

This graceful tree occurs in the forest at Koviltherimalai, near Bonaccord Estate in Trivandrum District at an altitude of about 875 m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. V. J. Nair, Systematic Bota-

nist, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for rendering Latin translation and Smt. C. P. Malathi, Herbarium Assistant, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for the help in the preparation of illustrations.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
SHILLONG 793 003.

J. JOSEPH

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
COIMBATORE 641 003,  
July 8, 1983.

V. CHANDRASEKARAN

31. *SWERTIA SIKKIMENSIS* BURKILL (GENTIANACEAE): A  
LITTLE KNOWN PLANT FROM UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

(With seven text-figures)

*Swertia sikkimensis* is described by I. H. Burkill in the year 1906 based on the collections of several specimens gathered from Sikkim, Bhutan and Himachal Pradesh. This plant usually occurs in the alpine Himalayas of Sikkim (Jongri, Tonglu, Phalut, Lachen and Lachung valley, Gaigong and Kinchinjhow etc.) ranging from 4112-5181 m (13, 500 ft. — 17,000 ft.). From Bhutan (Kungmet) it has once been collected so far by Dungboo in 1884. In Himachal Pradesh it has once been collected from Kunawar (Kinnar) by Nathaniel Vicary in 1831.

But after its first description it has not been collected from any of the areas mentioned. It is hitherto unrecorded from Uttar Pradesh, India and Nepal. Hence the present collection of this plant from Pithoragarh District (Kumaon), Uttar Pradesh, appears to be a new record. Moreover, this plant has been collected again after a long gap of about 70 years.

The distribution of this plant in Nepal is

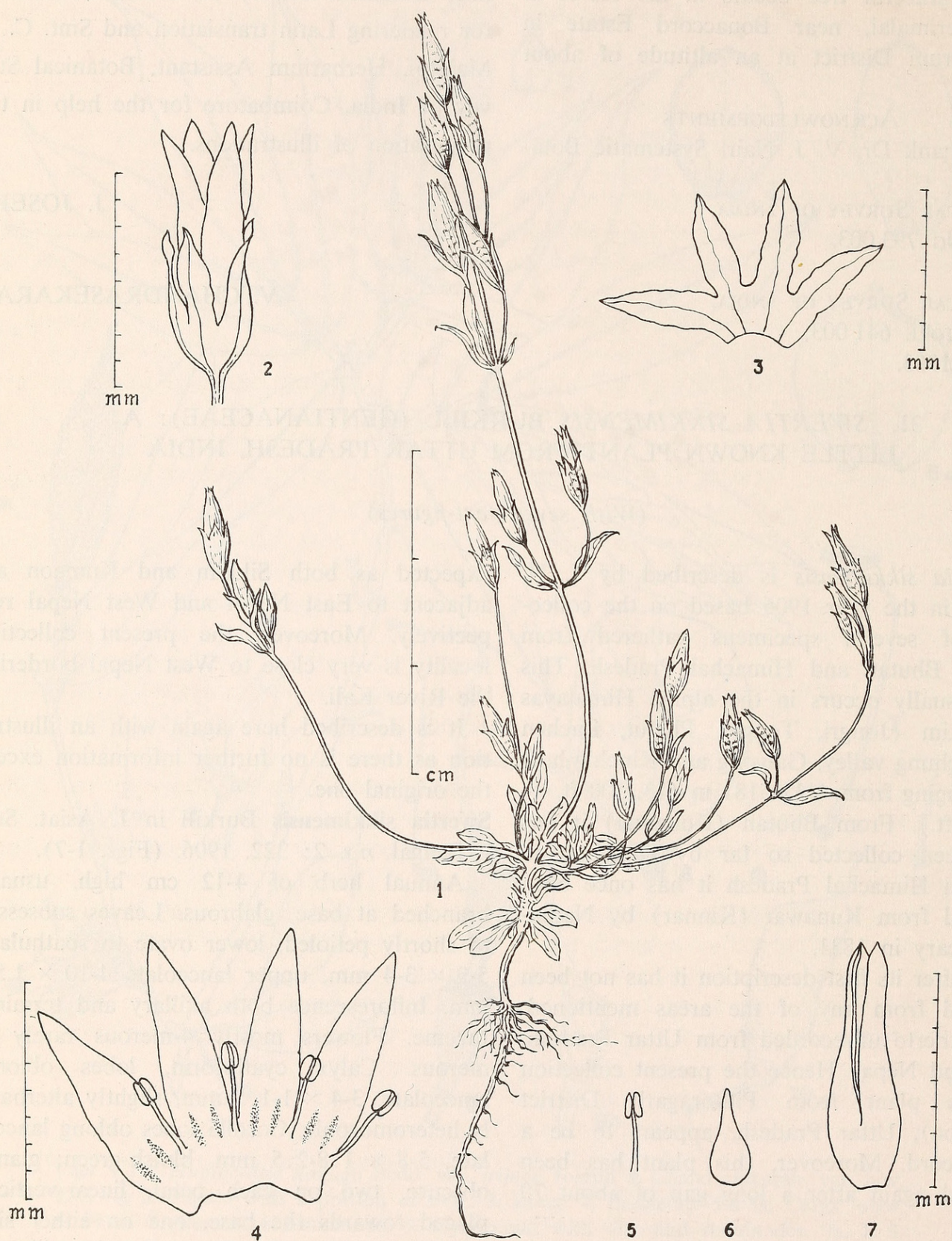
expected as both Sikkim and Kumaon are adjacent to East Nepal and West Nepal respectively. Moreover, the present collection locality is very close to West Nepal bordering the River Kali.

