

## SOME NOTES ON INDIAN ANNONACEAE

As a result of revisionary study of Indian Annonaceae the following new combination and change in taxonomic rank have become necessary and are made here, in addition to describing a new variety.

a. *New combination* :

Safford (*Bull. Torrey Bot. Club* 39:503. 1912) discovered that the type of the genus *Unona* L.f., is a species of the genus *Xylopia* (an American genus) and all the asiatic species hitherto referred under *Unona* belong to a distinct genus. He chose the earliest available name *Desmos* Lour. (1790) under that genus and transferred 16 asiatic species to it. While doing so he did not transfer *Unona discolor* Vahl var. *laevigata* Hook.f. & Thomson to *Desmos*, therefore, the required new combination is effected here as follows :

***Desmos chinensis*** Lour. var. *laevigata* (Hook.f. & Thomson) D. Mitra, comb. nov. *Unona discolor* Vahl var. *laevigata* Hook.f. & Thomson, Fl. Ind. 1:133.1855 & in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 1:59.1872. *Uvaria undulata* Roxb., Hort. Bengal. 43.1814, nom. nud. *Unona undulata* (Roxb.) Wall. in Pl. Asiat. Rar. 3:42, t. 265.1832.

*Type* : Wallich Cat. No. 6423.1832 sub *Unona roxburghiana* (CAL, Lecto.).

*Distribution* : India (cultivated in Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah). Bangladesh (Chittagong, Silhet), Malesia, China.

b. *Change of rank* :

On a critical study of the genus *Melodorum* Lour., Merrill (*Philippine Journ. Sci.* 15: 125-130. 1919) concluded that only one species i.e. *Melodorum fruticosus* Lour., needs to be retained under the genus and almost all other species belong to another distinct genus for which he resurrected *Fissistigma* Griffith (1854) and transferred its species including *Melodorum polyanthum* Hook.f. & Thomson. Subsequently Sinclair (1955) transferred variety *ellipticum* King of *Melodorum polyanthum* to *Fissistigma*

*polyanthum* (Hook.f. & Thomson) Merr. But a critical study of this variety revealed that it demands a distinct specific status as it differs from *Fissistigma polyanthum* by its broad elliptic leaves, very short extra axillary peduncles, longer pedicels, smaller sepals that are connate at the base and larger ovate-oblong petals. The correct nomenclature is as given below :

***Fissistigma ellipticum*** (King) D. Mitra, comb. et Stat. nov. *Melodorum polyanthum* Hook.f. & Thomson var. *ellipticum* King in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 4: 131.1893. *Fissistigma polyanthum* (Hook.f. & Thomson) Merrill var. *elliptica* (King) Sinclair in Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal 9:86.1955.

*Type* : Chittagong Hill Tracts, Soortee range. Lister 244 (CAL, Lecto.).

*Distribution* : India (Assam), Bangladesh (Chittagong).

*Note* : This is the first record for India.

c. *New variety* :

***Goniiothalamus macranthus*** (Kurz) Borerl. var. *brevipetalus* D. Mitra, var. nov.

Differt a varietate *macrantho* sepalis triangularibus, ca 1 × 1 cm, apice sub-acaulis; petalis exterioribus late lanceolatis 6-7 × 1.5 cm.

Small trees or shrubs. Leaves ca 10 × 4-5 cm, elliptic-oblong, obtuse or shortly acuminate, cuneate at base, puberulous on both surfaces when young; petioles ca 1 cm long. Flowers usually solitary, axillary; pedicels ca 1 cm long, puberulous; fruits few, small, deciduous. Sepals 3, connate at base, ca 1 × 1 cm, triangular, subacute, pubescent to puberulous on both surfaces, densely brown pubescens towards tip on inner surface. Petals 3+3, thickly coriaceous, outer ones 6-7 × 1.5 cm, broadly lanceolate, subacute at apex, narrowly clawed at base, pubescent on both surfaces densely so at base and on ridge outside; inner ones ca 2 × 0.5-0.6 cm, clawed, triquetrous, cohering by their edges, brown pubescent. Stamens numerous, 3.5-5 mm long, linear with pubescent

apiculate connective. Carpels many, cylindrical, ca 5 mm long, curved; ovary narrowly oblong, rufous pubescent; style cylindric, pubescent, bent outwards; stigma obscurely bifid. Ripe carpels many, club-shaped when young.

*Type* : India, S. Andaman, Manganj hill jungle, 7.5.1892, *King's collector s.n.* (CAL, holo).

*Distribution* : India (Andaman & Nicobar Islands); also cultivated in Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah.

*Other specimens examined* : Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah, 1904. *D. Prain s.n.* (CAL); March 1993, *D. Mitra* 436,437 (CAL).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author expresses her deep gratitude to Dr. S.K. Mukerjee, Ex-Keeper, Central National Herbarium (CAL), for guidance. She is also thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for providing all facilities and encouragement.

DEBIKA MITRA

*Botanical Survey of India, Howrah*

#### MISCELLANEOUS FUNGI FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

##### 1. *Asperisporium caricae* (Speg.) Maubl., Lavoura 16: 212, 1913.

Infection spots hypophyllous, carbonaceous black, up to 2 mm in diameter, rarely coalesced, corresponding upper surface of the infected spots turned necrotic and resulted in shot holes. Sporodochia hypophyllous, carbonaceous black, punctiform, pulvinate, up to 2 mm in diameter. Stroma subepidermal, up to 400  $\mu$ m; conidiophores macronematous, mononematous, compact, straight to curved, usually simple, rarely branched, entire to septate, smooth, brown to pale brown,  $27-46.5 \times 5-8 \mu$ m; conidiogenous cells polyblastic, integrated, terminal, sympodial, cylindrical to clavate, cicatrized, scars permanent; conidia solitary, cry, acropleurogenous, ovoid, clavate to rarely cylindrical, pale brown to dark brown, 0-2 horizontally septate,  $12-24 \times 9-12.5 \mu$ m, wall smooth in young spores while verrucose at maturity.

On leaves of *Carica papaya* L. (Caricaceae), Erattiyar Estate, Seithur hills, Kamarajar dist., Tamil Nadu, Nov. 12, 1992, *V.B. Hosagoudar* HCIO 40847.

This species was recorded from Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Venezuela (Ellis, 1971). Ullasa *et al.* (1978) have reported it from Karnataka and is reported here for the first time from Tamil Nadu (Bilgrami *et al.* 1991).

##### 2. *Phyllachora bambusae* (Sydow & Butler) Sydow & Butler var. *ochlandrae* var. nov. (Fig. 1-3).

Differt a var. *bambusae* ascosporis longioribus.

Stromata amphigenous, dark, raised, shining, oval to elongated, up to 2 mm in diameter, rarely coalesced, 1-3 loculate; locules oval to bowl shaped,  $300-360 \times 170-215 \mu$ m; asci many, long, cylindrical, stipitate, octosporous,  $114-155 \times 6-9.5 \mu$ m; ascospores biseriate, hyaline, ovate-acuminate, one end rounded and other end acuminate to sharply pointed,  $43-46.5 \times 3-5 \mu$ m.

*Holotype* : On leaves of *Ochlandra travancorica* Benth. ex Gamble (Poaceae), Top of Seithur hills, Kamarajar dist., Tamil Nadu, Nov. 12, 1992, *V.B. Hosagoudar* HCIO 40898.