

21. A NOTE ON A SPECIES OF *CISSUS*

(With five figures)

While investigating the origin and development of the tendril in *Cissus* I came across in Gujarat a species of *Cissus* resembling *C. quadrangularis*, but the specimen could not be compared with the reported species in Cooke's FLORA OF BOMBAY PRESIDENCY. It was identified as *C. quadrangularis* Linn. by Kew and *C. quadrangularis* (L.) Willd. by Indian Botanic Garden, Calcutta. Rev. Father H. Santapau informed me (11th Feb. 1956) that the specimen 'is near *C. quadrangularis* but it is not this species'. Recently I came across the same species growing in south India and the typical *C. quadrangularis* with its quadrangular stem was also found. When the specimens were again referred to Kew, the Director kindly informed me that Dalzell in 1857 pointed out that the plant called *C. quadrangularis* by Roxburgh, Wight, and Arnott appeared to be different from a similar plant found throughout Gujarat. The Gujarat plant has unwinged stems, ovoid fruits, trilobed or unlobed leaves, and tuberous roots, whereas the plant described by Roxburgh and others from Madras has winged stems, smaller globose fruits, unlobed leaves, and fibrous roots. I have observed both the types of plants in Gujarat and south India. I have also noted some anatomical differences between the two specimens. On the basis of my few observations Rev. Father H. Santapau recently (Nov. 18th, 1957) confirmed that 'it is clear that there are two species of *Cissus*':

1. *Cissus quadrangularis* Linn., identified by Dalzell as the plant of Gujarat, with rounded stem, etc.
2. *Cissus edulis* Dalz. the plant of south India, with square stems; the plant of Gujarat with square stems is the same as that of south India.

But I agree with Father H. Santapau that there is still need of more observations. I shall be grateful if the readers of this journal will kindly send me flowering and fruiting material of both the species.

I am grateful to Rev. Father Santapau, for kindly going through this note and helping me in identification. My thanks are due to the Director, Kew Gardens for help, Professor T. C. N. Singh, Professor and Head of the Department of Botany, for his interest and facilities, and to my students Shri T. Govindrajulu and S. Krishnan for the diagrams.

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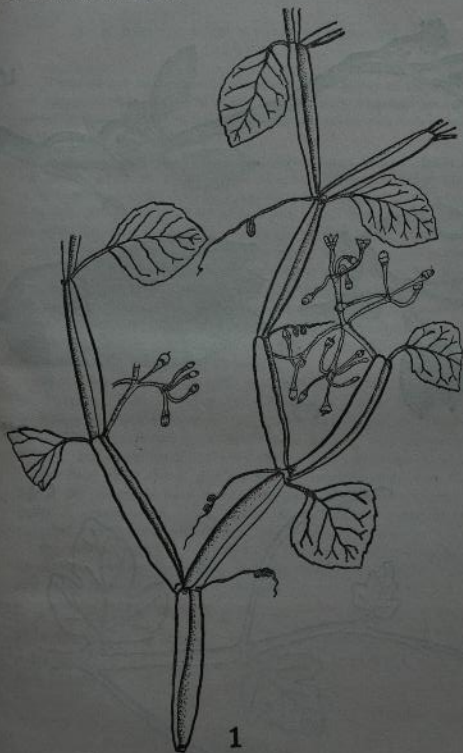


Fig. 1. *Cissus quadrangularis* from South Arcot District, Madras. Note the typical quadrangular and winged stem.

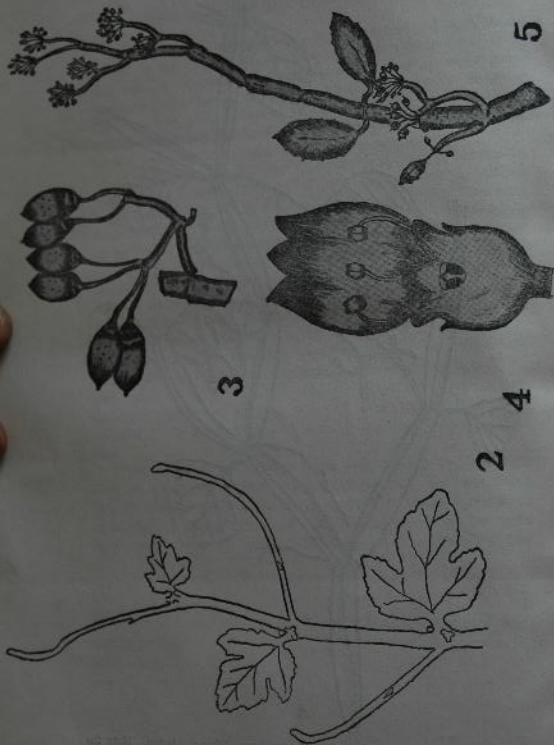


Fig. 2. *Cissus* species from Gujarat. Note the cylindrical stem. Fig. 3. Fruits of *Cissus* species from South Arcot District.
 Fig. 4. L. S. flower of *Cissus* species. Fig. 5. Flowering material of *Cissus* species from South Arcot District.