# NOTES ON SOME RARE PLANTS COLLECTED FROM NILGIRI DISTRICT, SOUTH INDIA

ASPLENIACEAE

**Asplenium exiguum** Bedd. Ferns S. Ind. t. 146. 1863. Hook. et Bak. Syn. Fil. 216. 2 ed. 1883. *A. fantanum* Bernh. var. *exiguum* (Bedd.) Bedd. Hd. Bk. Fer. Br. Ind. Ceyl. 158. 1883.

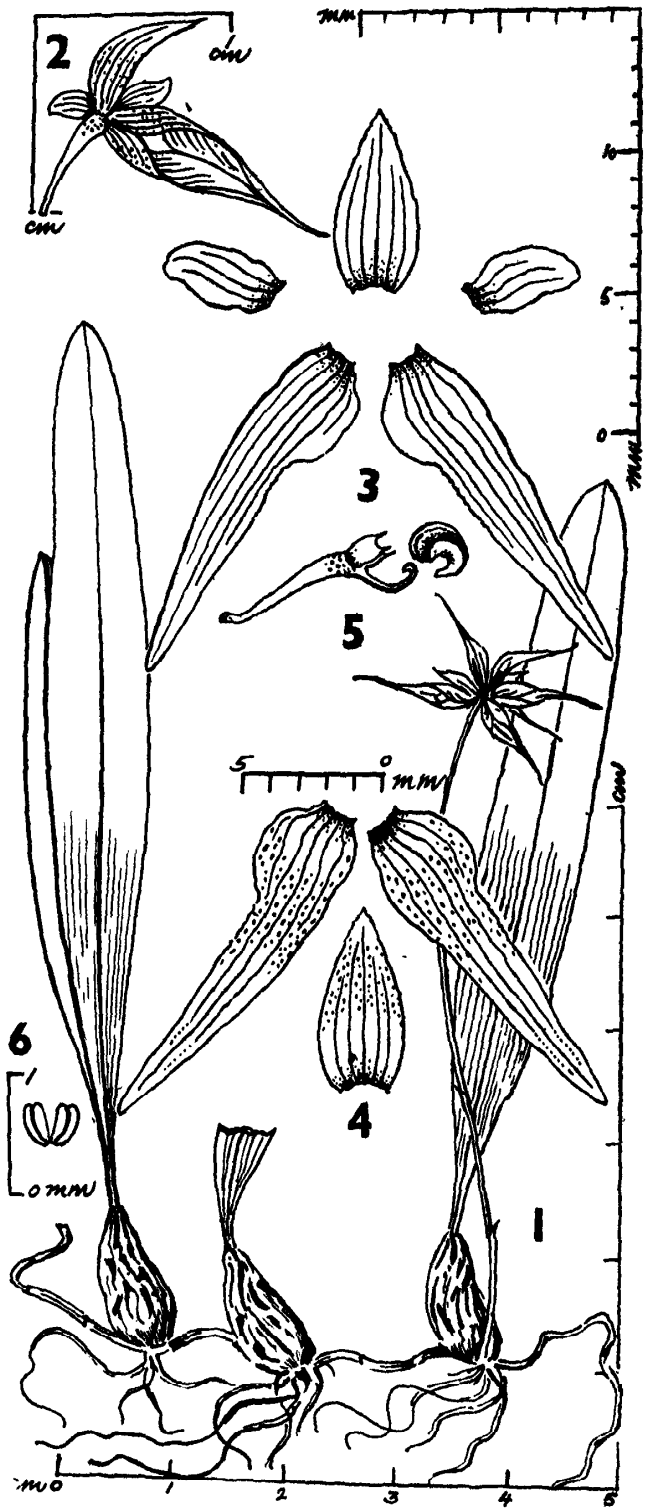
R. H. Beddome collected this fern from Kalhatty river bank above Kalhatty Waterfall in Nilgiri Dt. of Tamil Nadu in the year 1860 (?) and described it in his book on South Indian Ferns cited above. These specimens are not available in the Indian herbaria. The plants growing on rocks were collected again after more than 100 years away from the type locality and also from the neighbourhood of the type locality.

*Specimens examined*: NILGIRI DT.: On way to Adaripatti, 1500 m, 4-12-1970, *Subbarao* 37448; Kalahatty slopes, 1100 m, 23-7-1972, *Subbarao* 41512.

