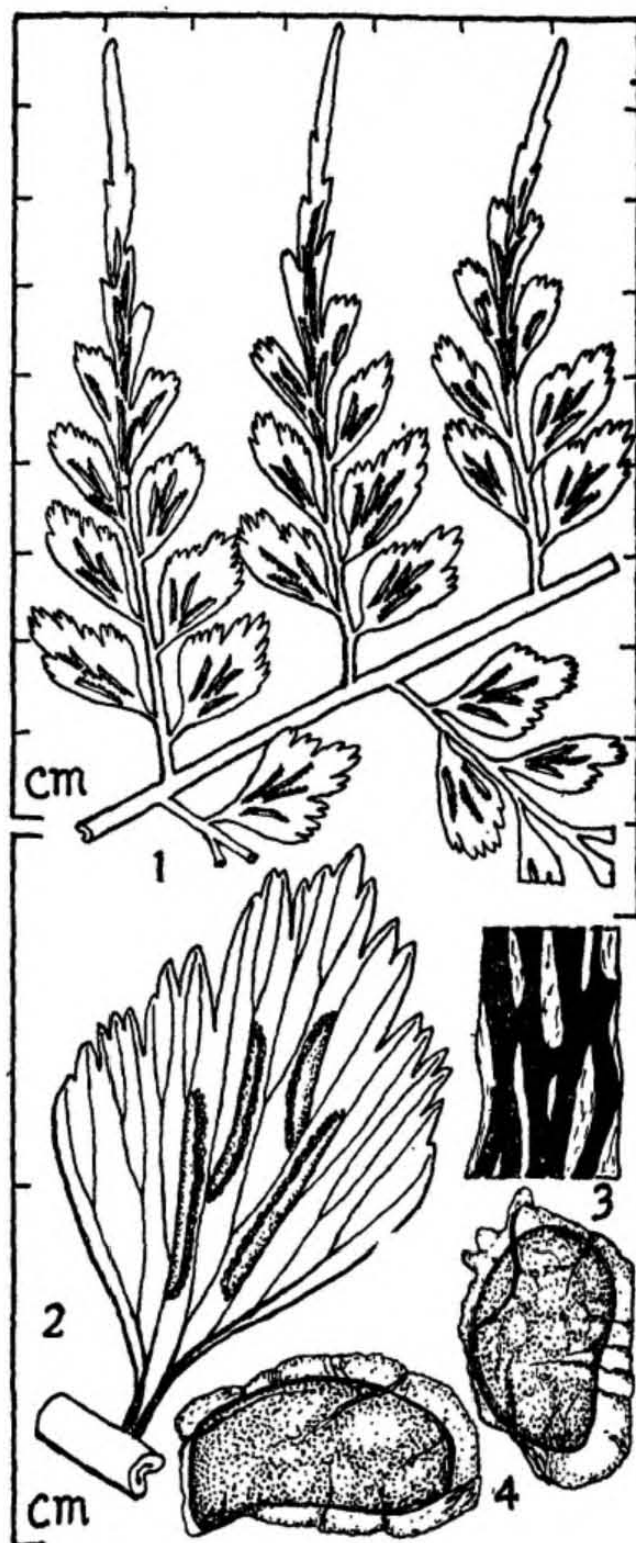


*ASPLENium NEOLASERPITIFOLIUM* TARDIEU-BLOT ET CHING FROM  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

During a general survey of the fern collections from Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh, 2 specimens (*J. L. Lister* 79 and *J. L. Lister* s. n.) collected by Coll. Lister 'from the edge of mountains in the Dukrung Valley in 1874', as indicated by Burkill, I. H. in his Chapters on the History of Botany in India (pp. 198, 1965), caught the attention of the authors. Another similar specimen from Sikkim was also subsequently found. These specimens are larger in size, with tripinnate fronds and pinnules apex long acuminate, which are characteristic of *Asplenium neolaserpitifolium* Tardieu-Blot et Ching and not of



*Asplenium neolaserpitifolium* Tardieu-Blot et Ching  
(*Lister* s. n. Acc. No. 10867 CAL.)



*Asplenium neolaserpitifolium* Tardieu-Blot et Ching  
Figs. 1-4 : 1. Pinnules. 2. Basal pinnule lobe. 3. Palca  
magnified. 4. Spores highly magnified (*Lister* s. n., Acc.  
No. 10867 CAL.)

*Asplenium nitidum* Sw. as labelled on the sheets. *A. nitidum* is characterised by bipinnate fronds and pinnules apex acute.

*A. neolaserpitifolium* is an epiphytic fern, hitherto, reported from S. China (Hainan & Laos) and Vietnam (Tonkin). The westwards extension of its distributional range in the North-eastern Himalayas is of phytogeographical interest.

A brief description along with a photograph and illustration is given below to facilitate future collectors locate this interesting rare fern from other regions.

***Asplenium neolaserpitifolium*** Tardieu-Blot et Ching, Notul. Syst. 5: 153. Pl. 6. f. 1, 2. 1936.

Laminae c. 70 cm long, 30-45 cm broad, tripinnate, deltoid-lanceolate, acuminate, pale green when dried; *stipes* not seen; rachis greyish or grey-green, grooved dorsally, groove continues to stipicellus; *pinnae* up to 25 cm long, 15 cm broad at base, c. 16 pairs, stalked, suboppositely alternate, deltoid-lanceolate, subfalcate, long acuminate; *stipicellus* 5-20 mm long, grooved; costae grooved, with a few linear or narrowly lanceolate, entire palae scattered towards the base; pinnules up to 8 cm long, c. 3 cm

broad at the base, subopposite at base and becoming alternate upwards, stalked, stalks up to 7 mm long, basal pair more or less equal and well developed, costule narrowly winged, pinnate, deltoid, basisropic, base cuneate, long acuminate; ultimate segments stalked, rhomboid, cuneate at the base, truncate or round at apex, irregularly toothed, distal segments gradually less incised coriaceous; veins up to 5-times forked, faint; *Sori* asplenoid, c. 7 mm long, centre of the pinnae; indusium thick, light brown; *spores*  $32-35 \times 22-25 \mu$  m, light brown, perispore present.

*Specimens studied:* INDIA: Arunachal Pradesh: Base Duphla Hills, 1874, J. L. Lister 79 (Acc. No. 10865) and Duphla Hills, 330 m, 1874, J. L. Lister s.n. (Acc. No. 10867). Sikkim; 330 m, Dec. 4, 1872, Annon. s. n. (Acc. No. 10877 all from CAL).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Dr. G. Panigrahi for going through the manuscript and Dr. A. S. Rao for discussions and criticism.

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### THE FRAGRANT *CEROPEGIA* OF NINETEENTH CENTURY

The name *Ceropegia odorata* Nimmo was first listed by Graham (1839) with the meagre description 'Flowers yellow, fragrant, so unusual in the genus', hence considered as *nomen nudum*. J. D. Hooker (1883) validated this name by providing a full description and citing the collections of Nimmo and Law from Salsette (Bombay), Concan. Since Nimmo's specimens are not available in any of the well-known herbaria, McCann (1945) expressed doubts about the

identity of Law's specimens (Lectotype, K) and their similarities, particularly the 'fragrants' in flowers, with the missing Nimmo's specimens. This led him to rename Law's specimens as *C. blatteri* McCann. Consequently, interesting discussions followed on the identity and nomenclature of this species (Santapau, 1948; Seshagiri Rao, 1947). None reported the occurrence of this species after J. D. Hooker (*l.c.*). Though Huber (1957) preferred to retain Nimmo's