Exploration of liverwort diversity on *Cinchona* plantation in Dodabetta, Nilgiri Hills, India

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The epiphytic diversity of Hepaticae occurring on *Cinchona* plantation spread in an area of over 3 sq. km in Dodabetta, Nilgiri hills (Tamil Nadu), has been discussed. The bark of phorophyte provides a suitable substrate to the liverworts because of rugged surface. Samples gathered from basal and middle stem (trunk) of the host trees including the twigs provide a changed physical environment in all the three regions of the stem. The basal region contains those species which are facultative epiphytes such as *Lophocolea muricata* while the other two regions show obligate epiphytes like *Metzeria pandei*. A total of 13 species belonging to Jungermanniales and a single species of Metzgeriales have been described.

Key-words-Liverwort, Cinchona, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

INTRODUCTION

IN recent years much work has been done on epiphytic bryophytes as well as on relationship between cryptogamic epiphytes and host trees (the phorophytes) in United States, Canada, eastern Europe and Japan (Culberson, 1955; Iwatsuki, 1960; LeBlanc, 1959, 1963; Hale, 1952, 1955; Phillips, 1959; Shacklette, 1961; Schuster, 1959; Engle, 1960; Hoffman and Kazmeierski, 1969; Denison, 1973; Slack, 1971, 1976; Stringer and Stringer, 1974; Barkman 1958; Pike et al., 1975) except India where no adequate attention has been given on this aspect of bryology (see Udar, 1976) in spite of rich forest cover in different bryologically rich territories of the country (Kachroo, 1993; Srivastava, 1994, 1998). Both Angiospermous and Gymnospermous phorophytes are well known to host epiphytic forms in India which have been described sporadically and reviewed from time to time (see Srivastava, 1998). In a recent contribution Srivastava et al (1994) have studied the bryophytes (liverworts) on tea plantations in a tea garden in Darjeeling (West Bengal) hosting half a dozen species including Plagiochila luthiana St., Schiffn., Plagiochila forficata Porella campylophylla var. ligulifera (Tayl.) Hatt., Frullania neurota Tayl., Lejeunea flava (Sw.) Nees and Microlejeunea punctiformis (Tayl.) Spr.

During a plant collection trip to Nilgiri hills in Ootacamund some liverworts growing as epiphyte on *Cinchona* plantations in Dodabetta (alt. ca. 2600 m.), an area which constitutes a part of one of the oldest Biosphere Reserve of the country (Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve) were collected. The liverworts found in this region show somewhat specific preference over the bark of Cinchona officinalis (Rubiaceae), a cultivar, which is always planted on sloppy mountains and requires annual precipitation of nearly 2200 mm and prefers cool and humid conditions. The phorophyte under consideration is an evergreen shrub and is a native of Andian highland of South America with opposite, simple, entire leaves and small flowers. The bark contains 30 important alkaloids with medicinally rich source of anti malarial drug quinine (Jain, 1994).

A critical investigation of the hepatic vegetation of the area under study revealed a total of 14 species forming conspicuous corticolous population with dominance of the largest order Jungermanniales (13 species) and a sole representative of Metzgerials (one species). These include: *Lophocolea muricata* Nees (Geocalycaceae), *Plagiochila ghatiensis* St. (Plagiochilaceae), *Porella acutifolia* (Lehm. *et* Lindenb.) Trev. (Porellaceae), *Frullania tamarisci* (L.) Dum. (Jubulaceae), *Microlejeunea ulicina* Evans, *Cheilolejeunea imbricata* (Nees) Hatt.,

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Cheilolejeunea udarii Srivastava et al, Lejeunea flava (Sw.) Nees, Lejeunea wightii Lindenb., Lejeunea discreta Lindenb., Lopholejeunea sikkimensis St. (Lejeuneaceae), Radula madagascariensis Gott., Radula nilgiriensis Udar et Kumar and Metzgeria pandei Srivastava et Udar (Metzgeriaceae).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Plant specimens were collected in October 2000 and March 2001 from the bark of Cinchona officinalis in Dodabetta, Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu, South India and are preserved in LWU (Lucknow University Hepatic Herbarium). Dried herbarium specimens were treated with tap water for nearly 3 hours to revive them to their original shape, however, fresh plants provide features of their natural colours. External morphology has been studied under a stereoscopic binocular microscope. Hand cut sections were mounted in 50% aqueous glycerine and internal structures were investigated under a compound microscope. The selection of phorophyte was made in about 3 km area of Cinchonia plantations. Random selection technique was applied, but no specific sampling methods were used. The plants were collected from the basal part (about 50 cm from base), middle part (1-2 metre) and branches or twigs of phorophytes.

Key to genera and species of Hepaticae (Liverwort) on *Cinchona* bark

1. Plants thalloid without any differentiation in the assimilatory (photosynthetic) and storage zone

......Metzgeriales

• Thalli with a sharp distinction between a narrow costa and unistratose wing, sex organs always on specialized ventral shoots

(Metzgeriaceae) Metzgeria

• Thallus wing 20-24 cells wide on either side of midrib, hairs occasionally present on ventral surface of the wing......*M. pandei*

1.	Plants always leafy (foliose) in organization		
	developing from a terranedral apical cell		
	(Jungermanniales) –2		
2.	Leaves in two alternate rows on the axis without underleaves		
2.	Leaves in three rows (two dorso-lateral and one		
	ventral row of amphigastria) on the axis4		
3.	Leaves simple and dentate, vegetative branches		
	lateral intercalary, postical intercalary or even		
	terminal and always Frullania-type		
	Plagiochilaceae		
	• Stem usually with one layer of cortical cells,		
	leaves and female bracts usually dentate, leaf		
	insertion extended to dorsal mid line of stem		
	Plagiochila		
	• Plants generally small, up to nearly 20 mm or		
	so, with flagelliform branches, leaves bi to		
	tridentate P. ghatiensis		
3.	Leaves complicate bilobed, rhizoids always arising		
	from leaf-lobule, branching Radula-type		
	(Radulaceae) Radula 5		
4.	Leaves and underleaves bifid		
	• Branching intercalary, underleaf free or connate with dorso-lateral leaves, rhizoids usually in fascicles on underleaf-base		
	Geocalycaceae		
	• Male and female inflorescence terminal on main shoot or on equally vigorous lateral		

main shoot or on equally vigorous lateral shoots, female bracts and bracteoles larger or as large as the leaves and underleaves......

.....Lophocolea

• Leaf, underleaf, bracts, bracteoles and perianth with 2-4 celled spinate projections all over the plant surface.....

.....L. muricata

- 5. Plants gemmiparous, gemmae marginal on leaf

PLATE 1

Figures 1-4. Metzgeria pandei Srivastava et Udar 1. Plant (ventral view). 2. Cross section of the thallus. 3. Median cells of the wing. 4. Dorsal epidermal cells of midrib. Figures 5-10. Lophocolea muricata (Lehm.) Nees. 5. Male Plant (Dorsal view). 6.

Male plant (ventral view). 7. Leaf. 8,9. Underleaves. 10. Median cells of Leaf. Figures 11-17. *Plagiochila ghatiensis* St. 11. Plant (dorsal view). 12. Cross section of axis. 13-16. Leaves. 17. Median cells of leaf.



PLATE 1

	lobe and leaf-lobule, lobule ¹ / ₂ of the lobe length	8.	Underleaves eunea) branc
5.	Plants non-gemmiparous, leaf lobule-rectangular, 2/3 of leaf-lobe length and narrowly falcate		peripheral an keeled
6		9.	Plants relative with only 3 m
0.	identical in shape and size		of the lobe left
	(Porellaceae) Porella		
	Leaf-lobe densely imbricate, with acute apex, leaf lobule and underleaves obtuse, some- times with 2-3 dentitions at apex.	9.	Plants mediur generally infla
		10.	Plants large, u
6.	Leaf-lobules and underleaves never identical, leaf -lobules inflated7		1-3 celled apid with leaf lobe.
7.	Plants reddish-brown to black or deep green, leaf, lobule parallel to stem, usually not attached to it, generally inflated or linear, perianth trigonous, dorsiventrally flattenedJubulaceae (<i>Frullania</i>)	10.	Plants genera leaf-lobule al- leaf-cells and
	 Plants mostly dark-brown, without subfloral innovations, leaf-lobules saccate with 2-3(4) celled stylus, ocelli in one or two rows with leaf cells thick-walled underleaf bifid 	11.	Second tooth celled and acu
7.	Plants generally green or plae-green, leaf lobule	11.	Second tooth celled, leaf-lol
	parallel to posterior margin of leaf-lobe and broadly attached to stem at an angle with distinct keelLejeuneaceae-8	12.	Leaves widely leaf-lobe lengt
8.	Underleaves always entire, branching Frullania-	12.	Leaf-lobules 1/2
	more) inner cells, perianth pluriplicate (4-to multiplicate)Ptychanthoideae	13.	The cells belo larger than othe
	innovation absentLopholejeunea	13.	similar to other
	• Leaf-lobe obtuse, underleaves almost orbicular, slightly wider than long, female bract		O
	dentate, bracteole entire, perianth 5-keeled with prominent dentitions over surface	Bota	Metzgeria par unist Vol. II(1)
	L. sikkimensis	Plate	e-5, figs. 1, 2)

8.	Underleaves always bifid (except <i>Leucolej-eunea</i>) branching <i>Lejeunea</i> -type, seta with 12 peripheral and 4 inner cells, perianth typically 5-keeled <i>Lejeuneoideae</i> -9
9.	Plants relatively very small (2-7 mm. long), stem with only 3 medullay cells, leaf-lobules large (3/4 of the lobe length) <i>Microlejeunea</i>
	• Leaf-lobes ovate, with sub-rounded apex
9.	Plants medium-large (9-25 mm long), leaf-lobule generally inflated10
10.	Plants large, up to 35 mm long, leaf-lobules with 1-3 celled apical tooth, lobule forming sharp keel with leaf lobe <i>Cheilolejeunea</i> -11
10.	Plants generally medium in size (up to 18 mm), leaf-lobule always with one-celled apical tooth, leaf-cells and stem cells thin walled
11.	Second tooth of lobule large, uniseriate, 2-4 celled and acute, leaf lobule 2/3 of the lobe
	Cheilolejeunea imbricata
11.	Second tooth of lobule short, triangular, 1-3 celled, leaf-lobule ¹ / ₂ of the leaf-lobe length
	C. udarii
12.	Leaves widely spreading, leaf-lobule 1/3 of the leaf-lobe length, monoeciousL. flava
12.	Leaf-lobules 1/2 of the leaf-lobe length, dioecious.
13.	The cells below the first tooth of the leaf-lobule larger than other neighbouring cellsL. discreta
13.	The cells below the first tooth of the leaf-lobule similar to other neighbouring cells L. wightii
	OBSERVATIONS
	Metzgeria nandei Srivastava et Udar in: New
Bota	<i>anist</i> Vol. II(1): 1-57 (1975). (Plate-1, figs. 1-4;

