NOTES ON FOUR SPECIES OF FLOWERING PLANTS FROM THE SOUTH INDIAN HIGHLANDS

BY

P. F. FYSON

What appear to be species of Blumea and of Osbeckia hitherto unrecognised as distinct are described below, and also a new Notonia. A note is also added on Smilax zeylanica.

1. **Blumea hieracifolia.** The ordinary form, on the Nilgiri and Pulney hill-tops, of the species is scapigerous, the leaves forming a rosette at the base, the heads being in a compact corymb with yellow florets.

C. B. Clarke in his compositae-Indicae refers to them as his var. γ of a species, mainly developed in Bengal with yellow flowers.

Hooker in Flora of British India, Vol. III, p. 263 has a variety *macrostachya* which is much branched, and with heads in large clusters. Gamble in his Flora of the Madras Presidency has this variety as growing from the Northern Circars to the Pulneys and Tinnevelly Hills above 6,000 ft.

There is another form of Blumea, common on these hills, almost always with a simple leafy stem but occasionally branched. Possibly because the latter approaches in appearance branched forms of B. hieracifolia *DC*, this plant has been regarded as that species. There is, however, this difference, that the florets are purple not yellow, and less exserted. C. B. Clarke remarks indeed that the bracts of *B. hieracifolia* DC are occasionally purple, and this has probably been regarded as additional evidence in favour of our plant being that species. It appears to me, however, that the purple florets, unmistakable in fresh condition and discernible often in herbarium material, really differentiate the two, as well as the usually quite different habit (our plant never being scapigerous) and the shorter florets.

I therefore regard it as a different species, and as Gamble adopted the name 'macrostachya' as a "variety", for what I take to be this plant, I adopt it as the specific name—with however this caution, it may not be De Candolle's *B. macrostachya*, for there seems to be some doubt as to what De Candolle, who originated the name, meant by it. C. B. Clarke did not know, but thought it might be *B. fasciata*, for he quotes *Wall. Cat.* 3002, 3094, 3064, 3055, none of which are quoted by Hooker in the F.B.I. for his var. *macrostachya*.

The plant under discussion is figured in my Flora of the Nilgiri and Pulney Hill tops t. 385, 384 and again in my Flora of the South Indian Hill Stations. t. 268. (Now in the press).

2. **Osbeckia rosea** *Fyson* (Melastomaciae-Osbeckieae) : ab O. sublaevis *Cogm.* ramulis nec succulentis, appendicibus longiores et foliis nec lineolatis : et ab O. octandra DC, pennicellato-setis sessilibus recedit. *Fructus* erectus; ramuli quadrangulares, pilis erectis basi bulbatis instructi. *Folia* ovato-lanceolata, apice et basi acuta, 3.5 cm. longa, 1.5—2.5 cm. lata supra virida subtus pallidora, supra pilis putertiam partem adpressis tecta, subtus at nervos copiosa instructa, e basi 5 nervia, nervis supra impressis: petiolio 2–9 mm. longi dense setis erectis hirsuti. *Inflorescentia* terminalis irregulare corymbo vel capito similis, pedicelei 2–3 mm. longi.

Receptaculum penicellato-setis sessilibus at basem instructum supra ovarium haud productum. 0.8 cm. longem, 0.5 cm. latum, haud apice contractum. Calycis segmenta 4, triangulata, 1.0 mm. longa, appendices, 5–8 mm. longi, apice. calycis segmentis similes, apice stellato-setosi. *Petala* rotunda 1–5 cm. lata, rosea. Stamina 8, 1.5 cm. longa, anthero apice nec attenuatæ. *Ovarium* 6 mm. diametre, 5–10 loculare.

S. India on the Nilgiris, in and about Coonoor at 5–6000 ft. *Fyson* 5734.

Clearly distinguished by the pure pink of the petals and the long appendages of the calyx-mouth from the other Nilgiri species.

This plant was described and illustrated in the Flora of the Nilgiri and Pulney Hill tops, Vol. III as probably a good species, and considered by Mr. (now Rao Bahadur) K. Rangachari, the then Government Botanist as probably distinct. Apparently it was included by J. S. Gamble for his "Flora of the Madras Presidency" (p. 490–493) in O. octandra, but the colour of the flower, the long appendages, sessile bristle tufts and broader 5 ribbed leaves sufficiently distinguish it. The plant is figured in Vol. III of the N. and P. Fl. referred to above and in my forthcoming flora of the S. Indian Hill Stations.

3. **Notonia shevaroyensis** *sp. nov* (Compositae Senecionideæ) ab alteris specibus Indicis Notoniae foliis basi aggregatis et crasse dentatis parce carnosii differt.

Herba 25–80 cm. alta. *Caulis* simplex erecta, glabra. Folia obovata as obtusa, 6-8 cm longer, 2.5–3 cm. lata, basi ad petiolam angusta, glabra, semper inferiore violacea. *Corymba* circa 10 cm. diametro, glabra, ramis inferioribus 5-8 cm longis, ramis superioribus 1-2 cm. *Bracteæ* 0. 5–0.8 cm. glabra lineae. Capitula 8–12 isogamea Phyllaria uniseriata, acqualia, cum paucis exterioribus parvis. 5-6 cm. long, lanceolata, glabra, marginis scariosis. *Flores* omnes similes,

Corolla tubulosa lobis triangulatis, lutea. *Antherae* basi integrae, apice, scariosae, longi-acuta vel acuminatae. *Styli* exserti, ramis apice obtusis. *Achena* cylinderica breviter setosa. *Pappi* setae 9–10 mm. longae, albae.

South India on the Shevaroy hills at 4500 ft. in swamp. *Flr.* June–January. The leaves are slightly fleshy, generally violet underneath.

Quite different from other Indian species of Notonia, and in its rather scapigerous habit similar to some forms of *Emilia scabra* Dc. (var. *scabra* of E. Sonchifolia *Wight* in *F.B.I.*)

Smilax zeylanica Linn. The three species, S. zeylanica macrophylla Roxb., and S. Wightii De are in the Flora of Madras Presidency included under the first name. It is possible that S. macrophylla Roxb. and S. Wightii D C should be united, for the difference between them is slight, though distinct enough in the specimens I have seen in the field.

A form on the Shevaroy Hills, which I take to be Smilax zeylanica. Linn., is, however, quite distinct in having the young fruit oval, about one and half times as long as wide, and when ripe distinctly ovoid, with a broad base. Trimen in his Flora of Ceylon describes S. zeylanica as having subglobose fruits, and I cannot but think that this is a real specific difference, but one easily overlooked in herbarium material. The differences between these species are shown in the figures of them in the Fl. S. Ind. Hill Station.