In view of this, the distribution *L. petiolata* now extends from India to Nepal, Bhutan and Thailand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to my academic mentor Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Botanical Survey of India, for his constant encouragement and going through the manuscript.

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ON THE REDISCOVERY OF TWO RARE ENDEMIC PLANTS OF INDIA

Intensive floristic studies, paying greater attention to locate the endemic and rare/threatened/vulnerable plants, conducted in the evergreen pockets of the ghat forests of Kanniyakumari district in Tamil Nadu, India, have yielded good results (Henry & Swaminathan 1979, 1980a, 1980b, 1981). Two rare endemic species *viz. Hedyotis villosostipulata* (Gamble) Rao & Hemadri [RUBIACEAE] and *Semecarpus auriculata* Bedd. [ANACARDIACEAE] which need conservation, were rediscovered after a lapse of about eight decades. They are recorded in this paper; the specimens cited are from MH.

Hedyotis villosostipulata (Gamble) Rao & Hemadri in Indian For. 99: 379. 1973; Henry *et al.* in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 75: 690. 1979. *Oldenlandia villosostipulata* Gamble in Kew Bull. 1919: 405. 1919 & Fl. Pres. Madras 2: 423. 1957 (repr. ed.) [RUBIACEAE].

Erect shrubs up to 2 m tall. Leaves 1-6 × 1-3 cm, elliptic to ovate, entire, obtusely acute at apex, narrowed into the petiole at base; stipules ovate, pectinate, villous. Flowers up to 1.3 cm long, in axillary, sessile, fascicled cymes; pedicels up to 8 mm long, slender. Calyx tube *ca* 2 mm long, glabrous; lobes 4, each up to 3 × 1 mm, lanceaate, ciliate. Corolla tube *ca* 5 mm long, campanulate; lobes 4, each *ca* 4 × 2 mm, lanceate, glabrous without, villous within. Stamens exerted. Capsules up to 4 mm long, ovoid, puberulous (Plate).

This rare and threatened plant was described by Gamble *l. c.* based on a single collection of T. F. Bourdillon made in the year 1894 from Muthukuzhivayal, and was so far represented in MH only by a single isotype specimen. The holotype was deposited in K. The plant is not represented in CAL and UCT*. We could relocate this species from the type locality (Muthukuzhivayal) after a lapse of about 85 years. This handsome shrub was found in crevices of rocks along the outskirts of evergreen forests bordering the grassy swards, at an altitude of about 140 m.

*University College Herbarium, Trivandrum.

Specimens examined: TAMIL NADU: Kanniyakumari Dt.: Muthukuzhivayal, 2.9.1894, *T. F. Bourdillon* 338 (Isotype); Muthukuzhivayal, *Henry* 47568; 27.8.1976, 9.9.1976, 48305; 8.8.1977, 49653; 1.2.1978; 53344; 2.2.1978, 53363 & 30.9.1980, 68876 all from Kodayar.

Distrib.: Endemic to India (Tamil Nadu).



Plate : *Hedyotis villosostipulata* (Gamble) Rao & Hemadri

Semecarpus auriculata Bedd. Fl. Sylv. t. 232 (letter press). 1872 & Ic. t. 187. 1874; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 2: 32. 1876; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 190. 1957 repr. ed.). [ANACARDIACEAE]

Trees up to 15 m tall, dioecious. Leaves 5-40 × 2-8 cm, oblanceate, entire, glabrous above, sparsely rusty pubescent below, abruptly acuminate at apex, gradually attenuate and forming two auricles at base. Male flowers *ca* 3 mm across, greenish yellow, mildly scented, in terminal panicles. Drupes *ca* 1.8 × 1 mm, obliquely obovate, glabrous, seated on a broad cup-like hypocarp.

Though this species has a wider distribution in S. W. Ghats, it is poorly represented in MH, and not represented in CAL. The last collection of this appears to have been made in the year 1903 from Tambrachery ghat, Wynaad, in Kerala by C. A. Barber. After a lapse of about 8 decades we have succeeded in locating this tree in the dense evergreen forests of Muthukuzhivayal. The male tree is very showy when in full bloom.

Specimens examined: KERALA: Travancore, *Beddome* s. n., 1873; Travancore up to 3000 ft, *Beddome* s. n. Travancore, *Bourdillon* 49; Tambrachery ghat, Wynaad, *Beddome* s. n. 1880; Lower 3 miles, Tambrachery ghat, Wynaad, 21.1.1903, *Barber* 5654; Quilon Dt.: Colatoorpolay, 25.11.1893; Colatoorpolay, 3.11.1894, *Bourdillon* 391. TAMIL NADU: Kanniyakumari Dt.: Way to Muthukuzhivayal, 5.10.1980, *Henry* 68930.

Distrib.: Endemic to India (S. W. Ghats).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Dr. N. C. Nair, Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for encouragement and facilities, and to Dr. J. L. Ellis, Systematic Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for kindly verifying the distribution of these species in CAL.

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