NEW PLANTS FROM NETARHAT PLATEAU, BIHAR-2

S. R. Paul

Plant Taxonomy & Herbarium Discipline, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow 226 001, India

Abstract

Nine new distributional records for the flora of Bihar State are enumerated, consequent upon the intensive studies carried out by the author on the flora of Netarhat Plateau, Bihar. The taxa included here are: Pterospermum xylocarpum (Gaertn.) Sant. & Wagh; Rhamnus wightii Wight & Arn.; Vitis heyneana Roem & Schult; Pseudelephantopus spicatus (Juss. ex Aubl.) Rohr. ex Gleason; Cynoglossum zeylanicum (Vahl) Thunb. ex Lehm.; Plectrantus striatus Benth.; Pogostemon parviflorus Benth.; Ajuga bracteosa Wall. ex Benth. and Satureja umbrosa (M. Bieb.) Scheele, with comments on their identity and distribution.

The specimens on which these records, new to the State of Bihar, are based are lodged in the Herbarium of the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (LWG).

Sterculiaceae


Distribution—Throughout western Peninsula.

Notes—Closely resembles P. acerifolium Willd., but distinguishable by its oblong-acuminate, 5-nerved leaves and much smaller flowers. Also it resembles P. reticulatum Wight & Arn. but for its oblique leaves, distinctly longer stipules and bigger flowers.

Rhamnaceae


Not common, seen on the hilly slopes near the ravines.


Distribution—Western Ghats; Nilgiri & Pulney Hills, up to 610 m and Sri Lanka.

Vitaceae


Rare in dense mixed forest at Koorgee, 975 m. Fl. & Fr.: Dec.—April. S. R. Paul 96164.

Distribution—Kashmir to Sikkim; Assam; Lower Himalayas; Eastern Bengal; Eastern Ghats, Burma; China.

Note—Haines (1921) cites Campbell and Watt’s collection from Manbhum—a locality now outside the present boundary of Bihar and with remarks—“but I have seen no specimen from our area and it may be an error in identification”. Vitis vinifera Linn. (a native of West Asia and Mediterranean) seen under cultivation in gardens is though closely related to V. heyneana but differs from


the latter in the absence of tendrils on the inflorescence—peduncles on one hand and from V. parviflora Roxb. in its longer petals and pubescence on the other. Sometimes V. heyneana is also confused with Cissus adnata (Roxb.) Wall. (=V. adnata Roxb.) but differs in having polygamous dioecious flowers arranged in 5-15 cm long thyrsoid panicles, 5-merous slender pedicelled flowers and the calyptrate corolla. Lawson (loc. cit.) has recognised three varieties. My specimens stand closer to the typical variety.

**Asteraceae**


Rare in ravines.


**Boraginaceae**


In open waste places and grasslands, not common.

Fl. & Fr. : Feb.—April. S. R. Paul 96745.

**Labiatae**


Frequently met with on hilly slopes in association with *Azanza lamaps* near the ravines at Upper Ghaghra Water Fall area. Fl. Nov.—Dec. S. R. Paul 82281.

**Distribution**—Kashmir to Bhutan, 1000-4000 m; Assam; Burma; China.


Rare in ravines along water courses.


**Distribution**—Kumaon to Bhutan; Konkan; Assam and Burma.

**Note**—Resembles *P. plectranthoides* Desf. but distinguishable by its much more slender spikes and narrower bracts.

Haines (loc. cit.) expressed doubt if this taxon extends to the Champaran Hills, an extreme north-western locality in Bihar. However, now it is being recorded from the central-western corner of the province.


Uncommon in waste places and grasslands.

F. : Jan.—March. K. K. Singh 2546 (CDRI)

**Distribution**—N-W. Frontier Province; Kashmir; Punjab; Kumaon; Nepal; Afghanistan; Tibet; China; Japan and Abyssinia.


Rare in valleys below the lower Gaghra Water Falls.


*Distribution*—Caucasus; Iran; Afghanistan; W. Pakistan; Nepal; Sikkim; Kashmir to Bhutan; Assam and Burma.

*Note*—Controversial opinions have been expressed about the delimitation of *Calamintha*. Koch (Linnaea 21: 673. 1848) merged it with *Clinopodium*. Bentham (Lab. Gen. Sp. 384. 1834.) treated *Calamintha* as a section of *Melissa* and distinguishes *Micromeria* from *Satureja* mainly by the calyx which is 13-nerved. Specimens from Bihar are generally met with 10-11-nerved calyx and thus support Briquet's (in *E & P. Nat. Pfl. Fam.* 4, 3a. 301. 1896) concept that *Micromeria* and *Calamintha* be reduced to *Satureja*. This broad concept of the genus is adopted here.

**Acknowledgements**

The author is grateful to Dr P. V. Sane, Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow for facilities and to Mr V. S. Sharma for critically going through the manuscript.