It is described here again with an illustration as there is no further information except the original one.

*Swertia sikkimensis* Burkill in J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, n.s. 2: 322. 1906. (Figs. 1-7).

Annual herb of 4-12 cm high, usually branched at base, glabrous. Leaves subsessile to shortly petioled, lower ovate to spatulate, 5-9 × 3-4 mm, upper lanceolate 4-10 × 1.5-3 mm. Inflorescence both axillary and terminal raceme. Flowers mostly 4-merous rarely 5-merous. Calyx cyathiform, lobes oblong-lanceolate, 3-4 × 1-1.5 mm, slightly alternately heteromorphic. Corolla lobes oblong lanceolate, 5-8 × 1.8-2.5 mm, bluish-green; glands obscure, two on each petal, linear-vertical, placed towards the base, one on either side of mid-vein. Capsule oblong, 6-9 × 2-2.5 mm,





Figs. 1-7. *Swertia sikkimensis* Burkill

1. plant, 2. flower, 3. calyx split open, 4. corolla split open, 5. stamen, 6. carpel and  
7. capsule.



dehiscence about one-third of the total length of capsule. Seeds 10-15 in each capsule, ellipsoid, testa reticulate, purple-red.

This plant grows in shady moist places along with *Swertia ciliata* (G. Don) Burt, *S. cordata* (G. Don) C. B. Clarke and other *Gentians*.

*Sheets examined:* (all are deposited at CAL).

*Sikkim:* Thangu, Sept. 1903, *Prain s.n.*; Giagong, Sept. 1903, *Prain s.n.* (Syntype);

*Bhutan:* Kungmet, 3.8.1884, *Dunghoo* 295 (Syntype);

*Himachal Pradesh:* Kunawar, 1831, *N. Vicary s.n.* (Syntype);

*Uttar Pradesh:* Kumaon, Pithoragarh Dist.,

Kutti valley, Garbyang to Chhalek, 3124 m, 26.10.1976, *G. G. Maiti* 844; Kutti valley, Chhalek to Budhi village, 2800 m, 26.10.1976, *G. G. Maiti* 852 and Byans, Sirkha to Rungling forest, 2500 m, 13.10.1976, *G. G. Maiti* 367.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the Council of Himalayan Exploration and Research, Calcutta, for my participation as a Botanist member in the "Kutti valley Expedition 1976". Thanks are also due to the Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, for providing facilities.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
P. O. BOTANIC GARDEN,  
HOWRAH-711 103,  
May 23, 1983.

GAURGOPAL MAITI

### 32. *EUPHORBIA TORTILIS* ROTTL. EX WIGHT — A NEW RECORD FOR KARNATAKA

*Euphorbia tortilis* Rottl. ex Wight was recorded in India only from Tamil Nadu. During collection trips to different parts of Mysore and Mandya districts of Karnataka, we noticed this plant in several places along hedges. The species closely resembles *E. antiquorum* L. and has often been confused with the latter. However, *E. tortilis* can be distinguished from *E. antiquorum* in having spirally twisted stems and crowded cymes. It is quite likely that *E. tortilis* occurs at many more localities on the Deccan Plateau. A brief description of the taxon is given below:

***Euphorbia tortilis* Rottl. ex Wight** Ic. t. 898. 1844-45; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5: 256

1887; Gamble, Fl. Madras Rep. ed. 2: 894. 1957.

An erect shrub with abundant milky latex, up to 2.4 m high. Main stem cylindric or angled; branches thick, green, fleshy, jointed; joints 3- to 5-winged, up to 25 cm long, spirally twisted; wings compressed, coarsely repand-crenate, with pairs of sharp stipular spines; spines c. 6 mm long. Leaves minute, ovate. Cyathia in cymes of 3, shortly peduncled and forming clusters in the sinuses, c. 4 mm in diameter, green, with 5 large glands; bracts minute, ovate; bracteoles numerous, fimbriate. Male flowers many. Styles 3, shortly connate at base, 2-lobed, glabrous. Fruit c. 13 mm in diam., glabrous; cocci keeled.





Maiti, G. 1984. "SWERTIA-SIKKIMENSIS GENTIANACEAE A LITTLE KNOWN PLANT FROM UTTAR PRADESH INDIA." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 81, 731–733.

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