

Hooker (*loc. cit.*) has described this plant as growing in India only in Konkan. Cooke (I: 46 p., 1903) has mentioned that it is distributed in Konkan, Western Ghats, South Maratha Country and in Kanara. Talbot (I: 58 p.) has also recorded the plant from North Kanara and Konkan giving Kumpta, near sea-coast and Khandala on Western Ghats as its localities. The recent search in the Ghats around Khandala and Lonavala, however, revealed that the plant grows scattered in the moist forests particularly near forest fringes. It is quite common in some spots around Khandala town.

No information is so far available about the cultivation and expansion of this plant but it is hoped that cultivation should be possible by sowing seeds. One fruit contains numerous seeds of the size of a bean. We intend studying cultivation aspects of this plant. The

Herbarium at Poona has a number of specimens of this species collected by earlier workers such as Garade, Gammie, Cooke, Chibber, Talbot and also by our own collectors.

Botanical Survey of India,  
Western Circle, Poona.

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### THE GENUS DIPTERYGIUM DECNE. IN INDIA

The genus *Dipterygium* Decne. (Capparidaceae) is interesting phylogenetically. The plants of this genus have some characters of the family Cruciferae and some of Capparidaceae. Bentham and Hooker placed the genus in the family Cruciferae; Engler and Prantl assigned it to Capparidaceae.

*Characters resembling Cruciferae*—Flower actinomorphic and in long racemes; cruciform corolla; stamens 6.

*Characters resembling Capparidaceae*—Undershrub with long woody root; racemes bracteate; stamens all equal; fruit indehiscent samara.

*Dipterygium* is a small genus of 3 species distributed from Nubia (Egypt) through Arabia to western India.

Hooker (I, 164 p., 1872) recorded the species *Dipterygium glaucum* Decne. from Mooltan. Cooke (I, 40 p., 1903) reported it from Jacobabad, Sind.

This plant has recently been collected from a number of places in Rajasthan. Its first collection was from Chhayan, a place about 18 km. north-west of Pokran in Rajasthan—"Chhayan, Rajasthan, Jain 40740, 10-8-1958". The plant was seen growing on the top of a high sand dune in very hot and very loose dry sand. The plant was later found to be common and abundant at Suratgarh in northern Rajasthan "Puri 44474, 26-10-1958; Karnisar, Jain 45113, 26-6-1959, abundant on sandy plain and sand dunes, almost dominant species, in flowers and fruits; Wadhwa 58312".

The Poona herbarium has only one earlier sheet—

"near Jacobabad Woodrow, Sept. 1893"; this obviously is the sheet on which Cooke's report is based. The plant has not been reported from Rajasthan or any other part of present India.

The divaricate branching habit, white lilac-tinged flowers and wrinkled small pendulous fruits make the plant very attractive and conspicuous in field.

*Dipterygium glaucum* Decne. in Ann. Sc. Nat. Ser. 2 (iv) 67 p., 1835; Hook.f. Fl. Br. Ind., 1: 164 p., 1872.

An undershrub 10-50 cm. high; root woody, long, pale or light brown; stems pale green, slender, almost terete, grooved, ultimate branches wiry; leaves 5-15 mm. long, 2-3 mm. broad, acute, slightly glandular; flowers in long bracteate racemes, pedicels short 2-3 mm. long, filiform; sepals 4, ovate, acute about 1 mm. long, pale green; petals 4, midrib green, margins white or lilac tinged, ovate, obtuse, shortly clawed; fruit drooping, transversely wrinkled, narrowly winged, wings translucent; seed 1.

I am grateful to Dr. J. C. Sen Gupta, Dr. G. S. Puri and Dr. S. K. Mukerjee for some useful suggestions in preparation of this note.

Botanical Survey of India,  
Poona-1.  
31-3-1960.

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