

USEFUL PLANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF
LAKHIMPUR IN ASSAM

HUMPHREY G. CARTER
&
DORINE N. CARTER

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EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS.

Agri. Ledg.	. . .	The Agricultural Ledger.
Ann. R. B. G.	. . .	Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta.
Beng. Pl.	. . .	Bengal Plants, by Sir David Prain.
Camb. Br. Fl.	. . .	Cambridge British Flora, by Dr. C. E. Moss.
DC. Monog. Phan.	. . .	DeCandolle's Monographiae Phanerogamarum.
DC. Prodr.	. . .	DeCandolle's Prodrromns Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis.
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Ind. Trees	. . .	Indian Trees, by Sir Dietrich Brandis.
Journ. As. Soc. Beng.	. . .	Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.
Man. Ind. Timbs.	. . .	A Manual of Indian Timbers, by J. S. Gamble.
Pharmacog. Ind.	. . .	Pharmacographia Indica, by William Dymock, C. J. H. Warden and David Hooper.
Rec. Bot. Surv.	. . .	Records of the Botanical Survey of India.
Syn. Fil.	. . .	Synopsis Filicum or a Synopsis of all known Ferns, -by Sir William Jackson Hooker.

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BY

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AND

DOBINE N. CARTER.

INTRODUCTION.

THE district of Lakhimpur forms part of the great Indo-Gangetic plain, and occupies the extreme north-east corner of Assam in the angle between the eastward extension of the Himalayas and the range of mountains running between Assam and Burma. Lakhimpur has a monsoon climate, with a rainfall everywhere over 100 inches per annum.

In 1894 Mr. G. A. Gammie made a botanical tour in the district, and published a short general account of its vegetation in No. 5 of Vol. I of the Records of the Botanical Survey of India. The present paper is restricted to an account of the plants—apart from staple crops and forest trees—used for various purposes by the inhabitants of the district. The specimens and information on which this paper is based were collected during two tours made in the spring and autumn of 1915. The itinerary of those tours is as follows:—

8th to 12th March, 1915	. . .	Dibrugarh and neighbourhood.
14th „ 17th „ „	. . .	Margherita, Ledo and neighbourhood.
19th „ 24th „ „	. . .	Dibrugarh and the islands in the river Brahmaputra.
25th „ 28th „ „	. . .	Jokai jungles.
29th March, 1915	. . .	Dibrugarh.
31st March and 1st April, 1915	. . .	Jaipur jungles and villages.
3rd to 7th April, 1915	. . .	Dibrugarh villages and jungles.
8th „ 10th „ „	. . .	Saikhon Ghat jungles.
14th October, 1915	. . .	Arrived in Dibrugarh.
15th to 21st October, 1915	. . .	Dibrugarh and surrounding villages.
24th „ 28th „ „	. . .	Sadiya.
30th October to 2nd Nov., 1915	. . .	Dibrugarh neighbourhood.
5th to 10th November, 1915	. . .	North Lakhimpur villages and jungles.
11th November, 1915	. . .	Laluk.
12th „ „ „	. . .	Badoti.

The information which will be found in small type after the purely botanical matter about each plant, has been collected almost entirely

from villagers. To this information are added short popular descriptions of the plants. By means of these popular descriptions, helped out by the vernacular names, it is hoped that non-botanical readers will be able to identify many of the plants. I have taken considerable pains in selecting really useful vernacular names but so many different languages are spoken in Assam that selection has not always been easy. The vernacular names in Italics are well known to speakers of Hindustani almost throughout the north of India. Many of these names have innumerable forms. Wherever possible I have adopted the form written and spoken by educated Hindustani-speaking Indians. Most of those given in Roman type are Assamese. Vernacular names of plants must not be relied upon blindly. Very few of them are used for one plant only.

Readers who do not know India may not know the meaning of the two words *bastī* and *sāg* which occur frequently in the text. A *bastī* is a settlement, colony or village and *sāg* is a term applied to green vegetable usually eaten in curry.

To those to whom some of my notes about medicinal plants may appear trivial or even absurd I would tell the following story:—

A Chuprasi recently came to me complaining of inflammation in his eye. I asked him if he has had any treatment. He took off his turban and showed me a shaved patch on his scalp on which he had been putting castor oil. I told him to put the castor oil into the eye instead of applying it to his head. This treatment repeated twice daily cured him in two days. It was to him and his folk traditional knowledge that castor oil was good for inflamed eyes but that traditional knowledge passing amongst people whose minds had not been invigorated by a liberal education had become distorted.

We are indebted to many people in Lakhimpur for help during our tours, and particularly to Mr. L. Cooper, I.F.S., Mr. W. R. Le G. Jacob, I.F.S., Deputy Conservators of Forests and Mr. W. C. M. Dundas, C.I.E., Political Officer, Sadiya. In collecting information during the tours great help was given by Babu Rajani Kanta Das, and in the preparation of this paper by Babus Uma Charan Pal and Hemendra Chandra Banerji, all of the clerical staff of the Botanical Survey.

While this paper was in the press news reached us of the untimely death of Mr. Evan A. Evans of Dibrugarh. Mr. Evans was a man of wide interests and gave us very great help often accompanying us on our rambles in the jungles. His many friends in Lakhimpur, more particularly those interested in Natural History, will miss him sorely.

SYSTEMATIC LIST.

EMBRYOPHYTA ASIPHONOGAMA

PTERIDOPHYTA.

FILICALES.

1. POLYPODIACEAE.

1. *Nephrodium* Schott.

1. *N. molle* Desv. Syn. Fil., 293; F. B. I. C. 277; Beng. Pl. 1253

Dibrugarh. No. 152.

LOCAL NAME.—Denkiyā (applied to several edible ferns).

DISTRIB.—Throughout the Indian region from the plains up to 6,000 feet. Also throughout the world in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

A herbaceous fern with pinnate fronds which usually bear short hairs. It is common throughout the district and is eaten as a sāg.

2. *Aspidium* Sw.

2. *A. polymorphum* Wall. F. B. I. C., 218; Eng. & Prantl i, 4, 185.

Nephrodium polymorphum Baker Syn. Fil. 297; Beng. Pl. 1254.

Dibrugarh. No. 129.

DISTRIB.—Northern India from Garhwal through Mishmi Hills and Chittagong to Burma. Also western forests of Madras Presidency, very common up to 4,000 feet. Ceylon, Malay Islands, Philippines and Fernando Po.

Cultivated. A fern with twice divided fronds which are borne on hard, polished, grooved stalks. The ultimate divisions of the frond are finely, sharply serrate. Portions of the fronds are chewed to cure sores on the tongue.

3. *Diplazium* Sw.

3. *D. esculentum* Retz. Eng. & Prantl i, 4, 228.

Anisogonium esculentum Presl. F. B. I. C. 192; Syn. Fil. 244.

Asplenium esculentum Presl. Beng. Pl. 1249.

Dibrugarh. No. 151.

LOCAL NAME.—Denkiyā (applied to several edible ferns).

DISTRIB.—In most of the provinces from Himalaya to Ceylon. Also in China, Hongkong, Formosa and Malay Peninsula.

Cultivated. A tree fern with a trunk about a metre high. It is common especially about Dibrugarh. The fronds are eaten as a *sāg*.

II. OPHIOGLOSSACEAE.

4. *Ophioglossum* Linn.

4. *O. reticulatum* Linn. Syn. Fil. 446; F. B. I. C. 465; Eng. & Prantl i, 4, 469; Beng. Pl. 1264.

Dibrugarh. No. 303.

LOCAL NAME.—Jibha.

DISTRIB.—The Himalayas, South India and Ceylon; also in Malay Peninsula, Tropical America and South Africa.

A small fern resembling the British Adder's Tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum* L.), but much smaller in all its parts. Each frond consists of a small leaf-like part and a two-ranked spike of sporangia which is borne on a longish stalk. We saw old women at Dibrugarh gathering this plant from amongst grass at the side of the Red Road. They said that they used it as a *sāg*. The plant is difficult to find, but when once found, is easily distinguished.

EMBRYOPHYTA SIPHONOGAMA

ANGIOSPERMAE.

MONOCOTYLEDONEAE.

III. PANDANACEAE.

5. *Pandanus* Linn.

5 *P. fascicularis* Lam. F. B. I. vi, 485; Eng. & Prantl ii, 1, 191; Beng. Pl. 1101.

P. odoratissimus Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 738; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 535; D. E. P. vi, 1, 5.

Dibrugarh. No. 128.

LOCAL NAME.—Keyākāntāl, *keorā*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hotter and moister parts of India, and much planted. Also in Malay Islands, Mauritius and China.

Cultivated. A much branched, low shrub with many aerial roots and spirally arranged leaves whose margins and keels are thorny. The pulp of the stem is used as an ingredient in remedies for pneumonia. The well known *Keorā arq* is distilled from the bracts.

IV. GRAMINEAE.

6. *Zea* Linn.

6. *Z. Mays* Linn. F. B. I., vii, 102; Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 19; Beng. Pl. 1209; D. E. P. vi, 4, 327; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 579.

Dibrugarh. No. 8.

LOCAL NAME.—Gom dhān, *bhuttā*, *makaī*. "Maize," "Indian Corn."

DISTRIB.—Native of America. Cultivated throughout India and in the warmer parts of the world.

A very common crop especially among the settlers from the west who plant it on a large scale. It is sown towards the end of November and the grain is ripe in April and May. Another crop is sown in June and reaped in August.

Maize is used in 3 ways in Lakhimpur:—1. The grain is ground and made into bread. 2. The whole cobs are fried and eaten. 3. The grain is eaten half burnt ("pop-corn").

7. *Coix* Linn.

7. *C. Lacryma* Linn. Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 21; D. E. P. ii, 492; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 573.

C. Lacryma-Jobi Linn. F. B. I. vii, 100; Beng. Pl. 1210.

Dibrugarh. No. 53.

