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REFERENCE

BASAK, R. K. (1976): The bibliography of the flora and vegetation of Bengal with an introductory note. *Bull. bot. Surv. India*, 15 (1 & 2): 22-38.

31. NOTES ON TWO RARE AND INTERESTING PLANTS FROM SOUTH INDIA

(With three text-figures)

The paper presents the description of hitherto undescribed fruits and seeds of *Lasianthus dichotomus* Wight, a rare and endemic species which was collected after a lapse of over 100 years; and records the occurrence of *Pueraria phaseoloides* (Roxb.) Benth. for the first time in South India.

Lasianthus dichotomus Wight in Calc. J. nat. Hist. 6: 508. 1846; Bedd. Ic. t. 13. 1868-74; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 3: 191. 1880; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 648. 1921 & 2: 457. 1957 (repr. ed.). *Mephitidia dichotoma* (Wight) Walp. Ann. 2: 761. 1852. [RUBIA-CEAE].

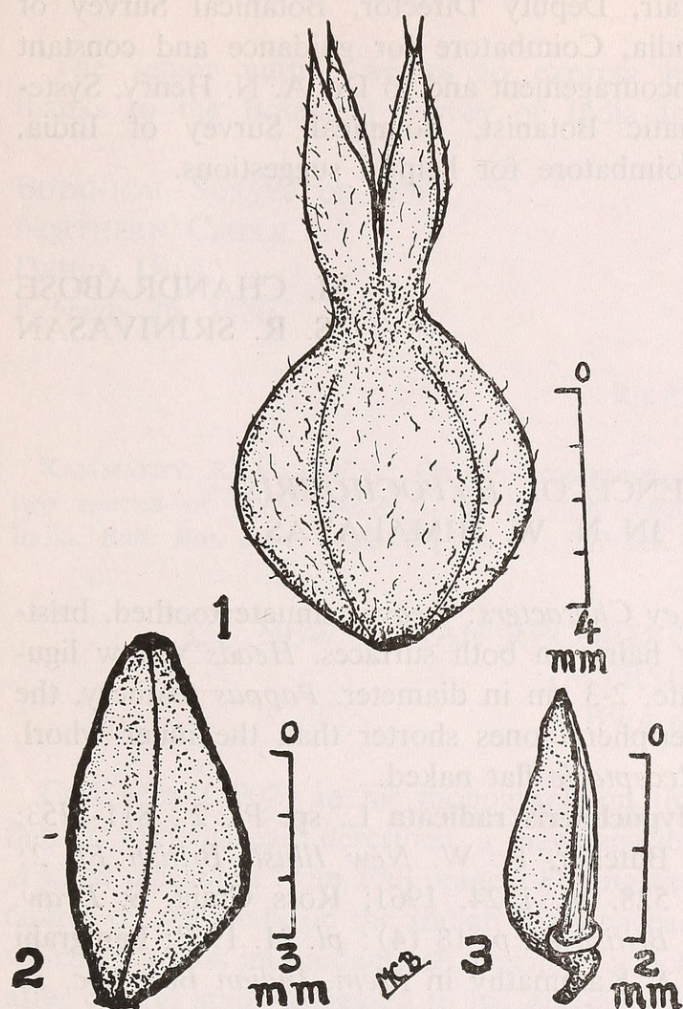
R. Wight (1846) described this species from Western Ghats in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu without describing the fruits. While studying the specimens of *L. dichotomus* Wight represented at Madras Herbarium (MH), a subsequent collection made by R. H. Beddome in 1869 was noted. It is of interest that this rare and endemic species could be relocated from Mahendragiri peak of Tirunelveli District in 1972, after a lapse of over 100 years. R. H. Beddome (loc. cit.) has not made any mention about the fruits of this species. Further, J. D. Hooker (1880) stated... "Drupes not seen". The same lacuna in the description

has continued in the critical flora of Gamble (1921). Interestingly, we could find the fruits of this species in some of the specimens in MH. These sheets have been critically studied so as to supplement the description with the fruits and seeds for a better understanding of this species.

Drupes 6-7×5-6 mm, subglobose, sparsely pilose or glabrescent, with persistent calyx lobes; pyrenes ± 6 × 3 mm, 3-4, triquetrous, crustaceous, often rugose dorsally, 1-seeded. Seeds ± 3 × 1 mm, black, narrowly ovate-oblong, dorsally convex, ventrally flat, glabrous. (Figs. 1-3).

Specimens examined: TAMIL NADU. Tirunelveli Dt.: Shevagherry, *Wight s.n.* (in fl., acc. no. 26414 Type material, MH); *Wight s.n.* (in fl. & young fr., acc. no. 26416 Type material, MH); Chokkampatty hills, in fl. & fr., *Collector? s.n.* (acc. no. 26417, MH); Tinnevely, in fl., 1869, *Beddome s.n.* (acc. no. 26415, MH); Way to Mahendragiri peak, in fl. & fr., 8-2-1972, 1550 m, *Sharma 40033* (MH).

Pueraria phaseoloides (Roxb.) Benth. in J. Linn. Soc. 11: 125. 1867; Baker in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 199. 1876; Kanjilal *et al.*, Fl. Assam 2: 82. 1938; Duthie, Fl. Up. Gang. Pl. 1: 216. 1960 (repr. ed.); Haines,



Figs. 1-3. *Lasianthus dichotomus* Wight: 1. Drupe; 2. Pyrene—inner view; 3. Seed—side view.