ORCHIDACEAE

**Bulbophyllum elegantulum** (Rolfe) J. J. Smith in Bull. Jard. Bot. Buitenz. ser. II. 8: 23. 1912. *Cirrhopetalum elegantulum* Rolfe, Gard. Chron. ser. 3. 3: 552. 1891*. Fischer in Fl. Pres. Madr. 3: 993. (Repr. ed.) 1957.

This orchid was described by R. A. Rolfe in 1891 from a plant that flowered in the garden of James O' Brien of Harrow-on-the-Hill and sent to Kew Herbarium for determination. It was received by James O'Brien from Coorg, India. It was reported by C.E.C. Fischer in Flora of Madras Presidency (l.c.) on Rolfe's authority (l.c.). No specimens are




*Bulbophyllum elegantulum* (Rolfe) J. J. Smith

Figs. 1-6: 1. Part of plant. 2. Flower. 3. Inner surface of sepals and petals. 4. Outer surface of sepal. 5. Column and lip. 6. Pollinia.

*Note: The volume number etc. of Gardener's Chronicle is cited from what is given in the copy of type description sent by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It differs from the citation in Index Kewensis, Supplm. 1, which again differs from the citation in Kew Bull. 1892, App. 2: 33, 1892.

available in the Indian herbaria.

After 80 years of its description, this orchid was again collected away from the type locality.

*Specimens examined*: NILGIRI DT.: Kudini, 1450 m, 2-8-1972, *Subbarao* 41606.

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## NOTES ON SOME INTERESTING GRASSES FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

This note records the occurrence of *Eulalia thwaitesii* (Hack.) O. Ktze. for the first time in India, and two other little known grasses, namely *Andropogon polyptychus* Steud. and *Garnotia exaristata* F. W. Gould which are inadequately represented in the Indian herbaria. They were collected during the botanical explorations in Anaimudi, the highest peak in Southern India. *Andropogon polyptychus,* however, was also collected from the high altitudes of Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu). They have been critically studied and our determinations were confirmed at the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta.

**Eulalia thwaitesii** (Hack.) O. Ktze. Rev. Gen. Pl. 2: 775. 1891; Bor, Grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan 157. 1960. *Pollinia thwaitesii* Hack. in DC. Monogr. Phan. 6: 163. 1889; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 7: 111. 1896; *P. tristachya* sensu Thw. Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 368. 1864.

This species has hitherto been regarded as endemic to Ceylon. The present collection from the western slopes of Anaimudi, Devicolam, Idikki Dt., Kerala is, therefore, a new distributional record for the species. It can easily be differentiated from the other species of *Eulalia* reported by C.E.C. Fischer in Gamble's *Flora of the Presidency of Madras* by the following key:

1. Basal sheaths glabrous
   2. Leaves aggregated near the base, sub-distichous; lower glume dark brown ... *E. thwaitesii* (Hack.) O. Ktze.
   2. Leaves not as above, often broad; lower glume pale brown
      3. Sessile spikelet 2.5-3.5 mm long, more or less enclosed by white hairs; lower glume elliptic with narrow flaps ... *E. trispicata* (Schult.) Henr.
      3. Sessile spikelet 4-6.5 mm long; hairs not enclosing the spikelets; lower glume oblong-elliptic with very broad flaps ... *E. wightii* (Hook. f.) Bor
1. Basal sheaths reddish-brown tomentose at base ... *E. phaeothrix* (Hack.) O. Ktze.

*Specimen examined*: KERALA: Idikki Dt., Western slopes of Anaimudi, Devicolam, 2,500 m, common, 19-11-1965, *B. V. Shetty* 26540 (MH).

**Andropogon polyptychus** Steud. Syn. Pl Glum. 1: 380. 1854; Thw. Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 367. 1864; Hack. in DC. Monogr. Phan. 6: 578. 1889; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 7: 198. 1896; Bor, Grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan 91-93. fig. 1. 1960; Gupte in Madras Agric. J. 51: 398-399. 1969. *A. polyptychus* Steud. var. *deccanensis* Bor (*Ibid.* 91. 1960) ex W. D. Clayton in Kew Bull. 27: 448. 1972, *syn. nov. Dichanthium polyptychum* (Steud.) A. Camus in Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris