

Noviciæ Indicæ XIV. *Some additional Solanaceæ.*—By D. PRAIN.

[Recd. 24th June Read 1st July.]

The present paper contains descriptions similar to those in the *Flora of British India* of a few species that have been recorded as Indian since the account of the order contained in that work was published.

1. SOLANUM LINN.

6b. SOLANUM KURZII *Brace MSS. in Herb. Calcutta*; leaves irregularly ovate, with subtruncate base acute apex and deeply triangularly lobed margin, densely tomentose beneath, more sparingly above, racemes lateral 8-12-fld., calyx-teeth ovate-lanceolate, corolla violet-purple. *S. pubescens* VAR. ? lobata *C. B. Clarke in Flor. Brit. Ind. iv. 231.* *S. pubescens Kurz ex C. B. Clarke loc. cit., not of Willd.*

SIKKIM; at 4000 feet elevation *T. Thomson! King! KHASIA: G. Mann!*

A small tree (*Thomson*) quite unarmed; branches densely stellately woolly. Leaves 3-4 in. long, 2-2.5 in. across; lobes .75-1 in. deep, .5 in. across, subacute or acute, base unequally truncate stellately woolly, above sparsely beneath very densely; lateral nerves about 5 pairs prominent beneath; petiole 1-1.25 in., densely stellately woolly. Racemes densely woolly, peduncles 1 in. pedicels .25-.5 in. Calyx shortly campanulate, lobes .15-.2 in. in flower, .25 in. in fruit. Corolla violet-purple (*Thomson*) .5 in. across, closely tomentose without. Berry .4 in. in diam. globose smooth.

This very distinct species appears to be rare. It was first collected by Dr. T. Thomson in 1857 and again by Dr. G. King in 1874, both times in Sikkim; Mr. Gustav Mann collected it in the Khasia Hills in 1877. No other botanist appears to have met with it before or since in either locality.

The solitary specimen seen by Mr. Clarke had no fruit; it was therefore referred tentatively in the *Flora of British India* to *S. pubescens*. Mr. Brace, when Curator of the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Garden, having seen excellent fruiting specimens collected by Dr. King was able to decide that the plant is a distinct species; he has noted it as intermediate, in his opinion, "between *S. verbascifolium* and *S. pubescens*."

7. SOLANUM SUBTRUNCATUM Wall.

Add to localities of F. B. I. :—

MALAY PENINSULA: Perak, *Kunstler* n. 4709! n. 10260! *Wray* n. 3409! 3968! *Scortechini!*

16. SOLANUM BARBISETUM Nees.

VAR. *Griffithii*, var. nov.; all parts densely shortly softly stellate woolly.

ASSAM: *Griffith* n. 5911/1 [K. D.]! *Jenkins!* UPPER BURMA: at Poneshee, *J. Anderson!*

In general appearance and in leaves this resembles *S. indicum* just as much as typical *S. barbisetum* resembles *S. ferox*; so unlike are the two plants that it is at first sight difficult to realize that they are conspecific. The calyx, corolla and fruit are, however, exactly alike in both.

17. *SOLANUM KHASIANUM* *Clarke.*

Add to localities of F. B. I.:—

NAGA HILLS: Kohima, etc., common; *Watt! Clarke! Prain!* UPPER BURMA: Maymyo, *King's Collector!* Hotha; *J. Anderson!*

23b. *SOLANUM SISYMBRIIFOLIUM* *Lamk* *Illust.* 2386; glandular hairy; leaves oblong pinnatifid or 2-pinnatifid prickly, peduncles extra-axillary and terminal many-fld.; berry subglobose glabrous, when young overtopped by the inflated 5-angled often armed calyx-tube which ultimately becomes reflexed and exposes the edible fruit. *Dunal, Sol.* 232 and in *DC. Prodr.* xiii. pt. 1. 326. *S. inflatum* *Hornem. Hort. Hafn.* i. 221. *S. Balbisii* *Dun. Sol.* 232; *Hook. Bot. Mag.* t. 2568, t. 2828.

LOWER BENGAL: occasionally, as an escape, in waste places and on river banks. NILGHIRIS: at Coonoor, apparently naturalized. KHASIA HILLS: at Shillong quite naturalized and rapidly spreading.

A villous viscous undershrub with simple gland-tipped hairs; prickles long straight slender subulate yellow or reddish-yellow. *Leaves* 6–12 in. long, 4–7 in. wide, lobes acute sinuate-dentate the terminal exceeding the others, softly sub-viscously hairy, lateral nerves 4–5 pairs prominent, like midrib beneath, beset with long hairs and armed on both surfaces; petiole 1·5–7 in. slightly decurrent prickly. *Calyx* 5-partite tube ovate cupular, lobes lanceolate acute sparingly armed. *Corolla* 1 in. across slightly hirsute externally, white or violet. *Berry* ½ in. diam., red.

