

Solanum virus L., but this view was discounted by the immunological tests carried out in this connection.

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A CASE OF POLYEMBRYONY IN *WAHLENBERGIA GRACILIS* SCHRAD.

Wahlenbergia gracilis Schrad. is a member of the family Campanulaceæ. In the allied family Lobeliaceæ cases of polyembryony have been recorded for *Lobelia syphilitica* Linn. by Crete¹ and for *Isotoma longiflora* Presl. by Kausik and Subramanyam.² In *L. syphilitica* one or two additional embryos develop from the suspensor, and in *I. longiflora* the additional embryo appears to take its origin from one of the terminally situated suspensor cells as a lateral bud.

The development of the embryo in *Wahlenbergia gracilis* closely follows the sequence of development that has been described for other members of the Campanulaceæ and the Lobeliaceæ. In one case two embryos were noticed in the same ovule (Fig. 1) and surrounded by

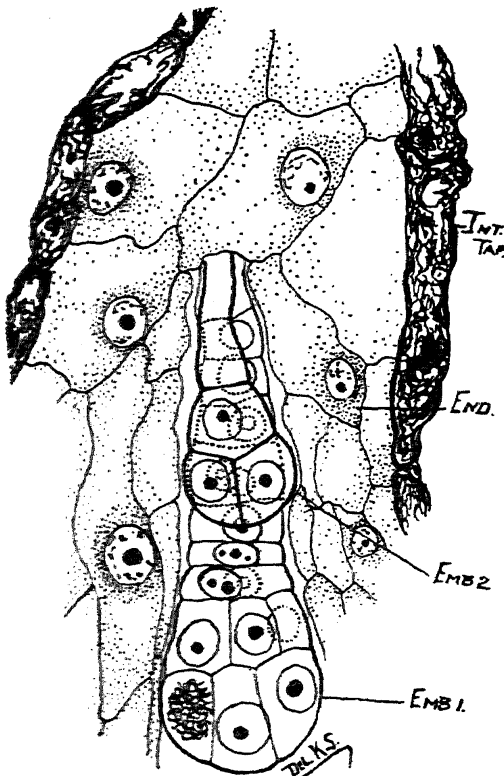


FIG. 1. *Emb. 1* and *2*. The two embryos; *End* Endosperm; *Int. tap.*, Integumentary tapetum. $\times 616$ the endosperm tissue. Of these, one is longer (Fig. 1, *Emb. 1*) and is at a comparatively more advanced stage of development than the other. The terminal two or three cells of this embryo show vertical walls while the lower cells form the filamentous suspensor. This is the normally developed embryo from the fertilized egg. Over this embryo and superposed

over its suspensor the second embryo is seen (Fig. 1, *Emb. 2*). The terminal cell of this embryo shows a vertical wall. While it is difficult to state how the second embryo has arisen, it is interesting to note that polyembryony, which has been reported in the Lobeliaceæ, should also occur in the allied family Campanulaceæ.

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LIVE FUNGI CULTURE COLLECTION AT THE I.A.R.I.

THE foundation of our fungi culture collection was laid in 1936 when a small beginning was made with the object of making available to Universities, Educational Institutions, Mycologists and Plant Pathologists authentic cultures required for training or research. Our collection, being the first of its kind in India, can therefore rightly claim to be a national collection. In 1940 the number of cultures maintained at this Institute was almost 500, of which almost half the collection consisted of fully identified cultures. It was then felt that the staff available in this division for maintaining this national asset and for meeting the demands for cultures from scientists and industrialists was not sufficient. The I.C.A.R. was therefore approached in 1940 for funds to meet the cost of extra staff. The Council considered this work "as of a high scientific and practical value" but at the same time insisted that this activity should form part of the normal work of the Institute". Therefore the Council sanctioned a grant for a period of two years from April 1st, 1943. The Government recognising the maintenance of culture collection to be of a permanent recurring nature, it was made an integral part of the Institute in 1946.

At present the collection consists of 700 cultures of which 325 are of pathogenic and mould fungi.

The one assistant that has been sanctioned for this collection is wholly occupied in carrying out the routine required for such collection. Not much time can be spared for carrying out researches in the maintenance of fungi. However, certain amount of research work is being done. For example, a new method for sealing culture tubes has been evolved as a result of which the longevity of certain groups of fungi is increased. They do not now, therefore, require to be subcultured as often as before.

The utility of this collection, which is of national value can only be increased with the help and co-operation of Mycologists and Plant Pathologists in India.

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