deltoidea*
9. *Dioscorea prazeri*
10. *Drosera* spp.
11. *Ephedra* spp.
12. *Iphigenia stellata*
13. *Nardostachys grandiflora*
14. *Nepenthes khasiana*
15. *Paphiopedilum* spp. ..
16. *Pecteilis gigantea*
17. *Rauwolfia serpentina*
18. *Renanthera imschootiana*
19. *Rhododendron edgeworthii*
20. *Rhododendron dalhousiae* var. *rhabdotum*
21. *Rhododendron nuttallii*
22. *Saussurea obvallata*

SCHEDULE II—PART-B

Flora

1. *Abies delavayi*
2. *Aldrovanda vesiculosa*
3. *Anemia tomentosa*
4. *Angiopteris evecta*
5. *Bentinckia condapanna*
6. *Botrychium* spp.
7. *Brainea insignis*
8. *Ceropegia* spp.
9. *Cyathea* spp.
10. *Cycas beddomei*
11. *Cycas pectinata*
12. *Dianthus cachemericus*
13. *Didicea cunninghamii*
14. *Diospyros marmorata*
15. *Dipteris wallichii*
16. *Dischidia rafflesiana*
17. *Entada pursaetha*
18. *Eremostachys superba*
19. *Frerea indica*
20. *Gentiana kurroo*
21. *Gnetum* spp.
22. *Helminthostachys zeylanica*
23. *Hyphaene dichotoma*
24. *Lavatera kashmiriana*
25. *Lespedeza elegans*
26. *Lilium manipurense*
27. *Lilium neilgherrense*
28. *Lobelia nicotianaefolia*
29. *Loropetalum chinense*
30. *Osmunda cinnamomea*
31. *Platycerium wallichii*
32. *Podocarpus neriifolia*
33. *Podophyllum hexandrum*
34. *Rauwolfia beddomei*
35. *Rheum emodei*
36. *Rheum nobile*
37. *Rhododendron arizelum*
38. *Saussurea bracteata*

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| 39. <i>Saussurea lappa</i> | 44. <i>Uvaria nicobarica</i> |
| 40. <i>Saussurea gnaphaloides</i> | 45. <i>Valeriana</i> spp. |
| 41. <i>Schizaea digitata</i> | 46. <i>Vanda coerulea</i> |
| 42. <i>Taeniophyllum</i> spp. | 47. <i>Zanthoxylum scandense</i> |
| 43. <i>Tetracentron sinense</i> var. <i>himalayense</i> | |

The whole matter is under examination. Meantime, the above lists should help botanists and foresters to collect more data on their biology and conservation.

REDISCOVERY OF *EUGENIA DISCIFERA* GAMBLE (MYRTACEAE) AND ITS LECTOTYPIFICATION

Henry *et al.* (1978) have listed 224 species of flowering plants presumably in danger of extinction in South India among which *Eugenia discifera* Gamble is one.

During an intensive botanical exploration in Sethur Hills of Ramanathapuram Dt., Tamil Nadu in 1979, special attention was paid to relocate rare and threatened plants which resulted in the rediscovery of this very interesting taxon. The present finding extends the earlier known distribution of the species.

Gamble (1918) described this species based on the collections of T. F. Bourdillon from the evergreen forests of Western Ghats in Travancore near Chimunji on April 3, 1895. So far this species was not represented in MH. But, there are two specimens in CAL. One of them, T. F. Bourdillon 580 was collected on April 3, 1895. The other had been collected on 9th April, 1895 near Chimunji (exact locality not indicated) and the collector's name is not mentioned on the sheet, but bears the number 965 (Acc. No. 170282, CAL).

While describing this species, Gamble (1918) remarked, "*Fructus ignotus*". It is of interest that this species could be relocated with flowers in Sethur Hills, Ramanathapuram Dt., Tamil Nadu in the year 1979 and with fruits in 1980 after a lapse of 85 years. A description of the fruits and seeds is presented here for the first time.

Gamble (1918) while describing the spe-

cies cited two numbers—T. F. Bourdillon 580 and 787 in the protologue, but failed to indicate one of them as the type or holotype. Hence both of them became syntypes. The specimen—Near Chimunji, Trabancore, 1300 m (4000 ft), April 3, 1895, T. F. Bourdillon 580 (CAL)—is designated as the lectotype of the species.

Eugenia discifera Gamble in Kew Bull. 1918: 239. 1918 & Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 342. 1957 (repr. ed.).

Small trees 7-10 m high; trunk 30-50 cm across; branchlets glabrous. Leaves 3-6 × 2-3.5 cm, opposite, orbicular-obovate or obovate, entire, recurved, coriaceous, pellucid-dotted, glabrous, obtusely abruptly acuminate at apex, attenuate at base; midrib impressed above, raised beneath; petioles 3-7 mm long, glabrous. Flowers ± 2 cm across, white, axillary, in pairs; pedicels ± 7 mm long, tomentose. Berries ± 2 × 1.7 cm, subglobose, crowned with persistent calyx lobes; seeds ± 1.4 cm across, globose; radicle minute; cotyledons undivided (pseudomonocotyledonous).

Specimens examined: TAMIL NADU: Ramanathapuram District, Sethur Hills, 1350 m, 12-6-1979, in fl., Srinivasan 63532 (MH); Sethur Hills, 1350 m, 22-7-1980, in fr., Srinivasan 65986 (MH). KERALA: Trivandrum District, near Chimunji, Travancore, 1300 m (4000 ft), 3-4-1895, T. F. Bourdillon 580 (lectotype, CAL); near Chimunji, 1300 m