LOCAL NAME.—*Gargar*. "Job's Tears."

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hotter and damper parts of India, wild or cultivated; Ceylon (not wild) and Trop. Asia; cultivated in Africa and America.

Cultivated. A grass, the fruits of which are the familiar "Job's Tears" which are made into necklaces. It is grown here and there in cottage gardens.

8. *Imperata* Cyrill.

8. *I. arundinacea* Cyrill. F. B. I. vii, 106; Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 23; Beng. Pl. 1188; D. E. P. iv, 336.

Dibrugarh. No. 64.

LOCAL NAME.—*Khair*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hotter parts of India and Ceylon. Cosmopolitan.

A grass about half a metre in height with a narrow silvery panicle of flowers. It is common in the savannas of Lakhimpur. It is used for thatching houses.

9. *Saccharum* Linn.

9. *S. officinarum* Linn. F. B. I. vii, 118; Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 23; Beng. Pl. 1189; D. E. P. vi, 2, 3; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 592.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 45 & 91.

LOCAL NAME.—Kuhār, *ūkh*, *gannā*. "Sugar-cane."

DISTRIB.—Grown throughout the warmer parts of India. Also in Tropical East Asia, America and West Indies. In Europe in South Spain.

Cultivated throughout the district.

10. *Andropogon* Linn.

10. A. *Sorghum* Brot. F. B. I. vii, 183; Beng. Pl. 1204.

A. Sorghum Brot. var. *vulgaris* Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 27 & 28.

Sorghum vulgare Pers. D. E. P. vi, 3, 289; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 618.

Sadiya. No. 359.

LOCAL NAME.—Jundhrī, ābor dhān. *Joār*.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the warmer parts of Asia, Europe and Africa. Introduced into America, Australia, etc

A tall robust grass with a very profuse panicle, cultivated here and there throughout the district. Bread is made of the grain, which is also fried and eaten. Common in Sadiya basti gardens. The plants sometimes reach 6 m. high and the leaves nearly 1 dm. broad. Plants of this size were seen at Sadiya where they call the crop "ābor dhān." It has apparently been introduced from the hill country.

11. A. *halapensis* Brot. Fl. Br. Ind. vii, 182; Beng. Pl. 1204.

A. Sorghum wild form (*A. halapensis* Sibth. Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 27 & 28).

Sorghum halapense Pers. D. E. P. vi, 3, 280.

Dibrugarh. No. 88.

LOCAL NAME.—Mansuria.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon and in most warm countries. Seed used as a grain.

11. *Cymbopogon* Spreng

12. C. sp.

Makum Kildā basti. No. 112.

A lemon scented grass, grown occasionally in cottage gardens. An infusion of it is used for fever.

12. *Avena* Linn.

13. A. *sativa* Linn. F. B. I. vii, 275; Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 55; Beng. Pl. 1217; D. E. P. i, 356.

Dibrugarh. No. 11.

LOCAL NAME.—*Jaī*. "Oats."

DISTRIB.—Unknown; truly wild. Cultivated in Northern India from Bengal to the Indus and in the Himalayas up to 12,000 feet and almost throughout the extra tropical regions of the world.

In Dibrugarh it is cultivated to some extent during the cold weather for the use of cattle.

13. *Eleusine Gaertn.*

14. *E. coracana* Gaertn. F. B. I. vii, 294; Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 61; Beng. Pl. 1229; D. E. P. iii, 237.

Sadiya. No. 360.

LOCAL NAME.—*Babāsā dhān*.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated over the greater part of India, and also in N. E. Africa and Japan. This cereal is a cultivated form of *E. indica* Gaertn. See F. B. I. *loc. cit.*

A grass with somewhat flattened stems each surmounted by from two to seven stout, radiating spikes. This is the common *Marūā* of the North and *Ragi* of the South India, which in hilly districts often forms the staple food of the people. We came across a few poorly developed specimens in cottage gardens at Sadiya but saw it nowhere else.

14. *Triticum* Linn.

15. *T. sativum* Lam. Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 81; Duthie, Grasses, N. Ind. 68; D. E. P. vi, 4, 89; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 307.

T. vulgare Vill. F. B. I. vii, 357; Beng. Pl. 1231; *T. aestivum* Roxb. Fl. Ind. i, 357.

Dibrugarh. No. 29.

LOCAL NAME.—*Gehūn*. "Wheat."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated everywhere in cool countries and in many parts of India up to 13,000 feet.

A cold weather crop about Dibrugarh.

15. *Hordeum* Linn.

16. *H. vulgare* Linn. F. B. I. vii, 371; Beng. Pl. 1231; D. E. P. iv, 274; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 615 (under *H. hexastichum* Linn.). *H. sativum vulgare* (Hackel) Eng. & Prantl ii, 2, 87.

Dibrugarh. No. 58.

LOCAL NAME.—*Jau*. "Barley."

DISTRIB.—Not known, wild. Cultivated in Upper India and in most cool regions.

