

ON *CASSYTHA FILIFORMIS* LINN.

THE descriptions given for this lauraceous parasite are very meagre and to some extent inaccurate. Some of the latter are given here:

(1) Young parts puberulous (Hooker). They are not so. On the contrary the old stems trailing on the ground are so.

(2) Stem dark-green (Duthie). The extreme tip of the stem is yellow (the first inch or so), lower down it is yellowish green. Further down it is bluish green. The very old stems either dark-green or yellowish brown, the latter colour predominates.

(3) Flowers are 1 inch long when fully formed and fruits 2 inches across (Kanjilal, De and Das). The flowers are hardly 2 mm. across and the ripe fruit including the pulp is not more than 11.0 mm. in diameter lengthwise and 9.30 mm. in diameter equatorwise.

(4) Three bracteoles are present (Duthie). The structures present below the flowers are not bracteoles since they form a part of the flower and lie just below the perianth. When the flower is separated from the inflorescence stalk, these structures also come out and hence they are the epicalyx.

(5) The perianth tube forms the succulent outer covering of the fruit (Hooker). It is not the perianth tube but the perigynous thalamus that forms the outer covering. The perianth is 6, poly-, and in two whorls. Perianth tube cannot be formed in such a case. Moreover this succulent outer covering extends below the true fruit, in between this and the inflorescence stalk, the position naturally occupied by the thalamus.

(6) Whole plants bearing fruits may be dispersed by water (Ridley). This is impossible since the ripe fruit and even flowers and unripe fruits fall down the inflorescence stalk very easily, at just the slightest touch.

C. & S. College,  
Shikarpur, Sind,  
July 27, 1945.

J. SRIVASTAVA.

1. Hooker, *Flora of India*, 1890. 2. Duthie, *Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plains*. 3. Kanjilal, De and Das, *Flora of Assam*. 4. Ridley, *Dispersal of Plants*.

DUAL ARTERIAL SUPPLY OF THE  
VERMIFORM APPENDIX

THE general impression among the anatomists<sup>1-6</sup> and the surgeons<sup>7</sup> is that the vermiform appendix is supplied by one artery, a branch of ileocaecal artery. In a series of 60 dissections on the Cadaver it was, however, found that in 30 per cent. of the bodies the appendix received more than one artery. In 20 per cent. of these, one twig each from ileocaecal and posterior caecal arteries; in 8.3 per cent. two from the posterior caecal artery; and in 1.6 per cent. two from the ileocaecal artery were traced. It is to be noted that whenever the twigs from the posterior caecal arteries took a total or partial share in supplying appendix, it was always the part nearest the base. These branches, however, are not to be confused with a tiny twig almost invariably given to the base by the posterior caecal artery.<sup>8</sup>

Even in those cases (70 per cent.) where there was a single appendicular artery it answered to the book description only in 31.6 per cent. In 18.1 per cent., although it was a single branch it immediately divided into two, and in 1.6 per cent. into three twigs, of not inconsiderable size, before entering the meso-appendix. In 18.3 per cent., a single appendicular artery, but a branch of posterior caecal, was present.

Department of Anatomy,  
Dow Medical College,  
Hyderabad (Sind),  
June 27, 1945.

M. A. SHAH.  
MUBARIKA SHAH.

1. Beesley and Johnston, T. B., "Quoted by Seshachalan, T., and Gorur, S. R., *Ind. Med. Gaz.*, 1939 65, 693. 2. Brash, J. C., and Jamieson, E. B., *Cunningham's Manual of Practical Anatomy*, 1940, 306. 3. Frazer, J. E., *Buchanan's Manual of Anatomy*, 1937, 160. 4. Grant, J. C. B., *A Method of Anatomy*, 1938, 160. 5. Johnston, T. B., and Willis, J., *Gray's Anatomy, Descriptive and Applied*, 1942, 766. 6. I. e. mc Gregor, A., *A Synopsis of Surgical Anatomy*, 1943, 46. 7. Thomson, and Miles, A., Quoted by Sheshachalan T., and Gorur, S. R., *loc. cit.*, 1930. 8. Massie, G., *Surgical Anatomy*, 1944, 235.

ON THE FOOD AND ALIMENTARY  
CANAL OF THE MILK-FISH  
*CHANOS CHANOS*  
(FORSKAL)\*

In the Madras Presidency, the milk-fish contributes to a fishery of moderate scale in the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Bay and the Pulicat Lake. Its fingerlings, which enter creeks, lagoons and shallow mud flats during the five months from May to September, are collected alive and utilised for cultivation in fish-farms and in brackish and freshwater tanks and reservoirs.

For the purpose of this note, over three hundred specimens, ranging in size from 4 to 43 inches, were examined. The following analysis of the stomach-contents of the fish indicates that it is a plankton feeder: *Conscinodiscus*, *Fragillaria*, *Nitzschia*, *Pleurosigma*, *Rhizosolenia*, *Thalassiothrix*, *Trichodesmium*, Appendicularians, Copepods, fish-eggs, fish-larvæ, larval bivalves, larval gastropods, *Leucifer*, Mysids and species of *Spiratella*.

A study of the anatomical structure of the alimentary canal shows its adaptation to the above kind of food. The mouth is toothless. The pharynx leads into a thick-walled oesophagus, the internal epithelial lining of which is developed into 20-22 oblique plates, on each of which are arranged 15 rows of about seventy spiny papillæ. The oesophagus leads into the stomach, which is a tube developed into a thick-walled muscular gizzard at its pyloric end. Its internal wall is raised into 7 to 9 longitudinal folds. The liver is a bilobed brown structure with the gall bladder placed between the two lobes. The bile duct opens

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