PLATE 2

Figures 1-7. Frullania tamarisci (L.) Sde. Lac. 1. Plant (ventral view). 2-3. Leaves. 4-6. Underleaves. 7. Median cells of Leaf. Figures 8-13. Porella acutifolia (Lehm. & Lindenb) Trev. 8. Plant (ventral view). 9,10. Leaves. 11,12. Underleaves. 13. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. Fig-

ures 14-26. Lopholejeunea sikkimensis St. 14. Plant (ventral view). 15. Female plant (ventral view). 16-18. Leaves. 19,20. Underleaves. 21. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. 22,23. Female bract. 24. Female bracteole. 28. Perianth. 26. Cross Section of Perianth.



PLATE 2

Thallus prostrate, green up to 12.0 mm long, 2.5-3.0 mm wide, apices wide, obtuse, dichotomously branched, Gemmae absent, wing 17-25 cells wide on either side of midrib, marginal cells 45-54 μ m, thin walled, without trigones, hairs long disposed singly at the margins, also scattered ventrally on the wings towards the apical shoot, besides midrib, midrib cells 3/5, with 15-20 smaller polygonal, thick-walled inner cells, Sterile.

Type loc.: Kodaikanal (Palni hills) (Srivastava and Udar, 1975)

Range: Endemic to India

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, Ootacamund, (Dodabetta, Government Botanical Garden; Palni hills, Kodaikanal, Shembagnur (Srivastava and Udar, 1975)

Associates: Radula nilgiriensis, Lopholejeunea sikkimensis and Frullania tamarisci

Specimen examined: LWU 52/62 (Holotype). *Metzgeria pandei* Srivastava *et* Udar; Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Palni Hills, Kodaikanal (Bryant Park), alt. ca. 1970 m; Date: Oct. 18, 1962; Legit.: R. Udar and V. Chandra; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and R. Udar.

LWU 12493/2000, 12499/2000 *Metzgeria* pandei Srivastava et Udar; Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills, (Dodabetta); alt. ca: 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit., S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Metzgeria pandei is closely related to Metzgeria indica in distribution of hairs on ventral surface of thallus wings and number of rows of cells over the dorsal and ventral epidermal cells of the midrib, but differs in the presence of dorsal gemmae and relatively wide wing in M. indica (up to 34 cells wide on either side of the wing). This species has been collected for the first time since its original discovery (Srivastava & Udar, 1975) and is very well spread over the Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu. Earlier it was reported from Kodaikanal (Palni hills) and is stated to be endemic to India. Presently this species has been very frequently observed in peninsular India.

Lophocolea muricata (Lehm.) Nees in: Gott. et al Syn. Hep. 169(1845). (Plate-1, figs. 5-10; Plate-5, fig.3)

Plants prostrate, light green, up to 20.0 mm long, 0.8-1.1 mm wide, with lateral branching. Leaves subimbricate, sub-transversally inserted, succubous, alternate, ovate, 0.6-0.92 mm long, 0.41-0.88 mm wide, bifid, lobes sub-acute, antical margin straight, postical margin arched, leaves covered with 1-3 celled acute spine; median cells thin walled with triradiate trigones, 11.2-19.8 μ m x 11.0-19.2 μ m. Underleaves narrowly and laterally connate with adjoining leaves only at the base, bisbifid, 0.22-0.39 x 0.18-0.28 mm, lobes acute, sinus wide, rhizoids arising from base.

Dioecious. Male inflorescence terminal or on lateral branches, spicate, bract in 5-6 pairs, apex usually bifid, bract-lobe and bract-lobule covered with spines. Female plant not seen.

Type Loc.: Cape of Good Hope (Schuster, 1980)

Range: Australia, Indonesia, India, Fiji Isls, NewZeland, Tasmania, New Guinea.

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu: Nilgiri hills- Dodabetta, Avalanche, Ootacamund, Naduvattam, Palni hills, Kodaikanal, Shembagnur (see also, Srivastava and Srivastava, 2002).

Associates: Radula nilgiriensis, Porella acutifolia, and Lopholejeunea sikkimensis

Specimens examined: LWU 12509/2000: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hill (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date : Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Male plants of *Lophocolea muricata* has been observed for the first time in a recent collection from

PLATE 3

Figures 1-6. Lejeunea flava (Sw.) Nees. 1. Plant (ventral view). 2. Female plant (ventral view). 3,4. Leaves. 5. Underleaf. 6. Median cells of Leaf-loble. 7-12. Lejeunea wightii Lindenb. 7. Plant (ventral view). 8,9. Leaves. 10,11. Underleaves. 12. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. Figures 13-19. Lejeunea discreta Lindenb.

13. Plant (ventral view). 14-16. Leaves. 17,18. Underleaves. 19. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. Figures 20-27. Microlejeunea ulicina Evans. 20. Plant (ventral view). 21. Female plant (ventral view). 22-24. Underleaves. 25,26. Underleaves. 27 Median cells of Leaf-lobe.



India. However, female plants grow on other angiospermic phorophyte. This species is uncommon.

Plagiochila ghatiensis St. in: Species Hep. VI: 158 (1918). (Plate-1, figs. 11-17; Plate-5, fig.4).

Plants erect to suberect, small, up to 10.0 mm long, 1.60 mm wide, branching *Frullania*-type, often becoming flagelliform, Leaves small distant to sub-imbricate, sub-transverse to obliquely inserted, succubous, oblong, 1.01-1.08 mm long, 0.45-0.52 mm wide, dorsal margin decurrent at base, marginal teeth 2-3, small, leaf cells trigonous, median cells 16-27 μ m x 10-18 μ m, rhizoids restricted on lower axis. Plants sterile.

Type Loc.: Kodaikanal, (Bonner, 1962)

Range: India, China.

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Naduilgiri hills, Ootacamund, Dodabetta; Palni hills, Kodaikanal, Shembagnur.

Associates: Radula nilgiriensis

Specimen examined: LWU 12507/2000 *Plagiochila ghatiensis* St.: Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta), alt. ca. 2600 m, Date: Oct. 8, 2000. Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party. Det.: S.C. Srivastava & P.K. Verma.

This species was earlier reported from Kodaikanal (Stephani, 1918). It has now been recorded from Nilgiri mountains. The plants collected are sterile with frequent flagelliferous branches.

Porella acutifolia (Lehm & Lindenb) Trev.

in: Mem. Real. Istit. Lombardos Sc. Lett ser. 3, 4: 408 (1877). (Plate-2, figs. 8-13; Plate-5, fig.5)

Plants green prostrate, up to 35 mm long, large, bipinnately branched, Leaves densely imbricate, incubous, obliquely inserted, leaf-lobe usually oblong, ovate, 1.20-1.40 mm long, 1.19-1.28 mm wide, entire, apex acute some time with 1-3 sub-apical teeth, cells trigonous, median cells 21-32 μ m x 16-27 μ m, leaf-lobules lanceolate, entire, 0.40-0.49 mm long, 0.28-0.33 mm wide, apex obtuse, slightly notched or acute, base decurrent. Underleaves imbricate, sinuately inserted, triangular-ovate, entire, 0.48-0.56 mm long, 0.44-0.048 mm wide, rarely with acuminate long decurrent base, reproductive structure not seen.

Type Loc.: Annamalai Hills (Tamil Nadu) (see Shaheen, 1983).

Range: Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Indonesia, Sumatra, Java, Indo-China, Celebes, Burma, Philippines, New Guinea, Hawaii, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, Nepal (Shaheen, 1983).

Distribution in India: South India: Nilgiri Hills-Ootacamund, Avalanche, Kalhatty slope, Dodabetta; Kerala- Devicolom; Karnataka- Kudremukh.

Associates: Lophocolea muricata and Lopholejeunea sikkimensis.

Specimens examined: LWU 12504/2000, *Porella acutifolia* (Lehm. & Lindenb.) Trev. Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, (Dodabetta), alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava & P.K. Verma.

Porella acutifolia is sterile, growing only on *Cinchona* plantation. The species is very rare and not collected from any other phorophytes in Dodabetta.

Frullania tamarisci (L.) Sde. Lac.

in: Miquel, Ann. Mus. Lugd. Batavi. 1:313(1836) (Plate-2, figs. 1-7; Plate-5, fig.6)

Plants prostrate, reddish brown, upto 32.0 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, branching *Frullania*-type. Leaves imbricate, incubous, obliquely inserted, lobe ovate, 0.45-0.52 mm long, 0.38-0.42 mm wide, apex rounded, cells thickened, trigonous, indistinct, median cells 10-16 μ m x 8-13 μ m, leaf-lobule saccate, sub-parallel with the stem, galeate, uniform, 0.17-0.24 mm x 0.20-0.24 mm, Ocelli in a single row. Underleaves sinuately inserted, bifid, reproductive structures not seen.

PLATE 4

Figures 1-5. Cheilolejeunea imbricata (Nees) Hatt. 1. Plant (ventral view). 2. Leaf. 3,4. Underleaves. 5. Median cells. Figures 6-12. Cheilolejeunea udarii Asthana et al. 6. Plant (ventral view). 7-9. Leaves. 10,11. Underleaves. 12. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. Figures

13-16. Radula madagascariensis Gott. 13. Plant (ventral view). 14,15. Leaves. 16. Median cells of Leaf-lobe. 17-20. Radula nilgiriensis Udar et Kumar. 17. Plant (ventral view) . 18,19. Leaves. 20. Median cells.



Type Loc.: Europe (Macvicar, 1912) Range: India, Sri Laka (Ceylon), Europe

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, Ootacamund, Avalanche, Upper Bhavani, Dodabetta, Pykara, Palni hills, Kodaikanal; Kerala-Idukki, Wynad.

Associates: Metzgeria pandei, Radula nilgiriensis, Lopholejeunea sikkimensis and Cheilolejeunea imbricata.

Specimen examined: LWU 12493/2000, 12499/ 2000, 12502/2000, 12503/2000, 12513/2000, *Frullania tamarisci* (L.) Sde. Lac.; Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava & Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava & P.K. Verma.

Frullania tamarisci is similar to *F. densiloba* (newly reported from India) (Srivastava and Alam, 2002), both being ocellate in nature. However, it differs in characters related to size of leaf, leaf-lobule shape, and underleaves. The species is most frequently occurring as a terrestrial and epiphytic population in Dodabetta.

Lopholejeunea sikkimensis St. in: *Species Hep.* V: 87(1912). (Plate-2, figs. 14-26; Plate-5, fig.7).

Plants prostrate, greenish-brown, upto 21.0 mm long, 2.0 mm wide, Leaves imbricate, incubous, widely spreading, lobe ovate, 0.55-0.77 mm long, 0.48-0.68 mm wide, margin entire, cells with radiate trigones, median cells 18-35 μ m x 15-28 μ m, leaf-lobules saccate, ½ of the lobe length 0.25-0.31 mm x 0.17-0.21 mm, with indistinct tooth. Underleaves wider than long, 0.30-0.35 mm long, 0.43-0.49 mm wide, margin entire, apex rounded. Monoecious, Male inflores-cence usually on lateral branches, without subfloral innovation, bracts-lobe ovate or obovate 0.70-0.77 mm long, 0.35-0.38 mm wide, margin entire to dentate, acute, bract-lobule, rectangular, bracteole almost orbicular 0.66-0.73 mm long, 0.77-0.80 mm wide, revolute, Perianth obovate, 5-keeled, keel dentate.

Type Loc.: Sikkim (Stephani, 1912)

Range: India, Nepal

Distribution in India: Eastern Himalaya: West Bengal-Darjeeling (L.B.G.)- Manipur; Meghalaya; Shillong; Sikkim: Nathula Road; Western Himalaya: Uttaranchal; Central India: Madhya Pradesh-Pachmarhi; South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills-Naduvattam, Dodabetta, Government Botanical Garden, Pykara; Kerala-Lakkidi (See Awasthi *et al* 2001).

Associates: Metzgeria pandei; Radula nilgiriensis, Frullania tamarisci, Porella acutifolia and Lophocolea muricata.

Specimens examined: LWU 12493/2000, 12494/ 2000, 12504/2000; *Lopholejeunea sikkimensist;* Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta), alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000, Legit.: S.C. Srivastava & Party. Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

L. sikkimensis shows great range of plasticity in structure specially female bract. The species is widely distributed in various parts of country. In Nilgiri hills the plants grow on a wide range of diversified habitats (see also, Awasthi *et al*, 2001)

Lejeunea flava (Sw.) Nees in: Naturg. Eur. Leberm. **3:** 277(1838); Journ. Hatt. Bot. Lab. **11**: 22-23 (1954). (Plate-3, figs. 1-6; Plate-5, fig.9)

Plants prostrate, light yellowish green, up to 13 mm long, irregularly branched by *Lejeunea*-type branching. Leaves imbricate, obliquely inserted, widely spreading, lobe ovate, sub-acute, 0.5-0.65 mm long, 0.48-0.5 mm wide, dorsal margin arched, postical margin less arched, margin entire, cells thin walled with minute trigones, intermediate nodular thickening present, median cells 11-15 μ m x 14-22 μ m, leaf-lobule uniformly inflated, ½ of the lobe length, apical cell obtuse with single celled tooth. Underleaves large, sub-imbricate, sinuately inserted, ovate-orbicular, 0.48-

PLATE 5

Figures 1-9. 1. Metzgeria pandei Srivastava et Udar (x 8). 2. Same (magnified view x 13). 3. Lophocolea muricata (Lehm.) Nees (x 18). 4. Plagiochila ghatiensis St. (x18). Porella acutifolia (Lehm & Lindenb.) Tarev. (x18). Frullania tamarisci (L.) Sde. Lae. (x18). Lopholejeunea sikkimensis St. (x10). 8. Lejeunea discreta Lindenb. (x18). 9. Lejenunea flava (Sw.) Nees (x16).

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0.51 mm long, 0.41-0.45 mm wide, bilobed, sinus narrow, lobes triangular.

Female inflorescence frequently on main shoot as well as on short lateral branches, terminal bract-lobe ovate-oblong, 0.62-0.69 x 0.38-0.43 mm, sub-acute, bract-lobule, large, bracteole ovate, bifid; Perianth obovate, 5-plicate, sporophyte young.

Type Loc.: Jamaica

Range: Jamaica, West Indies, Bermuda, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, South America, North America, Africa, Europe, Japan, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Australia, NewZealand, Samoa and India.

Distribution in India: Eastern Himalaya: Manipur-Jowai, Ukhrul, Vishnupur; Meghalaya-Shillong peak; West Bengal-Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mongpoo, Tiger hill; Sikkim-Nathula Road, South India: Nilgiri hills, Ootacamund, Dodabetta, Naduvattam, Kotagiri, Coonoor, Pykara, Palni hills, Perumalmalai, Silver cascade, Shembagnur, Periakulam, Berizam; Kerala-Murukkady.

Associates: Radula nilgiriensis

Specimen examined: LWU 12499/2001, Lejeunea flava (Sw.) Nees, Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta), alt. ca. 2600 m; Date Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Lejeunea flava is one of the most dominant species among South Indian Lejeuneaceae, specially in Nilgiri hills. The plant is monoecious, though plants not found on *Cinchona* plantations, but on other phorophyte it occurs abundantly:

Lejeunea wightii Lindenb. in: Gott., Lindenb. and Nees *Syn. Hep.* 379(1845). (Plate-3, figs. 7-12; Plate-6, figs. 10, 11)

Plants prostrate, small, green up to 6.0 mm long, 0.45-0.49 mm wide, branching *Lejeunea*-type. Leaves imbricate, incubous, widely spreading, obliquely inserted, leaf-loble ovate, 0.28-0.50 mm long 0.21-0.41

mm wide, apex rounded, margin entire, median cells thin walled with trigones, 18.9-29.7 μ m x 16.2-24.3 μ m, leaf-lobule small 1/3 of the lobe length, ovate, inflated, first tooth with hyaline papilla. Underleaves small, 2-3 times of stem width, sub-transversely inserted, bifid ½ of the length, ovate-orbicular, 0.13-0.28 mm long, 0.11-0.24 mm wide, lobes triangular, apex acute, with a wide sinus. Dioecious, Female inflorescence normally on lateral branches with one subfloral innovation, bract-lobes oblong-ovate, bract lobules 2/3 of the bract length, apex acute-subacute, bracteoles ovate, bifid. Perianth pyriform, 5-plicate, plicae smooth.