In Dibrugarh cultivated to a small extent during the cold weather.

V. PALMAE.

Several palms are common throughout the district such as *Cocos nucifera* L. "Cocoanut palm," *nāriyal*; *Borrassus flabellifer* L. "Palmyra Palm," *tār*; and *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb. "Wild Date," *khajūr*. The uses of these palms are well known.

Caryota urens L. seems worthy of special notice.

16. *Caryota* Linn.

17. *C. urens* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 422; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 54; Beng. Pl. 1093; D. E. P. ii, 206.

LOCAL NAME.—Siwa. "Maiden-hair or Fish-tail Palm."

DISTRIB.—Throughout India from the Sikkim Himalaya and Assam southwards to Ceylon, also in Singapore, Malaya, and Tropical Asia.

The maiden-hair or fish-tail palm. The names allude to the form of the leaf. A beautiful palm with a tall smooth stem and much divided leaves whose ultimate segments are wedge-shaped. It is particularly common near Sadiya. There are two good specimens in front of the Dibrugarh Club. The stem is full of bulky edible pith. The outside of the stem furnishes good wood useful for spear shafts, plough shafts or lattis. The young parts are eaten as a vegetable and are good (*teste Dundas*). About the base of the leaf is much fibre which the Miris use for tinder.

VI. ARACEAE.

17. *Pothos* Linn.

18. *P. sp.*, may be *P. Cathcarti* Schott. F. B. I. vi, 552.

Dibrugarh. No. 135.

LOCAL NAME.—Hāthi denkiyā.

A climber with curious leaves each consisting of a blade-like stalk ending in two blunt lobes from between which the lance shaped leaf blade arises. It is commonly seen on trees in the forests. The leaves are fried in *ghee* and eaten to cure various pains.

18. *Acorus* Linn.

19. *A. Calamus* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 555; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 118; D. E. P. i, 99; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 539.

Saikhoa. No. 321.

LOCAL NAME.—*Bach*. "Sweet Flag."

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon, wild and cultivated, ascending to 6,000 ft. Europe, N. Asia and N. America.

A herb with sweet scented, grass-like leaves. It usually grows in damp, grassy places near villages and is particularly common in the neighbourhood of Sadiya. It is used for fevers, but it is said to benefit only those which have been caused by ghosts. Pieces of the rootstock which is the most aromatic part of the plant, are tied round the neck to keep away evil spirits. At Saikhoa we were told that the plant was used for inflammations. Plants looked upon with superstitious reverence usually have medicinal properties. For an account of the active principles of this plant see Pharmacog. Ind. (*loc. cit.*)

19. *Amorphophallus* Blume

20. *A. campanulatus* Blume. F. B. I. vi, 513 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 126 ; Beng. Pl. 1109 ; D. E. P. i, 225 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 546.

Sadiya. No. 387.

LOCAL NAME.—*Ol*.

DISTRIB.—Wild and cultivated throughout the plains of India and Ceylon.

A tall herb with beautiful, much branched leaves borne on spotted, snake-like stalks. The whole plant is very acrid. This acidity being due to the presence of raphides, can be destroyed by adding acid substances. A paste or jelly of the tuber (*Ol kachū*) and tamarind pulp is sometimes eaten. Leaves mixed with tamarind pulp are eaten as *sāg*.

20. *Alocasia* Schott.

21. *A. macrorrhiza* Schott. F. B. I. vi, 526 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 138 ; Beng. Pl. 1111.

A. odorum Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 499 ; D. E. P. i, 178.

Dibrugarh. No. 149.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kālā kachū*.

DISTRIB.—Tropical and sub-tropical India, wild and cultivated. A native of Tropical Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

A large herb with handsome dark leaves borne on black stalks. The tubers are said to be excellent to eat. Cottagers near Dibrugarh said that they might be eaten raw.

22. *A. indica* Schott. F. B. I. vi, 525 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 138 ; Beng. Pl. 1111 ; D. E. P. i, 178 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 544.

Arum indicum Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 498.

LOCAL NAME.—*Mān kachchū*.

DISTRIB.—In Tropical Asia native and cultivated ; cultivated in the other parts of the tropics.

An aroid resembling the common Kachu (*Colocasia antiquorum* Schott) but the leaves of *Alocasia* are much larger. It is apparently not cultivated in Lakhimpur but occurs occasionally near dwellings. The rootstock is eaten by the Kacharis.

21. *Colocasia* Linn.

23. *C. antiquorum* Schott. F. B. I. vi, 523 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 3, 136 ; Beng. Pl. 1112 ; D. E. P. ii, 509.

Arum Colocasia Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 494.

Dibrugarh. No. 30.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kachū*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hotter parts of India and Ceylon, wild and cultivated. Cultivated in all hot countries.

This is the common Kachū seen by every road-side in India. It is cultivated for its tubers. The leaves are eaten as a *sāg*.

22. *Typhonium* Schott.24. *T. trilobatum* Schott. F. B. I. vi, 509.

Dibrugarh. No. 355.

