

**THELYPTERIS RATNAPURAE FRASER JENK.— A NEW RECORD OF
FERN FOR INDIA**

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While going through the collection of thelypteroid ferns housed in Cryptogamic Herbarium (CAL), a few interesting specimens collected by T.D. Srinivasan from Garo hills, Meghalaya and from Ranee hills, Geyzing, West Sikkim were observed. Careful study and comparison with protologue and photograph of type material obtained from Kew, revealed that the specimens belong to *Thelypteris ratnapurae* Fraser Jenk. (*Trigonospora glandulosa* Sledge) a species previously considered as endemic to Sri Lanka [Sledge, 1981 (*l.c.*)].

This species differs from all other known species of *Thelypteris* in the glandular clothing of pinnae and indusia.

Detailed description of the species based on Indian material is given below :

Thelypteris ratnapurae Fraser Jenk., New Sp. syndr. Indian Pteridol. : 282, 1997. *Trigonospora glandulosa* W.A. Sledge, Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bot. 8(1):23. 1981, non *Thelypteris glandulosa* (Desv.) Proctor, nec. (Blume) Tagawa and K. Iwats.

Rhizome erect; fronds 24-35 cm long, the fertile ones with stipes slightly longer than those of sterile one; stipe of sterile fronds 8-12 cm long, dark at base, bearing dark brown ovate scales, densely hairy throughout with a mixture of short crisped hairs and some longer spreading acicular hairs; rachis also hairy as in stipes; lamina 14-25 × 5-6 cm, narrowly oblong; pinnae about 16 pairs, subopposite below, alternate above, shortly stalked, 3.5-4.5 × 0.5-0.7 cm, oblong-lanceolate to lanceolate, base cuneate, apex acute to acuminate, margin pinnatifid with about 10 pairs of oblique, falcate segments, basal lobes almost free, rest of pinnae progressively less deeply cut into oblique, blunt, falcate lobes, margin of lobes with rather stiff hairs, uppermost pinnae adnate, pinnae of apical portion becoming quite entire; costa and costules with scattered acicular hairs on both surfaces; lower surface with copious, pale yellow glands; upper surface with similar glands when young, becoming smooth with age; sori round, almost in between midrib and margin; indusia broad, covered with glands and setose hairs.

Specimens examined : India : Meghalaya - Garo hills, T.D. Srinivasan 2191, 219b (CAL); West Sikkim, Ranee hills, September/52 (Geyzing) Gyalshing s.n. Acc. No. 15924 (CAL).

Note : 1. C.R. Fraser Jenkins treated the species *Trigonospora glandulosa* Sledge under the genus *Thelypteris*. A new name *Thelypteris ratnapurae* Fraser Jenk. had been selected by him for species *Trigonospora glandulosa* as there is another *T. glandulosa* (Desv.) Proctor, nec. (Blume) Tagawa & K. Iwats.

2. Recent view is to treat all the species under the family Thelypteridaceae in a single genus *Thelypteris*.

3. Differences between *Thelypteris glandulosa* and *Thelypteris ciliata* are as follows :

<i>Thelypteris glandulosa</i>	<i>Thelypteris ciliata</i>
Lower surface and indusia covered with copies pale yellow glands	Lower surface and indusia without glands
Stipe densely hairy throughout with maxture of short crisped hair and some long hairs	Short crisped hairs absent on stipe

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The grateful thanks are expressed to the Director, Botanical Survey of India for facilities and to Dr. Jagdish Lal, ex-Scientist in-charge (Cryptogamic Section) for encouragement.