Type Loc.: India orient.

Range: Endemic to India

Distribution in India: Western Himalaya: Uttaranchal-Nainital, Chaubatia, Valley of flowers; Eastern Himalaya: Manipur- Ukhrul, Vishnupur; Meghalaya-Shillong; West Bengal- Darjeeling, Kalimpong; South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, Avalanche, Dodabetta, Coonoor, Ootacamund (G.B.G., Rly. Track.) Naduvattam, Perumalmalai, Shembagnur; Karnataka-Abbi falls, Mercara, Agumbe; Kerala-Achilatti forest, Munnar, Perriavurrai, Nymakad, Devicolam, Vagavurrai, Thekkady, Peermade, Ponmudi.

Associates: Microlejeunea ulicina, Cheilolejeunea imbricata and Radula nilgiriensis.

Specimen examined: LWU 12514/2000, Lejeunea wightii Lindenb. Loc.: South India, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000. Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Lejeunea wightii is abundantly growing in Dodabetta and closely related to the other South Indian species, Lejeunea tuberculosa, which differs only in mammilose perianth surface (in L. tuberculosa) as opposed to smooth perianth surface in L. wightii, Lejeunea discreta Lindenb. in: Gott. Lindenb. &

PLATE 6

Figures 10-18. 10. Lejeunea wightii Lindenb. (x16). 11. Female plant of Lejeunea wightii Lindenb. (x16). 12. Microlejeunea ulicina Evans (x30). 13. Female plant of Microlejeunea ulicina (x30). 14. Cheilolejeunea

imbricata (Nees) Hatt. (x15). 15. Cheilolejeunea udarii Asthana et al (x 15). 16. Radula madagascariensis Gott. (x6). 17. Radula nilgiriensis Udar et Kumar (x8). 18. Same, showing branching (x10).



PLATE 6

Nees, Syn. Hep. 361(1848). (Plate-3, figs. 13-19; Plate-5, fig.8)

Plants, prostrate, light yellowish-green, medium in size, up to 8.0 mm in length, 1.0 mm in width, irregularly branched by *Lejeunea*-type branching. Leaves sub-imbricate, obliquely inserted, incubous, lobe ovate, 0.63-0.73 mm long, 0.45-0.52 mm wide, apex sub-acute, margin entire, antical margin arched, postical margin straight, cells thin walled with intermediate nodular thickenings, trigones prominent, median cell 18.0-24.0 μ m x 13.0-18.0 μ m, leaf-lobule ½ of the lobe length, large, inflated, cells below the first tooth larger than neighbouring cells. Underleaves large, distant, sinuately inserted, 3-4 times wider than stem, ovate, bifid, ½ of the length, sinus wide, lobe acute at apex.

Type Loc.: Java (Indonesia)

Range: Sri Lanka (Ceylon), India, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Burma, Molucca, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Japan (see, agarwal, 1986)

Distribution in India: Western Himalaya: Uttaranchal- Nainital, Chaubatia; Eastern Himalaya: West Bengal-Darjeeling, Rimbic; Sikkim-Sukia, South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills, Dodabetta, Emerald, Wellington, Naduvattam.

Associates: Cheilolejeunea imbricata, Radula nilgiriensis and Lopholejeunea sikkiminsis.

Specimen examined: LWU 12514/2000, *Lejeunea discreta* Lindenb.; Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta), alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Lejeunea discreta grows very commonly in Dodabetta and other areas besides Cinchona plantation with association of other native species Lejeunea perrottetii. But most of them are vegetative.

Microlejeunea ulicina Evans in: *Mem.Torrey Bot. Club.* 8: 165, (1902). (Plate-3, figs. 20-27; Plate-5, figs. 12, 13)

Plants prostrate, green, very small, upto 12 mm long, 2.5-3.0 mm wide, branching *Lejeunea*-type. Leaves distant, incubous, obliquely inserted, sub-erect spreading, lobe sub-ovate, apex rounded, 0.13-0.19 mm long, 0.12-0.19 mm wide, leaf-lobe cells thin walled with indistinct trigones, median cells 5-9 μ m x 5-8 μ m, leaf-lobules large, about more than 2/3 of lobe length, first tooth long and single celled. Underleave, small, oribicular-ovate, bifid ½ of their length, sinus small, triangular with acute-subacute apex, Dioecious, Female inflorescene on lateral branches, perianth pyriform, 5-plicate, plicae smooth, bracts oblong, bracteole ovate and bifid.

Type Loc.: Kenmore Kerry county, Ireland Range: India, Europe, Japan, North America.

Distribution in India: Eastern Himalaya: West-Bengal-Darjeeling; Sikkim; Manipur-Kanchipur, South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills, Dodabetta, Naduvattam, Avalanche, Kutukuli, Coonoor, (Laws fall), Kotagiri, Pykara; Palni hills, Kodaikanal, Shembagnur.

Associates: Radula nilgiriensis and Lejeunea wightii.

Specimen examined: LWU 12512/2000. *Microlejeunea ulicina* Evans, Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and party. Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Microlejeunea ulicina is closely related to another south Indian species *Microlejeunea punctiformis* (Tayl.) Spruce on the basis of leaf-lobe which is sub-acute in *M. punctiformis* and rounded in *M. ulicina* differentiates the two species. The species is growing on *Cinchona* as well as other phorophytes, specially *Eucalyptus*.