LOCAL NAME.—Sāmā kosū.

DISTRIB.—Bengal to Burma and in the Eastern and Western Peninsulas to Ceylon. Also Siam and Malay Islands.

The tubers, eaten with bananas, cure stomach complaints.

VII. COMMELINACEAE.

23. *Floscopa* Lour.25. *F. scandens* Lour. F. B. I. vi, 390; Eng. & Prantl ii, 4, 68; Beng. Pl. 1086.

North Lakhimpur. Nos. 41445 and 41454.

LOCAL NAME.—Kana himlu.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical India and Ceylon; Eastern Asia, tropical Australia.

Very common throughout the district, particularly on grass-lands in N. Lakhimpur. A herb with sheathing leaf-bases, fleshy stems creeping below and rising upwards to bear pyramidal hairy inflorescences of lilac or pink flowers. In N. Lakhimpur the juice of the stem is put into sore eyes.

VIII. LILIACEAE.

24. *Allium* Linn.26. *A. Ceba* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 337; Eng. & Prantl ii, 5, 56; Beng. Pl. 1075; D. E. P. i, 169.

Margherita. No. 104.

LOCAL NAME.—*Piyāz*. "Onion."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in all countries. Native country unknown.

Cultivated. The common onion, much grown in cottage gardens. The leaves and the bulbs are used in curry.

27. *A. sativum* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 337; Beng. Pl. 1076; D. E. P. i, 172; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 488; Eng. & Prantl ii, 5, 55.

Margherita. No. 105.

LOCAL NAME.—Nihuru, *lahsan*. "Garlic."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated everywhere.

Cultivated. The common garlic is a smaller plant than the onion with flat leaves and inflorescence borne on a slender stalk. The plant is used as a condiment.

IX. AMARYLLIDACEAE.

25. *Crinum* Linn.

28. *C. asiaticum* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 280 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 5, 108.
Dibrugarh. No. 125.

LOCAL NAME.—Kanáripát.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical India and Ceylon, common on the sea coasts.

The leaves are applied to skin diseases.

29. *C. amœnum* Roxb. F. B. I. vi, 282 ; Beng Pl. 1061 ; D. E. P. ii, 589.

Lakhimpur. No. 41171.

LOCAL NAME.—Bihu Lily.

DISTRIB.—Temperate Himalaya ; from Nepal eastward to Burma.

26. *Curculigo* Gaertn.

30. *C. orchitoides* Gaertn. F. B. I. vi, 279 ; Beng. Pl. 1059 ; D. E. P. ii, 650 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 462.

Jokai jungle. No. 190.

LOCAL NAME.—Nagini.

DISTRIB.—Sub-tropical Himalaya from Kumaun eastwards to Bengal and Assam, the Western Ghâts, Java.

A herb with narrow, membranous leaves which are traversed by numerous fine strong veins. The plant is common in the jungles. The powdered rhizome put into cuts is said to stop bleeding and to dry up the wound. This rhizome is a well known Indian drug called "*mūlī siyāh*."

X. BIOSCOREACEAE.

27. *Dioscorea* Linn.

31. *D. sp*, probably *D. spinosa* Roxb. F. B. I. vi, 291.

Dibrugarh. No. 333.

LOCAL NAME.—Mo ālū, sutnī ālū.

Cultivated. The branches straggle on the ground. The leaves are long-petioled with broadly cordate, acuminate lamina. There is a conspicuous swelling at the base of the petiole. The tubers, which are white and about the size of small potatoes, are eaten. Several wild species of *Dioscorea*, some of which have remarkably large tubers, are eaten by the more primitive tribes of the province.

XI. IRIDACEAE.

28. *Belamcauda* Adams.

32. *B. chinensis* Leman. F. B. I. vi, 277.

Belamcauda chinensis Leman. Eng. & Prantl ii, 5, 150. *Pardanthus chinensis* Ker in Koen. & Sims. Ann. Bot. 1, 246.

Dibrugarh. No. 143.

LOCAL NAME.—Sūrja kānti.

DISTRIB.—A native of China but cultivated all over India. Said to be wild in the Himalayas up to 6,000 ft. but very doubtful.

The pulp of the stem is said to cure stomach ache.

XII. MUSACEÆ.

29. *Musa* Linn.

33. *M. sapientum* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 262 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 8 ; Beng. Pl. 1050 ; D. E. P. v, 290 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 443 (under *M. paradisiaca* Linn.)

LOCAL NAME.—*Kelā*. “Banana.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and the tropics, indigenous in Behar, the Eastern Himalayas, and Ceylon.

In N. Lakhimpur the leaf bases of the Banana are dried in the sun and then burned. An infusion of the ashes called *Khār* is filtered and kept in bottles. *Khār* is put in small quantities into curries to bring out the flavour.

XIII. ZINGIBERACEAE.

30. *Curcuma* Linn.

34. *C. longa* Linn. F. B. I. vi, 214 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 19 ; Beng. Pl. 1042 ; D. E. P. ii, 659 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 407.

