NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON SOME PLANTS FROM INDIA

1. Status of *Corydalis prainiana* Kanodia & Mukerjee (FUMARIACEAE).

The new name, *Corydalis prainiana*, proposed by Kanodia and Mukerjee [in Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. 20(2): 32. 1973] requires re-evaluation. Being of the opinion that the epithet, *casmiriana* Prain merely to be an orthographic variant of *C. cashmeriana* Royle, which epithet intriguingly had been spelt differently by Hooker and Thomson first (Fl. Ind. 263, 1855) as 'kashmiriana' and later (Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 123. 1872) as 'cachmeeriana', Kanodia and Mukerjee (*loc. cit.*) proposed the new name, in spite of the two epithets concerned having different spellings. Royle (Illus. Bot. Himal. Mount. 69, 1839) had based his specific epithet after the place Kashmir ('Cashmir'), while Prain (in Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal 65: 27, 1897) had named his new species after a person, Casimir de Candolle, the last of the three famous de Condolles. It is obvious that there are two different plants, and the new name proposed for *C. casimiriana* Duthie & Prain ex Prain is redundant.

2. **Phyllanthus cecilfischeri*** Ellis, *nomen-nom. P. fischeri sensu* Ellis in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 22: 193. 1980 (1982), non Pax, 1895. *Emblica fischeri* Gamble in Kew Bull. 1925: 130. 1925 et Fl. Pres. Madras 7: 1295 (EUPHORBIACEAE).

As the new combination effected under *Phyllanthus* L., *viz. P. fischeri* Ellis is pre-occupied, a new name for it has become necessary. The etymology of the new name proposed is by prefixing the author's first name.

3. **Rostellularia assamica** (C. B. Cl.) Ellis, *comb. nov. Justicia assamica* C. B. Cl. in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 4: 537. 1885 (ACANTHACEAE).

For the natural circumscription of the genus *Justicia* L. it becomes necessary to treat this species from Assam, India, under *Rostellularia* Reichenb.

4. **Triumfetta rhomboidea** Jacq. var. **pentandra** (A. Rich.) Ellis, *stat. et comb. nov. P. pentandra* A. Rich. in Guil. & Perr. Fl. Senegal. 1: 93, t. 19. 1831. *T neglecta* Wt. & Arn. Prodr. 75. 1834; Masters in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 396. 1874; Dunn in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 120. 1915 (TILIACEAE).

