Chembur. S. S. Veppulari reported it from Sibpur, Howrah. Masters (l.c.) records it as an introduced weed in India. However, he has not given any description or distribution. Since the first collection of this species from Bombay, it was kept under observation and repeated collections were made for its complete study. The identity of this species is confirmed by Mr. R. L. Mitra, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, for which we are grateful to him.

Exsiceata: C. S. Lattoo — 6175 (Inst.), 6194 (BLAT).

BLATTER HERBARIUM,
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE,
BOMBAY-400 001.

S. M. ALMEIDA

INSTITUTE, OF SCIENCE,
BOMBAY-400 032,
January 14, 1983.

C. S. LATTOO

40. *ACRORUMOHRA DIFFRACTA* (BAKER) H. ITO (ASPIDIACEAE): A LITTLE KNOWN FERN FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND SHAN STATE OF UPPER BURMA

In course of studying the Pteridophytic flora of Manipur and adjacent states I have come across a peculiar fern specimen (3 gatherings) with zig-zag rachis collected by Col. Baigui in 1874 from Duphla hills of Arunachal Pradesh, India and another by H. Collett from Luchin, Shan State of Upper Burma. Sheets of Col. Baigui were identified as *Lastrea undulata* Thw. and then determined as *Dryopteris obtussima* (Mett.) Christ. But on examination it has been determined as *Acrorumohra diffracta* (Baker) H. Ito based on the peculiarities stated by Ching (1934) as "This is a strikingly unique fern one should never forget once seen, on account of its lateral pinnae, particularly the lower ones, being peculiarly deflexed on the lower part of rachilets". Finally these specimens were also matched with the photograph of the Type specimen.

This plant is so far known from mainland, China, Indo-China and Taiwan but hitherto not reported from India. The plant was first described as *Nephrodium diffracta* Baker in 1898 based on the collection of A. Henry 1928 from Yunnan in 1898. Later there was confusion among several workers regarding its proper generic identity. Christ and C. Christinson transferred this under *Aspidium* and *Dryopteris* respectively. Later Ching placed it under *Rumohra* and it was treated by Hayata as a new species under *Dryopteris* as *D. reflexipinna* Hayata. Finally this plant has been correctly placed under the genus *Acrorumohra* H. Ito based on the characters (i) Zig-zag rachis with reflexed pinna, (ii) anadromaus veins, (iii) sori terminal on the veins and (iv) reniform to suborbicular indusium.

Moreover, Ching has mentioned that another species *Acrorumohra hasselttii* (Bl.) Ching also occurs in Assam which is based on G. Mann's collection.

However, not a single specimen of these two plants have been collected either

from Arunachal Pradesh or from Assam after Col. Baigui and G. Mann respectively.

The collection of H. Collett from Luchin, Shan states housed at Central National Herbarium (CAL) is also identified as *Acrorumohra diffracta* (Baker) H. Ito. It was not earlier reported from Burma. It is interesting to note that both Indian and Burma collections were made much earlier than A. Henry (1898) from China in 1874 and 1888 respectively. Thus it shows its distributional ranges from Taiwan, China mainland, Indo-China, Burma and North East India (Arunachal Pradesh).

For easy identification, the species is described below.

Acrorumohra diffracta (Baker) H. Ito in Nakai et Honda, Nov. Fl. Jap. 4. 104. 1939; Deval C. W. E. & Kuo, C. M. in Fl. Taiwan 1: 360. Pl. 127. 1975. *Nephrodium diffracta* Baker in Kew Bull. 1898: 230. 1898. *Aspidium diffractum* Christ in Bull. Herb. Bioss. 7: 17. 1899. *Dryopteris diffracta* C. Chr. in Ind. Fil. 262. 1905. *Dryopteris reflexipinna* Hayata in Ic. Pl. Form. 4: 174. Pl. 113. 1914; C. Chr. Ind. Fil. Suppl. 16. 1913-17; *Rumohra diffracta* (Baker) Ching in Sinensia. 5: 1. 69. Pl. 18. 1934.

Type: Yunnan, Mentze. *A. Henry* 9028, Description (Photo !)

Rhizome short erect to ascending densely clothed with dark brown, palcaceous scales, stipes brown, glabrous, 20-40 cm long; Lamina 25-40 cm long, 15-30 cm broad, quadripinnate, deltoid to broadly ovate; pinnae from rachis deflexed, more in first pair of the lower pinna, this gives the rachis a zig-zag form; rachis straminous, shiny, glabrous; pinnae 6-8 pairs, petiole reflexed, segments flabellate, undulate to crenate; pinnules chartaceous in texture, green even when dried; veins free 2-4 furked, nor raching to the margin; sori on the vein end; indusium persistent, reniformed with undulate margin.

Specimen Examined:

INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh, Duphla Hills, 2100 m. 1874, *Col. Baigui s. n.* (Acc. Nos. 16801, 16802, 16904 — CAL).

BURMA: Shan States, Luchin, 900 m, Feb. 1888, *H. Collett s. n.* (CAL).

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B. GHOSH

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December 21, 1982.

41. AN INTERPRETATION OF *BAUHINIA* L. (*SENSU LATO*) SPECIES ILLUSTRATED IN VAN RHEEDE'S HORTUS MALABARICUS (1678-1703)

The plates *Chovanna-mandaru* (Hort. Malab. 1: 58. t. 32. 1678), *Chovanna-mandaru* (Hort. Malab. 1 : 59. t. 33. 1678), *Veluttamandaru* (Hort. Malab. 1: 61. t. 34. 1678), *Canschenapou* (Hort. Malab. 1: 63. t. 35. 1678), *Mandaru-valli* (Hort. Malab. 8: 55. t. 29. 1688), *Naga-mu-valli* (Hort. Malab. 8: 57. t. 30. 1688) and *Naga-mu-valli* (Hort. Malab. 8: 57. t. 31.



Ghosh, B. 1984. "ACRORUMOHRA-DIFFRACTA ASPIDIACEAE A LITTLE KNOWN FERN FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND SHAN STATE OF UPPER BURMA." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 81, 530–531.

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