Bot. Bih. Or. 2: 295. 1961 (repr. ed.); Prain, Beng. Pl. 1: 282. 1963 (repr. ed.); Backer & Bakhuizen, Fl. Java 1: 632. 1963; Thothathri in Rec. bot. Surv. India 20(2): 81. 1973; Babu, Fl. Dehra Dun 159. 1977. *Dolichos phaseoloides* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 3: 316. 1832. [PAPILIONACEAE].

Roxburgh (1832) states... "From Mr. Kerr at Canton in China, the seeds were received into the Botanic Garden in 1804; where the plants thrive well...". Baker (loc. cit.) and Kanjilal *et al.* (loc. cit.) have recorded its distribution from Eastern Himalayas in India. Duthie (loc. cit.) has recorded its distribution

from Dehra Dun, N. Oudh extending from Garhwal eastwards in Tropical Himalayas and Bengal in India. Haines (loc. cit.) reports its occurrence from the jungles of Purneah in Bihar.

During the botanical exploration in the mountainous region of Quilon District, Kerala, this species was collected from the dense evergreen forests in Angamuzhi, Ranni R.F. at an altitude of 250 m. The identity of this species was confirmed at Central National Herbarium (CAL), Howrah. The common occurrence of this large climbing shrub in this area forms a new distributional record for South India. As only one species, *i.e.* *P. tuberosa* (Roxb.) DC. has been so far reported from South India, an artificial key has been provided for distinguishing the two species occurring now in South India.

KEY TO THE *Pueraria* DC. SPECIES OCCURRING IN SOUTH INDIA

Flowering when leafless; pods $3-7.5 \times 0.5-0.8$ cm, narrowly oblong, compressed, constricted between seeds, bristly hairy *P. tuberosa*
Flowering with the leaves; pods $5-10 \times 0.3-0.4$ cm, linear, subterete, not constricted between the seeds, adpressed pubescent *P. phaseoloides*

A short description for *P. phaseoloides* (Roxb.) Benth. has also been furnished below to facilitate easy identification.

Climbing shrubs; branches slender, twining, brown pubescent. Leaves pinnately trifoliolate; leaflets $5-12 \times 4-11$ cm, subrhomboid to broadly ovate, entire, adpressed pubescent, subacute or acute, mucronate at apex, cuneate or rounded at base; stipels linear-lanceolate; petioles 5-10 cm long; stipules lanceolate. Flowers \pm 2 cm long, white with violet tinge, many, shortly pedicelled, in long-peduncled, axillary racemes 20-30 cm long. Pods $5-10 \times 0.3-0.4$ cm, linear, subterete, straight or reflexed, adpressed pubescent, 12-20 seeded.

Specimens examined: KERALA. Quilon Dt.: Angamuzhi, Ranni R. F., in fl. & fr., 22.11.1976, Chandrabose 49161 (MH).

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32. A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *HYPOCHOERIS RADICATA* L. (ASTERACEAE) IN N. W. HIMALAYAS

Like other successful invading weeds of Asteraceae *Hypochoeris radicata* L. is also getting a foothold in the Indian subcontinent. This European species has already spread in Eurasia and is also naturalised in South America and parts of Australia and North America.

In India the genus is represented by another species namely *H. glabra* L. and is known to occur only in the Nilgiris. The first report of distribution of *Hypochoeris radicata* L. was made by Panigrahi and Kammathy (1960) from Meghalaya and Assam where it is a common weed. Later on Kammathy (1963) recorded the species also from the Nilgiri Hills in South India.

While undertaking explorations in the district Tehri (Garhwal) the senior author collected the species from Pratapnagar at an altitude of 2500 m and it is naturalised in the area. With the present discovery of the species from a locality far away from the earlier reports of distribution shows that it is likely to spread throughout the Himalayan tract in course of time.

In order to invite reports of further distribution and to facilitate an easy identification, the species is described with key characters and ecological notes.

Key Characters: Leaves sinuate toothed, bristly hairy on both surfaces. Heads yellow ligulate, 2-3 cm in diameter. Pappus feathery, the peripheral ones shorter than the inner whorl. Receptacle flat naked.

Hypochoeris radicata L. sp. Pl. 2 : 811-1753; Butcher, R. W. *New Illust. British Fl.* 2 : 528. pl. 1324. 1961; Ross Craig, S. *Draw. British Pl. pt 18* (4) : pl. 21. 1963; Panigrahi & Kammathy in *Mem. Indian Bot. Soc.* 3 : 200-210. 1960.

Description: A long rooted, perennial laticiferous herb. Leaves rosulate, sessile 4-12 cm, oblong lanceolate, sinuate or irregularly pinnately lobed., Scapes 7-25 cm, leafless, branched, green, hollow, striated. Heads 20-30 mm diameter. Involucral bracts 4-7 mm with membranous margins; inner 10-20 mm long, linear, midnerve bristly hairy, imbricate. Ray florets linear, apex toothed; disc florets, tube slender, unequal. Style & Stigma spinulose. Achenes 4-5 mm long, horizontally striated and vertically ribbed, muciccate above; beak 3-5 mm, stout.

Occasional on open sunny slopes; Pratapnagar (Tehri Garhwal, N. W. Himalayas) 2500 m, 24.2.1979. Goel 65717; Fls. & Frs: Feb. to May; Chr. No: 2n = 8.



Chandrabose, M. and Srinivasan, S R. 1981. "Notes on 2 Rare and Interesting Plants from South India." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 78, 630–632.

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