Cheilolejeunea imbricata (Nees) Hatt. in: *Misc. Bryol. Lichenol.* **1**(14): 1(1957). (Plate-4, figs. 1-5; Plate-6, fig. 14).

Plants prostrate, brownish-green, up to 28.0 mm long, 1.28-1.67 mm wide, *Lejeunea*-type branching. Leaves imbricate, obliquely inserted, incubous, lobe oblong 0.80-0.89 mm long, 0.70-0.77 mm wide, apex rounded, margin entire, antical margin arched, postical margin straight, cells trigonous, median cells 10-18 μ m x 10-16 μ m leaf-lobule inflated, rectangular, tooth indistinct, second tooth acute, falcate, 2-3 celled long, underleaves distant, sub-transversely inserted, double

of the stem width, orbicular-ovate, 0.30-0.35 mm long, 0.38-0.42 mm wide, bifid, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the length, reproductive structure not seen.

Type Loc .: India orient.

Range: India, Japan, Bonin Is., Ryukyu, Taiwan (Formosa), Burma, Indonesia (Sumatra, Java), New Guinea, Thailand, Philippines, Japan (Kyushu, Shikoku, Honshu) (see Agarwal, 1986).

Distribution in India: Eastern Himalaya: Meghalaya- Shillong, Elephant falls; Sikkim- Nathula Road; South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills, Ootacamund (G.B.G), Dodabetta, Kalhatty slope, Pykara, Naduvattam, Kotagiri; Kerala-Lakkidi; Karnataka- Agumbe.

Associates: Frullania tamarisci and Radula nilgiriensis.

Specimen examined: LWU 12513/2000, 12516/ 2000, *Cheilolejeunea imbricata* (Nees) Hatt., Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta), alt. ca.: 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000 Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma LWU. 13463/2001, *Cheilolejeunea imbricata* (Nees) Hatt., Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: 29, March 2001; Legit.: P.K. Verma and A. Alam; Det. : S.C. Srivastava & P.K. Verma.

This species is frequently growing vegetatively on *Cinchona* as well as other trees and represents the most dominant species of *Cheilolejeunea* in Nilgiri hills.

Cheilolejeunea udarii Srivastava *et al* in: *Lindbergia* **20**: 125-143 (1995). (Plate-4, figs. 6-12; Plate-5, fig. 15)

Plants prostrate, greenish brown, up to 16 mm long 0.50-1.0 mm wide, pinnately branched, branching *Lejeunea*- type. Leaves imbricate, obliquely inserted, incubous, leaf-lobe convex, ovate, triangular, 0.46-0.53 mm long, 0.30-0.50 mm wide, apex obtuse, pointed, margin entire, antical margin arched, postical margin straight, only incurved at middle, cells thick walled with trigones, median cells 15-23 μ m x 12-18 μ m leaf-lobule large more than 2/3 of lobe length, 0.16-0.33 mm long, 0.9-0.20 mm wide, inflated constricted at apex, first tooth indistinct, second

tooth 1-2 celled. Underleaves distant, sub-transversely inserted, 2-3 times wide as the stem, orbicular, bilobed, ½ of the length, margin entire. Monoecious. Male inflorescence terminal on main shoot or on lateral branches, saccate, 2-6 pairs of bract, female inflorescence terminal on main axis, with 1-2 subfloral innovation. Female bracts 0.41-0.58 mm long, 0.30-0.38 mm wide, apex obtuse to acute, margin entire, bracteole large, ovate. 0.44-0.69 mm long, 0.32-0.39 mm wide, bilobed, perianth obovate, three plicate.

Type Loc.: Tamil Nadu (Nilgiri-Dodabetta peak). (Srivastava *et al*; 1995).

Range: Endemic to India

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, Dodabetta, Ootacamund, G.B.G., Pykara,

Associates: Growing with association of mosses

Specimen examined: LWU 12512/2000. *Cheilolejeunea udarii* Srivastava *et al*; Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Cheilolejeunea udarii is endemic to Nilgiri hills with remarkable 3 keeled perianth. The species occurs only on *Chinchona* in Dodabetta, however, it is known to occur elsewhere on other phorophytes also.

Radula madagascariensis Gott. in: Abhandle der. naturwissensch. Verein in Bremen 7: 349 (1882). (Plate-4, figs. 13-16; Plate-6, fig. 16)

Plants prostrate, light brown to green, up to 18 mm long; 2.6 mm wide, branching *Radula*-type. Leaves imbricate, widely spreading, incubous, obliquely inserted, leaf-lobes ovate, 0.70-0.77 mm long, 0.45-0.59 mm wide, often falcate, with broadly rounded apex, cells thin walled, trigonous, 13-18 μ m x 10-18 μ m, leaf-lobules rectangulate to subrectangulate, saccate, 0.31-0.38 mm long 0.24-0.31 mm wide, apex obtuse, Under-leaves absent, rhizoids in tufts, arising from leaf-lobules base.

Type Loc.: Madagascar, Ambaranavaranuata (Yamada, 1979)

Range: Burma, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Mauritius, Reunion, Tanzania. (Yamada, 1979), India (Kumar, 1983) Distribution in India: Eastern Himalaya: Meghalaya-Shillong, Elephant fall, Jowai; West Bengal-Darjeeling, Tonglu, Llyod Botanical Garden, Tiger hill; South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta).

