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SELAGINELLA MINUTIFOLIA SPRING — NEW TO INDIA

R. D. DIXIT

Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad

During the course of taxonomic revision of the family Selaginellaceae Milde in India, the author came across a peculiar herbarium sheet mounted with eight individuals of the genus *Selaginella* P. Beauv. from Assam. This particular sheet duly worked out in detail with description and illustrations was sent to Dr. A. C. Jermy, Keeper, British Museum (N.H.), London, who is a specialist on the genus. He confirmed the identification as *S. minutifolia* Spring, earlier known from Southern Burma and Malaya. The species is described here.

Selaginella minutifolia Spring, Mem. Acad. Sci. Bel. 24 (2) : 239. 1850. Alston, Proc. nat. Inst. Sci. 11 (3) : 228. 1945.

Stems short, 1-3 cm, prostrate, slender, copiously branched from the base, branches erect-patent ; rhizophores wiry, restricted at the base only. Leaves heteromorphic throughout, distant, membranaceous lateral leaves ovate-oblong, spreading, subequal at the base, subacute at the apex, ciliolate dentate in the margins ; axillary leaves ± like lateral leaves ; median leaves decurrent, obliquely ovate-oblong, acuminate, denticulate. Strobili 5.0-7.0 × 2.0-2.5 mm, terminal at the apex of the branchlets ; sporophylls heteromorphic, ciliate ; larger sporophylls sterile, ovate-oblong, acute, ciliate-dentate ; smaller sporophylls fertile, ovate, acuminate, long ciliate throughout ; megaspores 150-250 μm, trilete, pale, papillate ; microspores 25-35 μm, trilete, yellow, papillate (Plate I).

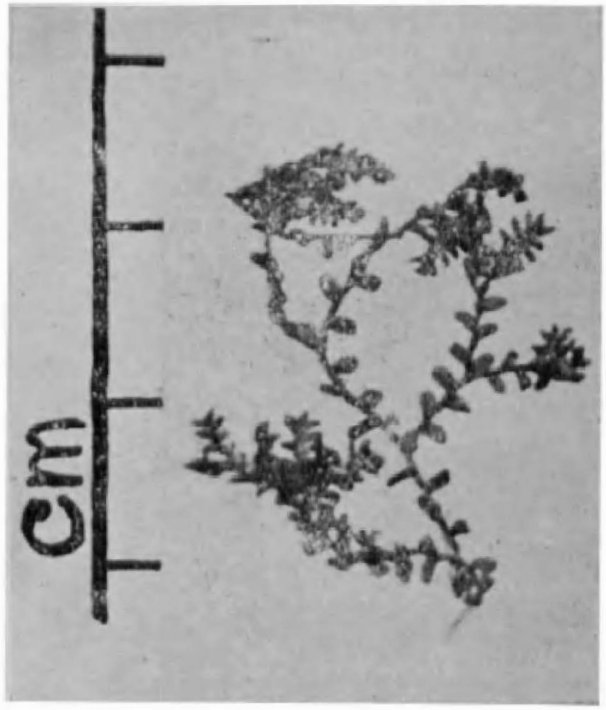


Plate I : *Selaginella minutifolia* Spring Habit *Panigrahi* 4090 (ASSAM).

Specimens examined : ASSAM : 29.10.1956, *Panigrahi* 4090 (ASSAM). Under the column locality, it is mentioned that "within 1.5 miles to the west of the I.B." The name of the place of Inspection Bunglow is not mentioned.

S. minutifolia Spring can be easily distinguished from its allied species *S. crassipes* Spring by its minute plant size, stems prostrate, slender, not shining stramineous,

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lateral leaves ciliolate-dentate and median leaves acuminate against plants larger stem thick, rigid, shining stramineous ; lateral leaves serrulate-denticulate and median leaves aristate in *S. crassipes* Spring.

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