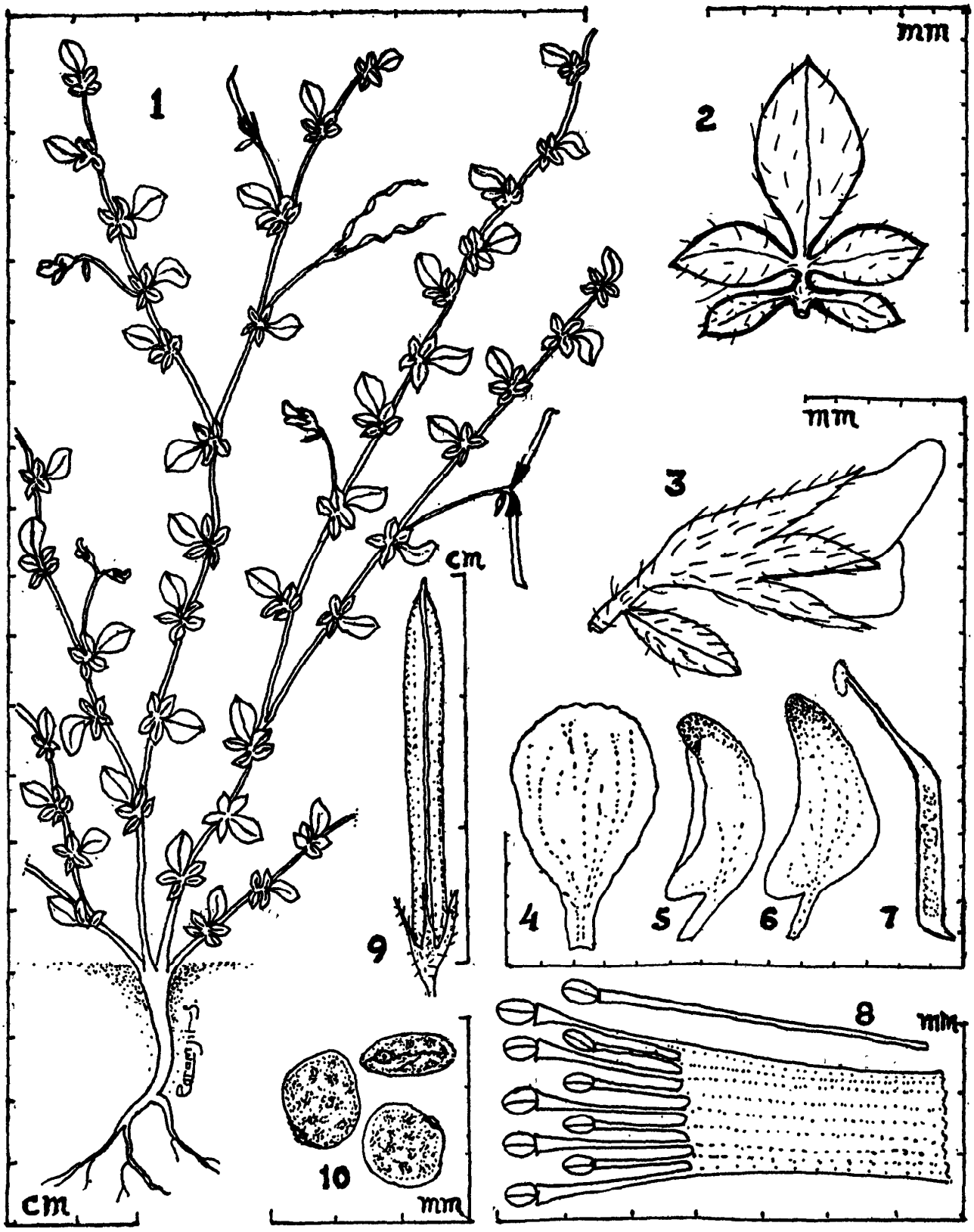
Except for the capsular bristles which are hairy on the upper edges this variety resembles the *typica* in all other characters. Even the amount of hairiness on the upper edge of the bristles is variable. In fact, Haines (Bot. Bihar & Orissa, p. 85. 1921) speaks of this taxon thus: '. . It is scarcely more than a variety of the next species.' (i.e. *T. rhomboidea* Jacq.). It is therefore felt that this variable taxon can be accommodated at a varietal level.

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*Since sending this note, Bennet (in Indian For. 109: 221. 1983) has published a new name, *Phyllanthus indofischeri* for this species, making the name proposed here redundant.

LOTUS ARABICUS L.—NEW TO INDIAN FLORA

The genus *Lotus* L. (Papilionaceae) is represented by about 100 species distributed in north and south temperate regions of the world. Baker (in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 91. 1876) included *L. garciniii* DC., *L. corniculata* L. var. *corniculata* and *L. corniculata*



Figs. 1-10 : 1. Habit. 2. Leaf. 3. Flower. 4. Standard petal. 5. Wing petal. 6. Keel petal. 7. Pistil. 8. Stamens. 9. Fruit. 10. Seeds in different views (*V. Singh* 5552).

var. *minor* Baker within the territory of British India. During the course of botanical exploration of Gujarat State, the senior author collected *L. arabicus* L., which has

not so far been reported from any locality in India. Its syonnymy, short diagnostic description with figures, habitat with exact locality of occurrence, flowering and fruiting period and distribution are given below. The specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Jodhpur (BSJO) and Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL).