Associates: Metzgeria pandei

Specimen examined: LWU 12499/2000, *Radula madagascariensis* Gott. Loc.: South India: Tamil Nadu- Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and Party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Radula madagascariensis is commonly found in Dodabetta in Peninsular India growing vegetatively on variety of habitats.

Radula nilgiriensis Udar et Kumar in: J. Indian bot. Soc. 61: 177-182 (1982). (Plate-4, figs. 17-20; Plate-6, Figs. 17, 18)

Plants prostrate, brown to green, up to 20 mm long 2.0 mm wide, irregularly branched by *Radula*-type of branching. Leaves imbricate, incubous, widely spreading, obliquicaly inserted, leaf-lobe ovate with rounded apex, 0.50-0.73 mm long, 36.0-0.60 mm wide, margin entire, gemmae present at margin of leaf -lobes and also on leaf-lobule, gemmae discoid, irregular, leaf cells thick walled with inconspicuous trigones, median cells 9-14 μ m x 13-18 μ m, leaf-lobule rectangulate, apex apiculate, obtuse, 0.29-0.35 mm long 0.21-0.25 mm wide, covering ½ of the stem rhizoids in tufts. Reproductive structure not seen.

Type Loc.: Avalanche (Ootacamund, Nilgiri hills) (Udar and Kumar, 1982)

Range: Endemic to India

Distribution in India: South India: Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills, Ootacamund, (G.B.G.), Dodabetta, Kotagiri, Avalanche, Pykara, Coonoor,

Associates: Frullania tamarisci, Lopholejeunea sikkimensis, Cheilolejeunea imbricata, and Microlejeunea ulicina

Specimen examined: LWU. 12493/2000, 12514/ 2000 *Radula nilgiriensis*_Udar *et* Kumar, Loc.: South India, Tamil Nadu-Nilgiri hills (Dodabetta); alt. ca. 2600 m; Date: Oct. 8, 2000; Legit.: S.C. Srivastava and party; Det.: S.C. Srivastava and P.K. Verma.

Radula nilgiriensis is a frequently occurring spe-

cies after *Frullania tamarisci*. The species has characteristic marginal gemmae, which help in asexual reproduction.

DISCUSSION

Topographically, Dodabetta is situated in the middle of Nilgiri hills in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu with sub-tropical broad-leaved plantations consisting of different shrubby species (such as Coffee, Tea, *Cinchona*, Rubber plant, etc.) intermixed with some of the woody species (like *Eucalyptus, Thuja*, *Accacia*, etc.). The shruby species are cultivated under the network of naturally growing trees, which not only help in lowering to some extent the temperature and light intensity but also tend to increase humidity required for the growth and development of hepatic vegetation.

The vertical distribution of liverworts on Cinchona plantation in Dodabetta shows a wide range of diversity including a total of 14 species, majority of which are obligate as well as facultative epiphytes except a few which also prefer other habitats and phorophytes for their luxuriant preponderance. Out of these, 13 species belong to Jungermanniales and one to Metzgeriales. None of them are host specific. Three regions of the phorophyte including the tree trunk (up to 2 m height), the twigs and the branches thoroughly explored for the hepatic vegetation show remarkable distribution of different taxa. Besides, the age of host tree with respect to bark factor is quite characteristic as the younger plants of Cinchona have smooth bark surface as compared to the older trees which possess rugged (cracked) bark with relatively good anchoring surface for the rhizoids of leafy liverworts (see Hoffman and Kazmierski, 1969; LeBlanc, 1959). The older parts of the trunk not only provide more time for establishment of bryo-vegetation but also provide time for change in bark characteristic (see Billings and Drew, 1938 and Quartermann, 1949). The bark pH is also known to play a key role in host-specificity and a range of 4.0 to 6.6 pH is generally well suited for many cryptogamic epiphytes including liverworts (Hale, 1955). Cinchona shows acidophyllous bark (pH 5.6) hosting species of Frullania tamarisci, Radula nilgiriensis, Plagiochila ghatiensis, Porella

acutifolia, Lophocolea muricata, Lejeunea flava and Metzgeria pandei. The trunk base of Cinchona has high relative humidity as compared to the upper trunk and the microclimatic conditions at base up to a metre or so is suitable for hygrophyllous species (Lophocolea muricata and Porella acutifolia). The middle region of the trunk receives diffused sun light causing more or less mesic condition rather suitable for Metzgeria pandei, Cheilolejeunea udarii, Cheilolejeunea imbricata and Frullania tamarisci. Similarly the vertical surface of the upper tree trunk is directly exposed to sunlight and shows maximum differentiation of Plagiochila, P. ghatiensis which prefers slightly xeric conditions.

Porella acutifolia, Cheilolejeunea udarii and Plagiochila ghatiensis are rare on other habitats or phorophytes in Dodabetta region except on Cinchona. Plagiochila ghatiensis was originally described from India orientalis (Kodaikanal: Stephani, 1918) and has been re-collected for the first time from Dodabetta showing its range extension. Similarly Metzgeria pandei, yet another species from Kodaikanal (Srivastava and Udar, 1975) has also been re-discovered from Dodabetta since its original report. Interestingly the male plants of Lophocolea muricata has also been collected for the first time from India. Radula madagascariensis- commonly found in Eastern Himalaya, has been documented from Peninsular India also. The frequency of Radula nilgiriensis and Frullania tamarisci is maximum in this area of Nilgiri hills followed by Lejeunea flava and Microlejeunea ulicina.

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