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LOXOGRAMME CUSPIDATA (ZENK.) PRICE - A LITTLE KNOWN ENDEMIC FERN FROM SOUTH INDIA

In the course of revisionary studies of the family Loxogrammaceae Ching ex Pic. Ser. in India, the authors came across a new combination Loxogramme cuspidata (Zenk.) Price, the type of which came from Ootacammand, Nilgiris, South India, led the authors to request for type material and correspondence with Dr. M. G. Price of Michigan University, U.S.A. The receipt of Cibachrome photograph of type material from Kew and requisite literature with suggestions from Dr. Price, Michigan University, U.S.A. (Personal communication, April, 1993) confirmed our views that South Indian material identified as *L. involuta* D. Don actually represents *L. cuspidata* (Zenk.) Price hitherto taxonomically little known species from South India. In the absence of detailed description, proper illustration etc., as well as endemic status of taxon, it is found appropriate to provide the above details for this little known species.

Loxogramme cuspidata (Zenk.) Price in *Amer. Fern Journ.* 74 : 61, 1984; *Grammitis cuspidata* Zenk. *Plantae* 1 : t. 2. 1835. *Loxogramme involuta* auct. non Zenk.; Bedd., *Handb. Ferns Brit. India* 393. 1883; Dixit, *Cons. Indian Pterid.* 33. 1984 (p. p.).

Rhizome thick, 3-4 mm in diameter, long creeping, clothed with clathrate, dark brown, dense adpressed, ovate-lanceolate scales and bunch of roots, stipes 3-4 cm long, base black at least abaxially. Fronds large, simple, lamina pale-green, paperaceous 32-40 × 2-3 cm, broadest above the middle, apex cuspidate, margins smooth; midrib slightly raised on the lower side. Sori above the middle part of lamina, oblique, 2.5 - 3.0 cm long, ca 2 mm thick, 3-5 mm apart, very close to the midrib and 4-5 mm away from the margins. Spores pale yellow, monolete, 110-120 × 50 - 60 µm.

Distribution : South India - (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu), endemic.

Specimens examined : All at CAL. SOUTH INDIA, 1858, *Beddome* 46; *Herb. Wight* 3170; V. Narayanswamy party s. n. TAMIL NADU Nilgiri : Ootacamund, 15.8.1878, G. King 2430; Kodaikanal, 21.4.1883, *Levinge* 24309; Nilgiri 5.1883, *Gamble* 11480; Santaveri : Bababoodu hills, 4000 ft. 19.10.1908. *Meebold* 7885; Nilgiri Glennargan Forest, Pykara, 17.6.1981, *Vajravelu* 77711 (MH, CAL); Coimbatore Bellagi Shola, 5000 ft., 25.8.1905, *Fischer* 209; Naduvattam 29.8.1970, B. D. Sharma 35905 (MH) KERALA Devicolam Tran, 12.1910, *Meebold* s.n.