Dibrugarh. No. 338.

LOCAL NAME.—*Haldī*. “Turmeric.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in India and throughout the tropics.

Cultivated in fields and in gardens throughout the district. It may be recognised by its bright yellow root-stock and long-stalked oblong leaves. The root-stock (Turmeric) is perhaps the most widely used condiment in India and is the chief constituent of curry powder. We were told by some cottagers that *Haldī*, if not transplanted, after two or three years gives rise to small, black, egg-shaped tubers called *kachūr* which are used in Yunani Medicine. The name *kachūr* properly belongs to *C. zedoaria* Roac. the “Zedoary.”

35. C. sp. probably *C. aromatica* Salisb. F. B. I. vi, 210 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 19.

North Lakhimpur. No. 393.

LOCAL NAME.—Kiṭūri.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India from the Eastern Himalaya to Ceylon. Wild or cultivated.

A kind of turmeric. Its rhizome is used to colour oxen at the time of the Bihu ceremony, a festival held on the day on which the sun enters Aries. (Cf. *Crinum*.)

31. *Alpinia* Linn.

36. A. malaccensis Rosc. F. B. I. vi, 255.

Makum Kila. No. 110.

DISTRIB.—Eastern Himalayas to Assam and Chittagong; also in Malabar.

Very common in the jungles throughout the district. The plant and leaves are given to elephants.

32. *Clinogyne* Salisb.

37. C. dichotoma Roxb. F. B. I. vi, 258 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 39 ; Beng. Pl. 1048.

Phrynium dichotomum Roxb. Fl. Ind. i, 2 ; D. E. P. v, 216.

Jokai. No. 169.

LOCAL NAME.—Pāṭi dai.

DISTRIB.—Eastern Bengal through Assam to Burma, Malay Peninsula.

A straggling shrub with repeatedly forked stems, very common in the jungles of Lakhimpur. The stems are much used by the natives who split them up and weave them into excellent sleeping mats, known as *sital pati*.

33. *Phrynium* Willd.

38. P. capitatum Willd. F. B. I. vi, 258 ; Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 39 ; Beng. Pl. 1049.

Jokai. No. 170.

LOCAL NAME.—Kowai, kudali.

DISTRIB.—Eastern Himalayas to Assam ; also in Malabar and Travancore, Ceylon and Malay Peninsula.

A herb with large oblong leaves which are used as plates and for thatching. It is common in the jungles.

XIV. MARANTACEAE.

34. *Maranta* Linn.

39. M. arundinacea Linn. Eng. & Prantl ii, 6, 41 ; Beng. Pl. 1048 ; D. E. P. v, 180.

Dibrugarh. No. 345.

LOCAL NAME.—Tar alū. "Arrowroot."

DISTRIB.—A native of Tropical America and of the West Indies. Cultivated in India.

Cultivated on a small scale near Dibrugarh.

DICOTYLEDONEAE.

XV. PIPERACEAE.

35. Piper Linn.

40. *P. Betle* Linn. F. B. I. v, 85; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 10; Beng. Pl. 893; D. E. P. vi, 1, 247; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 183.

Saikhoa. No. 318.

LOCAL NAME.—*Pān*. "Betel."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in the hotter and damper parts of India and Ceylon, and in the Malay Islands.

Much cultivated. It is sometimes made to climb up trellises, sometimes it is grown on the Areca palm (*Areca Catechu* L.) which yields the nut which is chewed with the *pān* leaves. It is then known as *gāchh pān*.

XVI. MORACEAE.

36. Morus Linn.

41. *M. indica* Linn. F. B. I. v, 492; Beng. Pl. 968; D. E. P. v, 281.

Dibrugarh. No. 14.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tūt*, *shaktūt*. "Mulberry."

DISTRIB.—Temperate and sub-tropical Himalayas from Kashmir to Sikkim, wild or cultivated in Bengal, Assam, Burma to China and Japan.

A small mulberry tree with sharply serrated leaves which, like the leaves of the mulberry common in English gardens (*M. nigra* Linn.) shows great variations in lobing, so that leaves of quite different form occur on the same branch. *M. indica* Linn. is a common cottage shrub in Lakhimpur. The fruits are sold in the bazars, but we did not hear of its leaves being used for feeding silkworms (see *Ricinus* and *Machilus*).

37. Artocarpus Forst.

42. *A. integrifolia* Linn. f. F. B. I. v, 541; Beng. Pl. 971; D. E. P. i, 330; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 355.

A. integrifolia Forst. Eng. & Prantl. iii, 1, 82.

Dibrugarh. No. 85.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kathal*. "Jack Fruit."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the hotter parts of India and Eastern Asia.

The jack fruit tree with its bark variegated with red and white lichens, its dense crown of dark shining leaves and its gigantic fruit is familiar to all dwellers in India. It is nearly as common in Lakhimpur as it is in Bengal. The fruit is a favourite food with coolies who often go on eating it till they are incapable of work.

