

25. *CANSCORA DECUSSATA* ROEM. & SCH. : A NEW RECORD FOR BOMBAY STATE<sup>1</sup>

In the course of intensive botanical studies in the Ratan Mahal hills, an essentially unexplored area in Panch Mahal district, (Gujarat State), we collected some specimens of the genus *Canscora*. The distinctly winged nature of the calyx and the winged stem created a special interest. The plant has been identified as *Canscora decussata* Roem. & Sch. As far as can be ascertained from the available literature this seems to be a new record for Bombay State<sup>1</sup>.

*Canscora decussata* Roem. & Sch. iii Mânt. : 299, 1827. Hooker in Fl. Brit. Ind. 4 : 104, 1885. Gamble, Fl. Presidency of Madras 2 : 618 (Rep. ed. 1957). Trimen, Fl. Ceylon 3 : 185, 1895.

A small erect glabrous herb; stem 10-45 cm., 4 winged, the wings broader at the top. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, sessile, 3-nerved. Cyme rigid, erect, terminal, bracts at its bifurcations. Calyx distinctly winged. Corolla white, tube as long as calyx.

The plants were found inhabiting the steep slopes and the escarpments along the roadsides near Taramb Kach and Patan Mata in Panch Mahal district.

*Flowering time*: September-January.

*Fruiting time*: October-January.

*Herbarium Specimen No.*: Bedi 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520.

*Critical Notes*: Hooker mentions the plant as occurring throughout India; from Himalaya to Burma; abundant in Bengal plains. Not uncommon in Ceylon. During our explorations in various regions of Gujarat we have come across this plant for the first time. As far as we are aware no mention of the said plant has been made in any of the works on the flora of Bombay State.

The authors are indeed grateful to Dr. G. Taylor, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, for the determination of the plant. Our thanks are also due to Rev. Fr. H. Santapau for critically going through the manuscript of this note.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,  
FACULTY OF SCIENCE,  
M.S. UNIVERSITY OF BARODA,  
BARODA.

A. R. CHAVAN  
S. J. BEDI

July 21, 1962.

<sup>1</sup> The area implied includes the present States of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

dry. Operculum large with a long beak. Peristome teeth 16, which later on, due to splitting, become 32, orange-brown. Spores circular,  $16 \mu$  wide.

The material has been deposited in the Cryptogomic Herbarium of the Headquarters Organization of the Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, and a part in the Herbarium of Northern Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun, bearing Field No. *Bhattacharya* 4.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors express their thanks to Dr. U. C. Bhattacharya, Botanist, Northern Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun, for putting his valuable collection at their disposal.

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
CALCUTTA,  
October 12, 1964.

B. M. WADHWA<sup>1</sup>  
J. N. VOHRA

## REFERENCES

- BROTHERUS, V. F. (1925): in Engler and Prantl, *Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien*, ed. 2., II: 1-542.  
FOREAU, G. (1961): Moss Flora of Palni Hills. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 58: 13-47.  
VARDE, R. P. de la (1923): Musci Madurenses. *Rev. Bryol.* 50: 17-27.

21. *MELHANIA HAMILTONIANA* WALL.: A NEW RECORD FOR BOMBAY STATE<sup>2</sup>

(With one plate)

In the present note, *Melhania hamiltoniana* Wall., a common plant of the plains of north India, is put on record for the first time from Bombay State.

*Melhania hamiltoniana* Wall. *Pl. Asiat. Rat.* 1: t. 77; Hooker in *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 1: 372, 1874.

An erect undershrub, about 1 m. high with spreading branches. Leaves ovate sub-cordate, unequally toothed, pubescent, dark green above, white beneath. Peduncles axillary and terminal, usually three-flowered. Bracteoles recurved at the edges. Sepals lanceolate, cuspidate, villous. Petals orange-yellow, obovate, longer than the

<sup>1</sup> Present Address: Botanical Survey of India, Central Circle, 10 Chatham Lines, Allahabad

<sup>2</sup> The term is used in its former significance to include the present States of Gujarat and Maharashtra.