

some of his selections. I am satisfied that the pollen grains figured by him in the stylar canal belong to the *Butomopsis*: they are identical in character with the pollen grains found in the anthers of this plant. I have not seen the sections showing pollen grains inside the ovary, but there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of his observation. These observations should be worthy of a detailed record even if the pollen grains were "foreign". Mr. Johri's full paper may be awaited with interest.

¹ Harris, T. M., "The fossil flora of Scoresby Sound, East Greenland," *Mémoires de Grönland*, 1932, **85**, 1-133.

² Harris, T. M., "A new member of the Caytoniales," *New Phyt.*, 1933, **33**, 97-114.

³ Johri, B. M., "Life-history of *Butomopsis lanceolata* Kunth," *Nature*, 1935, **136**, 338.

⁴ Joshi, A. C., "Morphology of the stylar canal in angiosperms," *Ann. of Bot.*, 1934, **48**, 967-974.

⁵ Kräusel, R., in Engler's *Nat. Pflanzenfam.* 2nd ed., 1926, **13**.

⁶ Sahni, B., "Foreign pollen in the ovules of *Ginkgo* and of fossil plants," *New Phyt.*, 1915, **14**, 149-151.

⁷ Thomas, H. Hamshaw, "The Caytoniales, a new group of Angiospermous plants from the Jurassic rocks of Yorkshire," *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. London, Ser. B.*, 1925, **213**.

⁸ Thomas, H. Hamshaw, "The early evolution of the angiosperms," *Ann. of Bot.*, 1931, **45**, 652, 654.

⁹ Thomas, H. Hamshaw, "The nature and origin of the stigma," *New Phyt.*, 1934, **33**, 173-198.

With reference to the above note of Prof. B. Sahni, a copy of which was kindly shown to me about a week after it had been sent to the press, I think it necessary to make the following remarks. The necessary figures and some other interesting details will be found in my full paper which will soon appear elsewhere.

1. In the stylar canal of one carpel there was a row of six pollen grains of which five could be seen in a single section. It is this that was figured in the note published by me in *Nature*. The pollen grains are approximately 24 microns in diameter and the stylar canal is $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times as wide.

2. In a dozen other cases (from three different flowers) pollen grains were found *inside the ovary*. One of these was located on the surface of an ovule (which was unfortunately cut obliquely) and had actually germinated, although the pollen tube was very short.

The writer was himself greatly surprised when he saw these pollen grains in such unexpected quarters and a careful examination of their size and nuclear contents left no doubt whatever that they belonged to the same species.

Before entering into a detailed discussion of the theoretical bearings of this discovery, the writer wished to be sure whether a similar thing had been observed before in any other plant. An enquiry from Prof. K. Schnarf of Vienna brought forth the reply last month, that the phenomenon was absolutely unique and had never been noticed by him in the existing literature on Angiosperms.

As Prof. Sahni has pointed out, the occurrence of pollen grains inside the ovary of an undoubted angiosperm like *Butomopsis*, sets one thinking about the difference between a Gymnosperm and an Angiosperm. *Caytonia Thomasi* provides material for comparison and speculation; and so does *Gnetum*, if we agree to designate the inner envelope as a stylar canal and not as an integument.

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Chromosome Numbers in *Phœnix farinifera*, Roxb.

TWENTY-ONE species of *Phœnix* have been enumerated in the *Index Kewensis*; of these, five species are natives of South India. The chromosome numbers of the various species are not available except for the cultivated date palm—*Phœnix dactylifera*, Linn. Nemec (1910) gives the $2n$ number as 28.

The author of the present note has, from several counts made in the metaphase plates of pollen mother-cells, determined the haploid (n) number of chromosomes in *Phœnix farinifera*, Roxb. (common on the east coast of the Peninsula) as 18.

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Ram Sarcophagus from Cuddappah.

WITH reference to Mr. M. D. Raghavan's article on "A Ram Sarcophagus from Cuddappah" appearing in 1935, November issue of *Current Science*, the following observations may be of interest.

After seeing the object in the Madras Museum and after examining its detachable head carefully, I find myself unable to