

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).

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S. KARTHIKEYAN, B. D. SHARMA
AND

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

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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

to Agastyarkudam, 4-3-1980, *M. Mohanan* 66018; "Attraymallay ghat", *Beddome s. n.* (Acc. No. 41055, 41056—Syntypes).

Vanilla wightiana Lindl. ex Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 90. 1890; Fischer in Gamble Fl. Pres. Madras 3: 1015. 1957 (repr. ed.); Henry *et al.* in J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 75: 696. 1978 (1979). *V. aphylla* sensu Wight, Icon. Pt. 931. 1845, non Blume 1825.

Leafless, branched, climbing shrubs; internodes rooting. Flowers 4 cm long in axillary racemes; bracts up to 4 mm long; sepals 2.2-2.5 × 0.4-0.7 cm, greenish yellow; petals 2.7 × 0.9 cm, yellow; lip 1.5 cm long, 3-lobed with a median hirsute line, side lobes rounded, mid lobe ovate, acute, thickly clothed with long yellow hairs towards the apex and 6 retrosely barbate, brown crests towards the base; column 1.2 cm long.

This pretty climbing orchid with conspicuous pale yellow flowers, was not so far represented in MH and CAL, and was declared as a threatened plant by Henry *et al.* (l. c.). The present collection from Kottaramvachapara, on the way to Agastyarkudam from Kottur, forms an interesting record. This climber has since been introduced in the National Orchidarium at Yercaud.

We have followed Hooker, and some subsequent authors in treating *Wightiana* Lindl. ex Hook. f. distinct from *V. aphylla* Blume.

Specimens examined: KERALA: Trivandrum Dt., Kottaramvachapara, way to Agastyarkudam. 3-3-1980, *A. N. Henry* 66401; Kottaramvachapara, 3-3-1980, *M. Mohanan* 66064.

M. MOHANAN AND A. N. HENRY

Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore