

habitation.

**Distribution:** Native of tropical America, introduced in some parts of tropical Africa and Asia; in Malaysia: Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Java; Nepal and in India: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and now Bihar (Bhagalpur District).

**Uses:** Locally, like *Coriander* leaves the green

leaves are used for flavouring food articles.

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### 31. *PASCALIA* ORTEG. (ASTERACEAE) - A NEW GENUS FOR INDIA

(With a text-figure)

The monotypic genus *Pascalía* Orteg. is represented by *P. glauca* Orteg. of the family Asteraceae. The species was known so far only from Chile, South America. During the course of identification of the specimens received from the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry, Animal Disease Intelligence Unit, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, we came across some interesting specimens. Detailed study of the vegetative as well as floral characters of the plant revealed its distinctness from all known Indian Compositae genera. Consequently the plant was identified as *Pascalía glauca* Orteg.

As none of the Indian Floras, past or present, dealt with this monotypic genus, the present paper records the genus as new for India.

This species is hitherto not recorded from India and its rare occurrence probably suggests that it is a very recent introduction to this part of the world and possibly through food grains. This weed is now naturalised in a particular area of Coimbatore.

According to Animal Disease Intelligence Unit of Animal Husbandry, Coimbatore, the plant has a poisonous effect on grazing cattle and in cows the foetus gets aborted a few hours after consumption. It seems that the symptoms are somewhat like hydrocyanic acid poisoning.

As the species is new to Indian Flora, a detailed description along with a photograph is presented here for easy identification, especially to Botanists and Veterinarians.

***Pascalía glauca* Orteg. Hort. Matr. Dec. 39. t. 4. 1797.**

(Fig. 1)

Annual or perennial herbs. Stem erect with longitudinal striations, glabrous or minutely scabrous. Leaves simple, opposite, distichous, rarely alternate towards apex, lanceolate, oblong-lanceolate or narrowly obovate, base narrow, apex acuminate, generally 1-2 dentate, sometimes more in the lower,



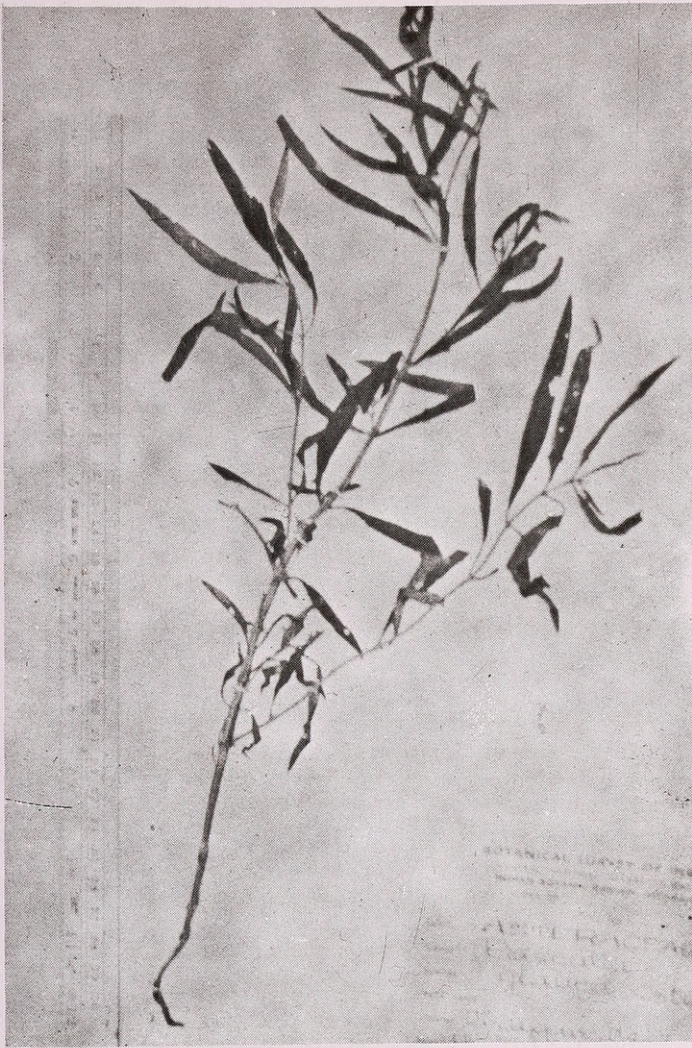


Fig. 1. Habit of *Pascalia glauca* Orteg.

thinly appressed, strigose hairs on both the surfaces, 4-5 x 0.8-1.2 cm. Heads solitary in the leaf axils, 1-1.5 cm in diameter, heterogamous, radiate. Disc flowers hermaphrodite, fertile; involucre hemispherical; peduncles 1.5-2 cm long, hairy; bracts almost 2-seriate, outer linear, shortly acuminate, acute

or rounded at the apex, 1-1.5 mm long, inner one lanceolate, acuminate, 0.8-1 mm long, membranous. Receptacle sub-plain; palea membranous, folded; pales oblong lanceolate, very acute, 5-6 mm long. Flowers bisexual; corolla yellow, ligulate in the female flowers, widely spreading, 8-11 mm long with a very short tube, limb elongate, cylindrical, apex 5-fid, ligule short, 2-3 dentate, anthers with truncate base and acute apex, entire, exserted. Style branched in appendix, slightly acute, terminally hairy. Achenes obovoid, more or less compressed, cuneate, rugulose or glabrous, 4-5 mm long, ray flattened above. Disc tetragonal, laterally compressed, thick altogether. Pappus minutely scaly, short.

**Flowering and Fruiting:** September to February.

**Specimen examined:** Tiruppur, Coimbatore, 1-1-1987, *M.S. Deesigah s. n.* (CAL).

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### 32. ON THE IDENTITY OF *PARABOA NAGALANDIANA* DEB & DUTTA

*Paraboa nagalandiana* Deb and Dutta (1988) was proposed on the basis of two gatherings: *A. Meebold* 7394 & 7230, collected from Nagaland in Dec. 1907. These were named as *Spiradiclis bifida* Wall. (Rubiaceae) and placed in the herbarium accordingly, which were separated in course of a taxonomic study of the genus *Spiradiclis* (Deb and

Rout 1989).

On describing, it was presumed to represent either Gesneriaceae or Acanthaceae. From the absence of cystolith on leaves and jaculators on seeds, Acanthaceae was ruled out as the subfamily Nelsonioideae possessing these characters was transferred by Bremekamp (1953, 1955) from





Bhattacharya, Alope, Biswas, M. C., and Debnath, H S. 1995. "Pascalia Orteg. (Asteraceae): A new genus for India." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 92, 136–137.

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