Lotus arabicus L. Mant. Pl. 104. 1767; Baker, Fl. Trop. Afr. 2: 62. 1871; Gillett in Kew Bull. 13: 375. 1958; Gillett *et al.* in Fl. East Trop. Afr. 4(2) Papilionaceae: 1942. 1971; Tackholm. Stud. Fl. Egypt 248. 1974 (2nd ed.); Migahid, Fl. Saudi Arabia 1: 338. Pl. 350. 1978. *L. roseus* Forsk. Fl. Aegypt.—Arab. 140. 1775. *L. mossamedansis* Welw. ex Baker, Fl. Trop. Afr. 2: 62. 1871. *L. glinoides sensu* Baker, *l.c.* 2: 63. 1871, non Del. 1837.

Annual, adpressed hairy, spreading herb, up to 50 cm high. Leaves alternate, odd-pinnate; rachis 2-5 mm long, leaflets 5, subsessile, obovate-cuneate or oblanceolate, 7-15 ×2-6 mm, entire, acute, basal pair little/smaller, arising from the base of rachis and appearing like stipules. Flowers pink or red, *ca* 1 cm long, solitary or rarely geminate, borne at the end of axillary peduncle and subtended by an unifoliolate bract; peduncle 8-25 mm long, up to twice as long as the subtending leaf; pedicel(s) *ca* 1 mm long; bract oblanceolate, 5-8 mm long, acute, shortly stalked at the base. Calyx-tube 2-3 mm long; teeth linear, 4-6 mm long, about twice the length of tube. Standard 6-7 mm long, about as long as wings. Stamens 10, diadelphous (9+1); filament-sheath *ca* 4 mm long; free part of shorter filaments alternating with longer ones and about two-third as long as the latter; free part of longer filaments *ca* 3 mm long, dilated at the apex. Ovary 3.5-5 mm long, glabrous; style 3-4 mm long; tip incurved. Pods slender, *ca* 3×3 mm subtorulose, dehiscing along both the sutures, the valves coiling spirally, about 12 to 20-seeded, septate between the seeds. Seeds suborbicular, subcompressed, *ca* 1.5 mm in diam., mottled.

Flowering and Fruiting: November-January.

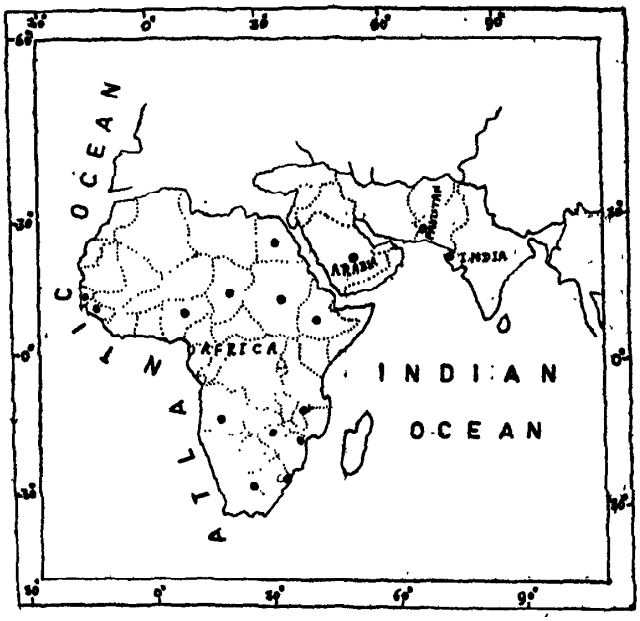


Fig. 2. Map showing the distribution of *Lotus arabicus* L.

Common in saline soils along the sea shore, ponds, brooks etc. Tackholm (*l.c.*) has mentioned that this species is highly poisonous. The plants contain the glucoside 'lutosin' ($C_{28}H_{31}NO_{16}$).

Specimens examined: Gujarat: Jodiya Sea Port (Rajkot district), *V. Singh* 5552 (BSJO, CAL), 30.12.1977, at sea level.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Africa (South Africa, Rhodesia, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola, Senegal and Guinea to Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt etc.) and extending eastwards to India through Arabia and Pakistan (Baluchistan). Probably introduced in India through ships.

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