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MACARANGA BALAKRISHNANII MITRA AND CHAKR. —A NEW RECORD FROM WEST BENGAL

During the exploration work for the study of the Flora of Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary, Darjeeling district, West Bengal, present authors found a medium size interesting tree, growing in Sukna locality which is within the area of the sanctuary. The above species is very rare in the area. The specimen has been critically examined and identified at CAL and it is exactly matching with the Holotype of *Macaranga balakrishnanii* Mitra & Chakraborty, a new record for Sikkim Himalaya published in J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 15(2) : 465-466. 1991.

The present species is not only a new record for West Bengal but a second collection in India after the type. Further investigation and research may reveal the occurrence of this rare taxon in other places in the hilly regions of Darjeeling district, Nepal, Bhutan & also in Sikkim.

Specimens examined : Sikkim, Sesama Reserve Forest, June 1985, P.Basu 8377 (Cal, Holotype) ; West Bengal, Darjeeling district, Sukna (Mahananda reserve Forest), 12.5.1995, S. Chandra & party 10900/17.

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SOLANUM DIPHYLLUM L. — A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

This paper records the occurrence of this species from India for the first time. While confirming the specimen sent to Sandra Knapp of The Natural History Museum, London, a specialist of the genus *Solanum* L. sect. *Geminata* (G. Don) Walpers, to which it belongs, for examination she states in a communication dated 04 oct. 1995 "....It is a specimen of *Solanum diphyllum* L., a Neotropical species (native to the drier parts of Southern Mexico) which is widely escaped in the Old World. I have not seen any specimens from India as yet, so yours is a first ;....". This species is very allied to the native Indian species *Solanum spirale* Roxburgh which occurs in North Bengal to Myanmar and Bangladesh, but differs in its completely glabrous leaves (*S. spirale* has tiny tufts of hairs in the vein axils on the abaxial surfaces) and its much smaller, orange fruits which are held on erect pedicels. The occurrence of this species is not so common and in adventive condition.

A detailed description with figure is given for easy identification.

Solanum diphyllum Linn., Sp. Pl. 184. 1753. Figs. 1-4.

Shrub 1 m tall, unarmed, glabrous, stem erect, slender, surface glandular. Glabrous Sympodial units difoliate, geminate. Leaves unequal in shape and size in each pair. Major leaves obovate to obovate-elliptic, the blade 3-4. 5 cm. long, 10. 3-2.3 cm wide with 6-7 pairs of primary veins, apex obtuse, base cuneate, margin entire ; petiole subsessile to 4 mm long ; minor leaves rounded to ovate-rounded, the blade 0.5-1.8 cm. long, 0.5-1.5 cm wide, apex rounded, base cuneate ; petiole subsessile to 2 mm long. Inflorescence opposite the leaves, simple, slender,