

species and *Sesamum orientale* on the one hand and between this species and *Sesamum prostratum* on the other. Full cytological and cytogenetical details relating to this investigation will be published in due course. In the meantime the chromosome number of *Sesamum laciniatum* has been determined to be  $2n = 28$  (Fig. 1). Prochromosomes which were a com-



mon feature in the other species of *Sesamum* are found to be very prominent in this species also. A full account of the prochromosome-chromosome relationship, based on observations on these species, and their correlation to the nucleolar cycle, will form the subject of a separate paper.

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March 6, 1945.

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#### ON THE OCCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF *POTHOS SCANDENS* LINN., VAR. *HELPERIANUS*, ENGL. IN BENGAL

IN the province of Bengal *Pothos scandens* Linn., an epiphytic climber is found growing upon several kinds of plants. Prain<sup>3</sup> in 1903 reported that *Pothos scandens* Linn. occurs in North Bengal and Chittagong but there is no mention of any other variety or species of the same genus from any other part of the province, though other species were reported by Hooker<sup>2</sup> in 1893 from the whole of India. The latter author also corroborated Prain and stated that the only species of *Pothos*, found in Bengal, is *Pothos scandens* Linn. Prain<sup>4</sup> further in 1905 in his survey of the flora of 24-Pergannhas, Hoogly and Howrah districts did not mention the occurrence of any species or variety of *Pothos*.

*Pothos angustifolius* Hook. f. (non-Presl.), as recorded by Hooker,<sup>2</sup> is according to the latest nomenclature is reduced to a variety of *Pothos scandens* Linn. by Engler<sup>1</sup> and is named *Pothos scandens* Linn., var. *Helperianus* Engl.

In the latter part of December 1944, and in

the beginning of March 1945, the present writer came across in course of excursions in the suburban villages of the city of Dacca (Bengal) and collected *Pothos scandens* Linn. var. *Helperianus* Engl., and found it climbing on the bases of several trees in shady places. Since the first collection, Mr. Murari Prosad Guha, Lecturer in Botany of this College, collected this plant from Jamuria, Tangail (Dist. Mymensingh) in the latter part of January 1945 for the writer's anatomical studies. He also brought the flowering specimens of *Pothos scandens* Linn. Both Mr. Guha and the writer could not procure any flowering specimens of this variety during this period.

Dr. S. K. Mukherjee, Curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sibpore, Calcutta, very kindly informs the writer that the *Helperianus* variety of *Pothos scandens* was collected from Agartalla (Dist. Tipperah) and the neighbourhood of Calcutta. But it is likely that the plant was collected after Prain<sup>3</sup> had recorded his observations in his careful survey.

Rendle<sup>5</sup> wrote that the genus *Pothos* with its fifty species is chiefly Malayan. Hooker<sup>2</sup> collected *Pothos angustifolius* Hook. f. (non-Presl.) (= *Pothos scandens* Linn. var. *Helperianus* Engl.) from Tennasserim, Burma—a place 950 miles away (coast to coast) from the border of the province of Bengal and where the Malayan vegetation is dominant. From the nature of distribution it becomes evident that the plant had migrated from Tennasserim (Burma) and entered into the province via Chittagong and gradually spread over other districts, e.g., Tipperah, Mymensingh, Dacca, etc., in course of about fifty years. Afterwards it has become naturalised and formed a unit of the local vegetation. The writer also surmises that this plant was brought and introduced as a garden climber in the neighbourhood of Calcutta for its nice small unifoliate leaves and from there it had become an escape and spread over that locality after Prain's<sup>3</sup> survey.

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March 7, 1945.

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#### HAIRINESS OF COTTON LEAVES AND ANTI-JASSID RESISTANCE

THE evolution of resistant varieties has been regarded as the most effective line of defence against the jassid, *Empoasca devastans* Dist., which is a major pest of cotton in the Punjab, Sind and Madras. It has been generally believed that varieties with hairy leaves are more resistant to jassid attack than those not possessing this character. For this reason cotton breeders have bred for hairiness in evolu-