

THREE NEW PLANT RECORDS FOR KASHMIR

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Reprinted from Bulletin of the Botanical Survey of India
Vol. 12, Nos. 1-4 : pp. 268-269, 1970
(Date of Publication : 21st November, 1972)

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Subsequent to the Publication of Flora of British India by Sir J. D. Hooker (1872-96) several workers including Duthie (1893-94), Meebold (1909), Coventry (1923-30), Blatter (1927-29) and Rao (1960-61) have contributed materially towards the enumeration of flowering plants of Kashmir Valley. A perusal of the above and other available literature reveals that the following three species collected by the author are unrecorded from this region so far; they are, therefore, described in detail. The specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of Kashmir University.

Arenaria festucoides Benth. in Royle Ill. Bot. Himal. 81, t. 21, f. 3, 1839; Edgew. and Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 1: 236, 1872.

A densely tufted perennial herb; leaves densely crowded, linear-subulate, shining, 1-3 cm long, rather concave above, strongly one-nerved beneath, cilio-

late; peduncle usually 3-10 cm, glandular pubescent, few flowered; bracts linear-lanceolate with scarious margin; sepals lanceolate or subulate-lanceolate, 4-10 mm long, margin scarious, nerves usually 3; petals usually twice as long as sepals, obovate; capsule shorter than sepals, oblong; 5-6 valved to the base; seeds flat with a narrow wing; Apharwat; 13,000 ft. (Gurcharan Singh 84), fls. July-August.

The plant is easily distinguished by its shorter, tufted habit and larger petals. It is also found growing at Kunawar (Royle 1839), Kumaon and W. Tibet (Edgew. & Hook. f. 1972) in the Himalayan range.

Trifolium dubium Sibth. Fl. oxon. 231, 1794; Gamble Fl. Pres. Madras 214, 1918 (Rep. ed. 1967) (*T. minus* Smith, Engl. Bot. Pl. 1256, 1799; Baker

in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2: 86, 1876; Collett Fl. Simlensis 116, 1921.

An annual herb; branching usually from base, slender, trailing, ultimately erect; leaflets obovate or obcordate, finely toothed; 0.5-1 cm long; terminal leaflet with hardly 2 mm long stalk; petiole 0.6-1 cm; stipules lanceolate 2.5-4 mm long; flower heads yellow on axillary 1.0-2.5 cm long peduncles, 0.4-0.8 mm diameter; calyx teeth very small, narrow, acute; corolla hardly 3-4 mm long; pod obovoid, one seeded; seed yellowish brown.

Harwan Park (Gurcharan Singh 378) fls., April-June.

This species is easily distinguished from other Indian species by its smaller yellow heads and annual habit. As an introduced weed it has also run wild in Nilgiri Hills (Gamble, 1918), and Simla (Collett, 1921).

Senecia vulgaris Linn. sp. pl. 867, 1753; Butcher New Ill. Brit. Fl. II: 436, 1961.

An annual herb; stem erect or decumbent, little branched, often rooting at lower nodes 12-25 cm high; Leaves alternate, pinnatifid, upper with auricled base, lower narrowed to a petiole; Heads in corymbs, nearly 1 cm long, 3-5 mm in diameter; Involucre bracts linear with black tips, one seriate with few outer smaller ones; Receptacle flat, naked; Heads discoid, ray absent; Achenes 2-4 mm long, ribbed, hirsute, apex truncate, pappus of soft hairs, deciduous.

Orchards around Dal lake (Gurcharan Singh 21), Harwan (Gurcharan Singh 270), fls. Nov.-May.

The species is close to *S. pedunculatus* Edgew. and *S. coronopifolius* Desf. in general habit but is distinguished by the absence of ligules and the hirsute achenes. This is another introduced weed also having run wild in gardens and roadsides in Nilgiris (Gamble, 1921). Predominantly a winter weed it has the distinction of being the only weed that manages to flower throughout the winter months of Kashmir Valley. It has fairly spread in cultivated gardens and orchards in and around Srinagar.

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