43. *A. Lakoocha* Roxb. F. B. I. v, 543; Beng. Pl. 971; D. E. P. i, 333; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 355.

Dibrugarh and Sadiya. Nos. 148 and 365.

LOCAL NAME.—Barha barhat.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Himalaya, from Kumaun eastwards to Burma, and southwards to Travancore and Ceylon, also Malacca.

This species grows into a large tree and has small yellow velvety fruits. It is grown here and there. The leaves are very variable. The fruits are used in curries. The bark which is known as *dewā salī* is chewed with *pān*.

44. *A. incisa* Linn. f. F. B. I. v, 539; D. E. P. i, 330.

A. incisa Forst. Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 82.

Ledo. No. 106.

LOCAL NAME.—Sām *kathal*. "Bread Fruit Tree."

DISTRIB.—A native of the Pacific Islands. Occasionally cultivated in the hottest parts of India.

A tree with very rough, pinnately lobed leaves. Only one example was seen and that in a village near Ledo. The villagers said that the fruits were red, as large as the first, and very good to eat.

38. *Ficus* Linn.

45. *F. crininervia* Miq. F. B. I. v, 529; King. Ann. R. B. Gard. i, 2, 138 and fig. 173.

Sadiya. No. 373.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tapar salī*.

DISTRIB.—Assam and Chittagong, also Malay Islands.

A creeper abounding in yellow juice. Its bark is chewed with *pān*.

XVII. URTICACEAE.

39. *Laportea* Gaud

46. *L. crenulata* Gaud. F. B. I. v, 550; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 106; D. E. P. iv, 587.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Himalaya; from Sikkim eastwards, the Concan, Malabar, Travancore and Ceylon. Also in Malay Islands and Sumatra.

A tall herb with divaricately branched axillary panicles of flowers. The plant stings very severely. In N. Lakhimpur the juice of the root is used in long standing fevers and the flowers are used in curries.

40. *Girardinia* Gaud.

47. *G. heterophylla* Dene. F. B. I. v, 550; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 107; Beng. Pl. 961; D. E. P. iii, 498.

Sadiya. No. 382.

LOCAL NAME.—Chūruṭ pāt, kukur sutā; also known as sīsū.

DISTRIB.—Temperate and sub-tropical parts of India, Burma, and Ceylon.

A stinging coarse fibre plant. Some plants were seen in gardens at Sadiya.

41. *Boehmeria* Jacq.

48. *B. nivea* Hook. & Arn. F. B. I. v, 576; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 111 & 112; Beng. Pl. 964; D. E. P. i, 468

Urtica nivea Linn. Sp. Pl. 985. *U. tenacissima* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 590.

Jokai. No. 177.

LOCAL NAME.—Rihā. "Rhea or China-grass."

DISTRIB.—A native of the Malay Islands, China and Japan. Cultivated chiefly in Assam and N. Bengal.

A nettle-like shrub with coarsely serrate leaves which are white beneath. It is grown in cottage gardens and yields the well known Rhea fibre which is extracted from the plant in October.

42. *Sarcochlamys* Gaud.

49. *S. pulcherrima* Gaud. F. B. I. v, 588; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 113; Beng. Pl. 966; D. E. P. vi, 2, 476.

Urtica pulcherrima Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 588.

Above Dibrugarh. No. 313.

LOCAL NAME.—Notke (Miri).

DISTRIB.—Assam, from East Bengal through Chittagong to Tenasserim. Also Sumatra.

A curious shrub occurring throughout the district, especially near rivers. The leaves are long and narrow, dark above and white beneath, and traversed from end to end by 3 strong nerves. Most of the people in Lakhimpur know of no use for the plant but the Miris eat the young leaves in curry.

XVIII. PROTEACEAE.

43. *Grevillea* R. Br.

50. *G. robusta* A. Cunn. Man. Ind. Timbs. 576; Ind. Trees, 544.

Dibrugarh. No. 41181.

LOCAL NAME.—“Silk Oak” or “Silver Oak.”

DISTRIB.—Indigenous in Queensland and New South Wales, cultivated in Dehra Dun, the Nilgiris and elsewhere.

A tree with hard pinnately divided leaves which are dark above and covered with brownish felt beneath, and bottle-brush like inflorescences. Introduced by the Forest Dept. and much planted about Dibrugarh.

XIX. LORANTHACEAE.

44. Loranthus Linn.

51. *L. ligustrinus* Wall. F. B. I. v, 207; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1, 165; Beng. Pl. 911.

Dibrugarh. No. 156.

LOCAL NAME.—Banda.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Himalaya, from Kumaun to Sikkim, and Chittagong.

A parasite especially common on *Melia Azedarach* (Bakāyan). *L. ligustrinus* Wall. is used for tanning.

XX. POLYGONACEAE.

45. Rumex Linn.

52. *R. vesicarius* Linn. F. B. I. v, 61; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 19; Beng. Pl. 889; D. E. P. vi, 1, 592; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 157.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 25 and 168.

LOCAL NAME.—Sūkāhāk, *chūkā*.

