A NEW COMBINATION IN *MURDANNIA* ROYLE (COMMELINACEAE)

While studying the nomenclature of Indian Commelinaceae, a new combination was found necessary under the genus *Murdannia* Royle and is proposed below:

Murdannia lanceolata (Wt.) Kammathy comb. nov. *Dichaespermum lanceolatum* Wt. Ic. Pl. Ind. Or. 6: 31. t. 2078. f. 1. 1853. *Aneilema koenigii* (Wall. Cat. 5214. 1832) ex C. B. Clarke in DC. Monogr. Phan. 3: 215. 1881, Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 381. 1892; Fischer in Gamble Fl. Pres. Madr. 1546. 1936 (Repr. ed. 3: 1079. 1957). *Murdannia koenigii* (Wall. ex C. B. Clarke) Bruckn. in Engl. & Prantl Natur. Pflanzenfam. ed. 2. 15a: 173. 1930.

C. B. Clarke (*l. c.* 1881) adopted Wallich's manuscript name *Aneilema koenigii* for this plant while transferring *Dichaespermum lanceolatum* to the genus *Aneilema* R. Br. because the name *Aneilema lanceolatum* was preoccupied by Bentham's species from Tropical Africa (Hook. Fl. Niger. 546. 1849). Since *Dichaespermum lanceolatum* Wt. with its subequal petals, three antisepalous stamens alternating with three antipetalous trilobed staminodes, three equal-celled capsule with many seeds in each cell is considered under the genus *Murdannia* Royle, the earlier specific epithet—*lanceolatum* of Wight, overlooked by Bruckner in 1930 is now reinstated.

R. V. KAMMATHY
Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

TWO NOMENCLATURAL COMBINATIONS IN PODOSTEMACEAE

There has been much confusion regarding the nomenclature of the plant referred to in our floras (Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bomb. 2: 520, 1906; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras Pt. 7: 1195, 1925) as *Lawia zeylanica* (Gardn.) Tul. Recently, Bakhuizen van den Brink Jr. [Taxon 18(5): 598-599, 1969] established *Dalzellia* Wt. (1852) is the earliest legitimate name at generic rank for *Lawia* Griff. ex Tul. (1849), *non* Wt. (1846), *Tulasnea* Wt. (1852), *non* Naud. (1844), *Terniola* Tul. (1852) (=*Lawia* Tul.) and *Mnianthus* Walp. (1853) (=*Lawia* Griff. ex Tul.) and that *Dalzellia zeylanica* (Gardn.) Wt. is the type species of the genus *Dalzellia* Wt.

Willis in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradynia 1: 214, 1902 remarks: "This is an extremely variable plant and specimens from many localities have been examined. Each locality seems to have its own form, but after close examination of all, I incline to group them into four varieties, partly geographical." Although he (*l. c.*) named them as trinomials such as *L. zeylanica malabarica* and *L. zeylanica konkanica* etc. and furnished descriptions, in view of his 'grouping them into four varieties', the epithets must not be treated as trinomial, but treated nomenclaturally as varieties. Presumably under such conditions, Cooke (*l.c.*) attributed the authority for *L. zeylanica* Tul. var. *malabarica* and var. *konkanica* to Wills.

During the course of the preparation of the check-list of the "Revision of the Flora of the Presidency of Bombay by Cooke", the author had occasion to critically examine and study the specimens of the two varieties occurring in Peninsular India *viz.* var. *malabarica* and var. *konkanica* and find that these two are taxonomically distinct

from the type variety. Hence to make the nomenclature up-to-date, the following two combinations have been proposed. A key for separating the Indian varieties has also been given to aid in identification.

Dalzellia zeylanica (Gardn.) Wt. var. **malabarica** (Willis) Janardhanan comb. nov. *Lawia zeylanica* (Gardn.) Tul. emend. Willis var. *malabarica* Willis, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradynia 1: 215, 1902; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bomb. 2: 520, 1906; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras pt. 7: 1195, 1925.

Syntypes: Tinnevelli ghats, in the Tambraparni river, *C. A. Barber* 2847; S. Kanara, at Sullia, *C. A. Barber* 2150, 2153; Beltangadi, *C. A. Barber* 2516, 2524, 2525. N. Kanara, in the Kalanaddi, *Talbot* 1129 p. p. (BSI).

Distribution: Peninsular India (Endemic).

Dalzellia zeylanica (Gardn.) Wt. var. **konkanica** (Willis) Janardhanan comb. nov. *Lawia zeylanica* (Gardn.) Tul. emend. Willis var. *konkanica* Willis, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradynia 1: 216, 1902; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bomb. 2: 521. 1906.

Syntypes: Igatpuri, in the Thul ghat, *Willis* s. n.; Kasara, Thul ghat, *Willis* s. n.; Khandala and Lonavla (Lanauli), in the Bhor ghat, *Willis* s. n.; Sakarpathar, near Lonavla (Lanauli), *Woodrow* s. n.; Tiger Leap, near Khandala, *Woodrow* s. n.; Khadshi river, near Bhorkus, west of Poona, *R. K. Bhide* s. n.; Konkan, *Dalzell* s. n. (BSI).

Distribution: Western ghats (Endemic).

KEY TO THE THREE INDIAN VARETIES OF *DALZELLIA ZEYLANICA* (Gardn.) Wt.

1a. Thallus 20-35 cm in diam., much branched with flabelliform or ribbon-like apical lobes .. var. *zeylanica*
1b. Thallus not exceeding 25 cm in diam.:
2a. Thallus not exceeding 15 cm in diam. with frequent branching and ribbon-like or flabelliform lobes; leaves 3-8 mm long; capsules up to 2 mm long .. var. *malabarica*.
2b. Thallus reaching 15-25 cm in diam. with flabelliform lobes and crowded growing points; leaves reaching 16 mm long; capsules usually more than 2 mm long .. var. *konkanica*

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K. P. JANARDHANAN
Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

SEVEN NEW RECORDS OF FERNS FROM ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The Fern Flora of Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands is poorly known. Kurz (1876), Prain (1891), Thothathri (1960, '73, '78), Nair and Srivastava (1962) at different times published enumeration lists of plants including ferns for some of these Islands. However, recent increased exploration activity from 1971 has brought out several hitherto unreported ferns, of which seven are here listed and briefly described. All the specimens are in the Herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair (PBL).

Angiopteris evecta (Forst.) Hoffm. Soc, Reg. Gott. 12: 29. t. 5. 1796; Bedd. Handb, 460. 1833.