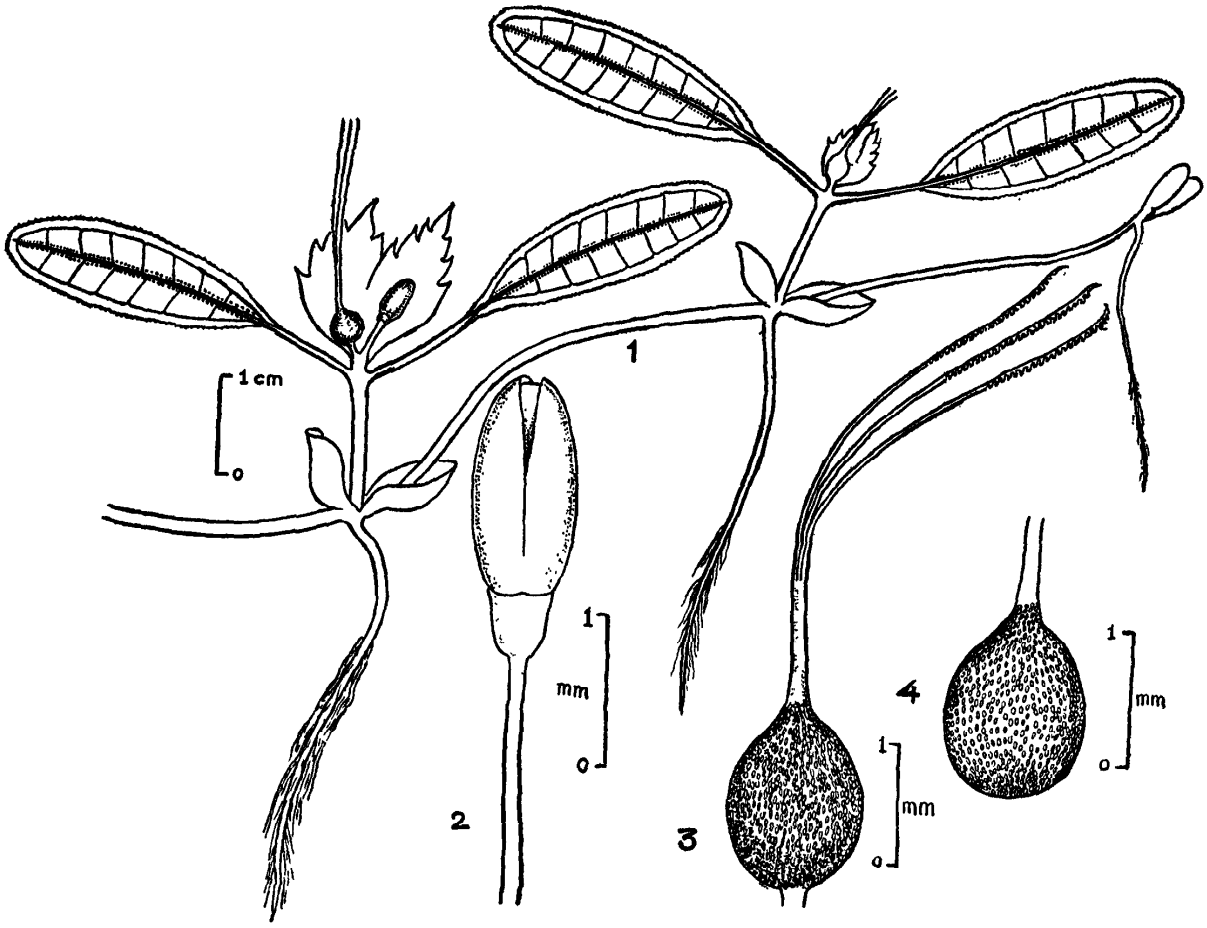


Halophila decipiens Ostenf.
Figs. 1-4 : 1. Habit. 2. Staminate flower. 3. Pistil. 4. Fruit.

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *BLECHNUM PATERSONII* (R. BR.) METT. — A RARE FERN IN INDIA

While referring to the collections of Central National Herbarium in connection with studies on genus *Blechnum*, the authors came across three specimens from Sikkim ; two of them were collected by T. Thomson. One of them was named as *Lomaria* sp. while the other two were named as *Lomaria patersonii* Spreng. by C. B. Clarke.

On closer examination all of them were found to be *Blechnum patersonii* (R. Br.) Mitt., so far known only from Nilgiris and Anamalai Hills of South India. Hence its occurrence in Sikkim Himalayas is interest-

ing and is being reported for the first time.

In this paper a description based on Sikkim specimens along with a photograph has been included.

Blechnum patersonii (R. Br.) Mett. in Fil. Hort. Lips. ; 64. 1856. *Stegania patersoni* R. Br. in Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl. et Insul. : 152. 1810 and in ed. 2 : 8. 1827. *Lomaria patersoni* Spreng. in Syst. Veg. 4 : 62. 1827 ; Bedd. in Fern S. Ind. : 284. t. 28, 28A. 1863. Handb. Ferns Brit. Ind. : 128. 1883. *L. elongata* Bl. in Enum. Pl. Jav. et Insul. Adjacen. : 201. 1830. *L. colensoi* Hook. f. in Ic. Pl. t. 627, 628. (Plate).



Photograph of fertile and sterile fronds of *Blechnum pattersonii* (R. Br.) Mett.

Rhizome short-creeping, up to 10 cm or more long, densely clad in dark-brown, ovate to subulate-attenuate paleae. Stipes stout, blackish, 10-25 cm long, scaly below. Sterile laminae 12-20 × 3-4 cm, of diverse forms on the same plant i.e. in part sterile, in part fertile, coriaceous, dark green above paler below, costa prominent, in young ones. Veinlets usually forked. Simple, narrow oblong to lanceolate and irregularly pinnatifid or pinnatisect, up to 15 or more segments, broadly ovate. Fertile lamina up to 25 cm long, simple pinnatifid, *ca* 3-5 mm broad. Sori covering all but costa.

Specimens examined : Sikkim, 1600 m ; *T. Thomson* 9390, 9391 ; 12.4.1859, 9389.

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CORRECT IDENTITY OF SOME INDIAN PLANTS

Correct identification of seven taxa of misapplied names of plants in Indian floristic literature is indicated and discussed.

1. Hypecoum pendulum Linn. Sp. Pl. 124. 1753. *H. procumbens auct. mult.* non Linn. ; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 120. 1872 ; Dhillon & Bhandari, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 70 : 577. 1973.

This species has been confused with *H. procumbens* Linn. which has erect, jointed fruit. In the present species, however, the fruit is deflexed and indehiscent.

Specimens examined : Samana, Rohar ; *M. Sharma* 3965, 4274 (PUN).

2. Fagonia schweinfurthii (Hadidi) Hadidi, Osters. Bot. Zeitschr 121 : 273. 1973. *F. indica* Burm. f. var. *schweinfurthii* Hadidi in Rech. f. Fl. Iran. 98 : 6. *t.* 6. 1973. *F. arabica auct. pl.* non Linn. ; Edgeworth & Hook. f. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1 : 425. 1874 ; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 48. 1978. *F. cretica auct. pl.* non Linn. ; Parker, For. Fl. 59. 1918 ; Kashyap & Joshi, Lahore Dist. Fl. 56. *f.* 42. 1936 ; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi 91. 1963 ; Ill. Fl. Delhi 39. 1966.

This species which is characterized by 5 mm long flowers and 4×2 mm cocci has often been wrongly identified as *F. cretica* and *F. arabica* both of which occur in south Mediterranean region only and differ from the present taxon in having the flowers and capsules of about double the size of those in *F. schweinfurthii.*

Specimens examined : University Campus Patiala, Patiala City ; *M. Sharma* 2043, 2088 (PUN).

3. Cucumis melo Linn. var. **flexuosus** (Linn.) Naud. Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 4. II. 34. 1859 ; Bailey, Man. Cult. Pl. 955. 1949. *C. flexuosus* Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 1437. 1763. *C. melo* Linn. var. *utilissimus* (Roxb.) Duthie & Fuller, Field & Gard. Crops 2 : 55. *tt.* 53, 54. 1883 ; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 1 : 341. 1960, repr. ed. ; Maheshwari, Fl. Delhi 170. 1963 ; Nair, Rec. Bot. Surv. India 21 : 117. 1978. *C. utilissimus* Roxb. Fl. Ind. ed. Carey 3 : 721. 1832.

This long, snake-like melon is cultivated in the plains of India and recorded under the name of *C. melo* var. *utilissimus.* But as will be clear from the synonymy cited above, it should bear the correct name *C. melo* var. *flexuosus* in accordance with Art. 11 of International Code of Botanical nomenclature.

Specimens examined : Sector 14, Chandigarh ; *M. Sharma* 3574 (PAN).

4. Filago pyramidata Linn. Sp. Pl. 1199. 1753 ; Holub in Davis, Fl. Turkey 5 : 104. 1975 ; in Tutin *et al.* Fl. Europ. 4 : 122. 1976. *F. spathulata* Presl, Delic. Prag. 99. 1822 ; Nair, Fl. Bashahr Himal.