

brahmeswaram on 24.10.1964. The label states that the plant is common. Ellis' plants have fruits which were not described so far. The above two collections extend the distribution of the plant to the South-East (Andhra Pradesh). Any further information regarding distribution and ecological preferences of this species is very desirable.

As Cooke's description is incomplete, a fuller description of the species based on our observations is provided.

**Oianthus disciflorus** Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 49, 1883.

Climber, stem sparsely pubescent. Leaves 12-12 × 7-10 cm, elliptic-oblong or ovate-oblong, subacute or obtuse, glabrous, base subcordate. Petioles 2-3 cm long. Flowers in small, sub-sessile lateral cymes arising between the petioles. Calyx lobes divided nearly to the base, 1.5 mm long, oblong, obtuse. Corolla disciform, vertically depressed and

5 mm in diameter. Corona 5 lobed, with entire, somewhat in-curved apex. Follilcles in pairs, 8-14 cm long, straight, tapering to a point at the apex, glabrous. Seeds numerous, 1 cm in diameter, broadly ovate or orbicular, glabrous and pale brown in colour; coma 5 cm long, silkywhite.

*Specimens examined*: ANDHRA PRADESH: Kurnool Dt., Ramanapenta, 31.8.1917, *Collector?* 14979 (MH), in flowers; Gundlabrahmeswaram—way to Digurametta, ± 610 m, in flowers & fruits, common, 24.10.1964, *J. L. Ellis* 22187 (CAL). KARNATAKA: North Canara Dt., Yellapore, in flowers, 15.9.1884, *Talbot s. n.* (BSI); Karwar, ± 180 ft, in flowers, 22.7.1933, *T. R. Bell s. n.* Acc. No. 295835 (CAL).

N. C. NAIR AND V. S. RAMACHANDRAN  
*Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore*

## EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION OF AN ENDEMIC SPECIES OF *SIDA* L.

Jacob (1947) described *Sida beddomei* based on specimens collected by him from Kan-noth, Malabar district (presently Kerala). He indicated the distribution of the species as 'Coorg and South Canara' only.

A careful scrutiny of the specimens of the genus *Sida* L. housed at the herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune 411001 (BSI), revealed the occurrence of this species in Londa and Yellapore of N. Kanara and Goa which were under the erstwhile Bombay Presidency. Perusal of the literature (Karthikeyan, *et al.* 1981), indicated that this species has not been so far reported from the former Bombay Presidency and hence it is being reported here. Incidentally this is the first record after its first publication,

As it appears that this species is often confused with the allied *Sida cordata* (Burm. f.) Borss. (*S. veronicaefolia* Lamk.) the chief differences between the two species as given by Jacob, *l.c.* is reproduced here to enable its location.

<i>Sida cordata</i> (Burm.f.) Borss. ( <i>S. veronicaefolia</i> Lamk.)	<i>Sida beddomei</i> Jacob
1. The whole plant pubescent	1. Plant very sparsely pubescent
2. Leaves acute	2. Leaves acuminate
3. The pedicels jointed near the middle	3. The pedicels jointed near the flower
4. Calyx 3-4 mm long	4. Calyx 8-9 mm long
5. Calyx lobe is 1/2 as long as the tube	5. Calyx lobe is 2-2½ times longer than the tube
6. Carpels with unequally two-lipped beaks	6. Carpels with flat muticous processes

*Specimens examined*: GOA: Budasari, Goundugarha, 10-11-1962, in flowers, *R. S. Rao* 84583. KARNATAKA: Yellapore, N.

Kanara, 22-10-1883, in flowers & fruits, *W. A. Talbot s. n.*; Londa, 3-11-1902, in flowers, *G. A. Gammie* 15881; Koynad range, Coorg, 5-3-1959, in flowers, *B. M. Wadhwa* 48851; Kibbetta, 1½ m north of Somwarpet, Coorg Dt., 15-10-1963, Flowers & fruits, *A. S. Rao* 94618. KERALA: Vandalodu-Ettapaddapu Road, 9-2-1961, in flowers, *K. N. Subramanian* 70474. (Found endemic to the above regions).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grateful thanks are due to the Director,

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for facilities.

S. KARTHIKEYAN, B. D. SHARMA  
AND

(Miss) S. K. MUDALIAR  
*Botanical Survey of India, Pune*

#### REFERENCES

- JACOB, K. CHERIAN. Some new species of South Indian Plants. *Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 47 : 48-51, pl. 3. 1947.
- KARTHIKEYAN, S., M. P. NAYAR AND R. SUNDARA RAGHAVAN. A catalogue of species added to Cookes' Flora of the Presidency of Bombay during 1908-1978. *Rec. Bot. Surv. India* 21(2) : 153-205. 1981.

### REDISCOVERY OF THREE RARE AND ENDEMIC PLANTS OF INDIA

During a botanical exploration in the western slopes of Agastyamalai in Trivandrum District, Kerala, in March 1980 three rare plants endemic to the south-western Ghats of India viz. *Humboldtia unijuga* Bedd. (Caesalpiniaceae), *Pogostemon travancoricum* Bedd. (Labiatae) and *Vanilla wightiana* Lindl. ex Hook. f. (Orchidaceae) were rediscovered. Every effort should be made to protect these plants. The specimens cited are from MH, unless otherwise indicated.

***Humboldtia unijuga*** Bedd. Ic. t. 108. 1874; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 291. 1957 (repr. ed.).

Trees up to 7 m tall. Leaves subsessile; leaflets only one pair, 9-16 × 2.5-4.5 cm, oblique with a broad gland at base; stipules 0.5-1.3 × 0.4 cm, lanceolate, coriaceous; petioles up to 0.5 cm long, flattened. Flowers crimson, in short racemes on the old branches (occasionally from young shoots).

This tree reported by Beddome (l. c.) as "abundant on Travancore hills just below Agastyar peak at 3-4000 ft elevation" was known hitherto only from Travancore (Kerala) and Tirunelveli District (Tamil

Nadu) through collections made by Beddome around 1870. After a lapse of over 100 years this species has been collected in the type locality.

*Specimens examined*: KERALA: "Travancore Hills" 1873, *Beddome s. n.* (Acc. No. 18465, 18467, 18468—Syntypes); way to Poonkulam, Agastyamalai, 4-3-1980, *A. N. Henry* 66404; Beyond Adhirumalai, way to Agastyarkudam, 4-3-1980, *M. Mohanan* 65022. "Tirunelveli, Travancore" (CAL).

***Pogostemon travancoricum*** Bedd. Ic. t. 159. 1874; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 794. 1957 (repr. ed.).

Erect undershrubs up to 70 cm tall. Leaves 4.0-12.5 × 2.5 cm, ovate, doubly serrate; petioles up to 4 cm long. Flowers violet, in racemes up to 9 cm long.

This species is represented in MH only by the type collection from "Attraymallay ghat". It is not represented in CAL. This very rare plant was recently rediscovered on the way to Agastyarkudam at an elevation of 1700 m, after a lapse of 100 years.

*Specimens examined*: KERALA: Trivandrum Dt., way to Poonkulam, 4-3-1980, *A. N. Henry* 66408; Beyond Adhirumalai, way