A rather variable species, frequently cultivated, readily escaping and, at least in the Khasia Hills, thoroughly naturalized. The form from Coonoor has violet flowers, that usually met with in Lower Bengal has white flowers. Both forms are sent from Shillong but the form that has become so completely naturalized is the white-flowered one. The berry in Indian specimens is always red. The species is a native of S. America, but it has of late years been so frequently sent to Calcutta Herbm. for identification, with the remark that it could not be found in the *Flora of British India*, that a description is now given.

25b. *SOLANUM SCINDICUM* *Prain*; all parts closely white woolly, leaves ovate or elliptic irregularly sinuate or lobed without prickles, cymes lateral and terminal 6–8-fld., corolla blue, berry globose much exceeding the calyx-lobes.

CUTCH: *Stoliczka!* SCINDE: *Stocks! Cooke!* RAJPUTANA: Jessole *King!*

An undershrub, stems and branches beset with short stout much compressed and much recurved prickles; *leaves* ½–1½ in. across irregularly obtusely sinuate or lobed, base cordate, petiole ¼–½ in. *Peduncles* 1 in. and slender pedicels ½ in. long always unarmed. *Calyx*-lobes ½ in. wide, triangular, hardly enlarged in fruit. *Corolla* ⅙ in. across externally densely woolly, lobes triangular almost as long as tube. *Berry* ⅓ in. in diam.; seeds ⅓ in. diam. smooth.

This plant has long been known in Herbaria; it has been issued as *S. gracilipes* from Herb. Calcutta and as *S. indicum* VAR. from Herb. Poona but obviously is not referable to either species.

It stands very nearly intermediate between *S. gracilipes* and *S. trilobatum*. With *S. gracilipes* it agrees in having the leaves unarmed and cordate at the base and in having unarmed peduncles and pedicels; it differs in having more deeply lobed leaves, more numerous flowers, broader and shorter calyx-lobes, shorter stouter and compressed not conical prickles. With *S. trilobatum* it agrees in having lobed leaves and in having compressed prickles; it differs in having the leaf-bases cordate; in having the leaves, peduncles and pedicels unarmed and in being densely persistently woolly in all its parts.

In tomentum and general appearance it closely resembles *S. albicaule* Kotschy with which it agrees in flower and in fruit. But the leaves of *S. albicaule* are less deeply lobed, and are rather narrower and more acute; its prickles too are conical as in *S. gracilipes* not compressed as in *S. trilobatum* and *S. scindicum*. The whole facies of *S. scindicum* is quite unlike that of *S. indicum*, the other species with which it has been compared; the prickles on the branches are much less recurved in *S. indicum*; the leaves are armed on the nerves beneath in that species, and the peduncles and calyx-lobes are beset with long straight slender prickles.

8. SCOPOLIA JACQ.

1. SCOPOLIA LURIDA Dunal.

Add to localities of F. B. I.:—

KAMAON: Kutti valley, *Duthie* n. 3215! n. 5834!

10. HYOSCYAMUS LINN.

2b. *HYOSCYAMUS RETICULATUS* Linn. *Sp. Pl.* ed. 2. 257; cauline leaves sessile ovate-lanceolate acute pinnatifid lobes acute, flowers subsessile, calyx sparsely pubescent teeth large triangular mucronate, corolla dirty yellow purple-veined. *Dunal* DC. *Prodr.* xiii. 1. 547; *Boiss. Flor. Orient.* iv. 295. *H. Camerarii* Fisch. & Mey. *Ind. Sem. Petrop.* iv. 38; *Dunal*, DC. *Prodr.* xiii. i. 547. *H. pinnatifidus* Schlecht. *Linnæa* (1843). 127.

BRITISH BELUCHISTAN: Quetta, *Stocks!* *Lace!* *Duthie!* KURRAM VALLEY: *Aitchison!*

Densely pubescent with short glandular tomentum and long white hairs intermixed. *Leaves* 5 in. long, 1-1.5 in. wide. Lower *pedicels* in fruit .3 to .5 in. *Calyx* in flower .65 in. teeth longish triangular, in fruit 1.25 by .5 in. subcontracted in the middle, teeth .5 in. long rigid. Capsule .5 in. in diam. seeds .05 in. in diam.

Nearest to *H. niger* but easily distinguished by its much larger calyx-teeth.



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