

THE INDIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CARALLUMA*. (Fam. Asclepiadaceae)

BY

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As the authors point out the genus *Caralluma* is one of those genera which present great difficulties to the herbarium worker due to several important characters becoming unrecognizable in the dry state; and although the genus as a whole was admirably revised by Berger in 1910, his treatment of the Indian species still needed supplementing by local observations. This task the present authors have done most admirably and their observations are authoritative in as much as they are based not only upon dry herbarium material and plants growing wild but also upon a successful cultivation of most of the species in the garden for several years. Some of the important differences between their arrangement and that of the Flora of British India are the following :

Following Schumann and Berger the authors have included the genus *Boucerosia* Wight and Arnott under the genus *Caralluma* Br. and divided the latter into three sections *Eucaralluma*, *Lalacruma* and *Boucerosia*. The second section is unrepresented in India. *Eucaralluma* includes three species, *C. edulis*, *C. adscendens* and *C. stalagmifera*. The last was described by Fischer only a few years ago from material sent by one of the authors of the present monograph. The second species, *C. adscendens* includes six varieties: three species of Hooker, namely *C. adscendens*, *C. fimbriata* and *C. attenuata*, which now get the rank of varieties, and three new varieties, *gracilis*, *carinata* and *geniculata*. The section *Boucerosia* includes 8 species one of which, *Caralluma* (*Boucerosia*) *procumbens* is new. All the species and varieties are well illustrated.

Another conclusion to which the authors have come from their study of this genus is with regard to the origin of new species in this family. N. E. Brown in 1890 had concluded that new species in the Asclepiadaceae have been very commonly produced by hybridisation. The present authors find little evidence of hybridisation in the Indian species.

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FLORA OF SIAM.*

The fourth contribution to the "Flora Siamensis Enumeratio" by W. G. Craib has been published under the auspices of the Siam Society and this completes the first volume dealing with the Polypetalæ. The first part was published in the year 1925, part 2 in 1926 and part 3 in 1928. On the title page of the 4th part it is put down that it deals with the families Rosaceæ to Cornaceæ, but the family Nyssaceæ is also included. 666 species are enumerated. These are distributed into 151 genera. Melastomaceæ with its 17 genera and 124 species is the largest family described in this part. *Eugenia* with its 89 species is the largest genus. Four families, viz., Callitrichaceæ, Crypteroniaceæ, Caricaceæ and Datisceæ are monotypic. No new species are described. This is due to the fact that the author along with Geddes and others had published from time to time all such species a little earlier in the *Kew Bulletin*. About 65 new varieties, however, have been created and their Latin descriptions given. Four species, two belonging to the Rosaceæ and two to the Myrtaceæ have been given new names. Complete records of the localities from which the different species are known and their local names are a special feature of the volume and the whole work should certainly prove useful to students of tropical vegetation.

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* Craib, W. G. *Floræ Siamensis Enumeratio*. Vol. I, Part 4, Rosaceæ-Cornaceæ, Bangkok, 1931.

We have received the following communication from Mr. Fischer in connection with the Flora of the Presidency of Madras and wish to bring it to the notice of all interested in the subject :—

Flora of the Presidency of Madras.

As the above Flora is approaching completion, I shall be much obliged for any errors and omissions that are brought to my notice. In the case of omitted species and genera, I must adhere to Mr. Gamble's rule and only admit those that are supported by duly localised specimens.

It is proposed to publish corrections and additions in an appendix.

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