DISTRIB.—Indigenous in the Western Punjab, and Mediterranean Region. Found in most other parts of India either cultivated or as an escape.

A small glabrous succulent dock with 3-5 nerved leaves. It is commonly cultivated in gardens about Dibrugarh. The whole plant is eaten cooked and has a pleasant acid, sorrel-like flavour.

46. Polygonum Linn.

53. *P. plebejum* Br. F. B. I. v, 27; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 27; Beng. Pl. 865; D. E. P. vi, 1, 319.

Dibrugarh and on river bank. Nos. 41138, 41179 and 369

LOCAL NAME.—Ban jaluk.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical India, the Indo-Malayan region and Africa.

A weed common everywhere but especially on river sand. It has prostrate stems and very small leaves. The plant is dried, powdered and taken internally for pneumonia.

54. *P. flaccidum* Meissn. F. B. I. v, 39 ; Beng. Pl. 887 ;

P. flaccidum Roxb. Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 28.

Sadiya. No. 374.

LOCAL NAME.—Mau mau bhelagni.

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malay region. Common throughout India in wet places.

Cultivated in gardens at Sadiya.

When bruised the plant at first has a pleasant smell and then an unpleasant soapy-like smell. It is used as a spice.

55. *P. chinense* Linn. F. B. I. v, 44 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 28 ; Beng. Pl. 887.

Sadiya and Dibrugarh. Nos. 596, 368 and 41176.

LOCAL NAME.—Múdhūri țengā.

DISTRIB.—Sub-tropical and Temperate Himalayas, from Bhotan through Assam to Chittagong and Burma. The Deccan, Ceylon, Malacca, and Sumatra.

A very common weed especially on river sand. The whole plant has a reddish tinge. It is used in curry.

56. *P. glabrum* Willd. F. B. I. v, 34 ; Beng. Pl. 886 ; D. E. P. vi, 1, 318 ; Pharmacog. Ind. 152.

Dibrugarh. No. 119.

LOCAL NAME.—Pathūrua bhelagni.

DISTRIB.—From Burma and Assam through Bengal westward to the Indus and in the Temperate Himalaya, Ceylon, Tropical Asia, Africa, America.

A glabrous erect annual with reddish stem almost as thick as a finger. It grows in ditches and swamps.

The juice of the plant mixed with other ingredients is said to cure pneumonia.

57. *P. perfoliatum* Linn. F. B. I. v, 46 ; Beng. Pl. 887.

Dibrugarh. No. 163.

DISTRIB.—Central and Eastern Himalayas (in Assam and Bengal found in the jhils). Java, China and Japan.

A curious species. The stem has recurved prickles. The leaves are triangular and are borne on very long stalks. The stipules are circular and embrace the stem. A not uncommon weed. No use is made of it but it has a pleasant acid taste and is probably wholesome.

58. *P. Fagopyrum* Linn. Camb. Br. Fl. ii, 110 ; Fl. Ind. ii, 292.

Fagopyrum esculentum Moench. F. B. I. v, 55 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 29 ; D. E. P. iii, 310.

Dibrugarh. No. 21.

LOCAL NAME.—“Buckwheat.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the Western and Eastern Himalayas to Western Tibet, also the Nilgiri Hills in the Deccan, Central Europe and North Asia.

An annual glabrous herb with triangular leaves, much cultivated about Dibrugarh. A kind of bread is made of the grain.

XXI. CHENOPODIACEAE.

47. Beta Linn.

59. *B. vulgaris* Linn. F. B. I. v, 5; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 57; Beng. Pl. 879; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 148.

B. vulgaris L. var. *maritima* Koch. Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 58; D. E. P. i, 448. *B. bengalensis* Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 59.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 7 and 33.

LOCAL NAME.—Biṭ Palang, Pālak (this name really belongs to *Spinacia*). “Beet.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in various parts of India, Europe and North Asia.

Two forms of the common Beetroot are common in cottage gardens. The form which has green leaves is used as a *sāg*, but its root is not eaten. The form which has red leaves is cultivated only for its root.

48. Chenopodium Linn.

60. *C. album* Linn. F. B. I. v, 3; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 61; Moss. Camb. Brit. Flora ii, 157; Beng. Pl. 879; D. E. P. ii, 265; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 148.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 77 and 165.

LOCAL NAME.—*Bathūā sāg*. The common “Goose-foot” of English gardens.

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan, sometimes cultivated in India.

A very variable, mealy annual with thick clusters of small green flowers. Many forms of the plant occur in cottage gardens varying in height from 1 dm. to 3 m. No steps are taken to cultivate the plant which is merely allowed to seed. The leaves are eaten as *sāg*. Formerly in Great Britain this and other species of *Chenopodium* were used as pot-herbs but they now seem to have fallen out of use. Some cottagers told us that if it were eaten too often it caused diarrhœa and weakness. A closely allied species, *C. quinoa* L., yields one of the most esteemed grains of S. America.

61. *C. ambrosioides* Linn. F. B. I. v, 4; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1a, 61; Beng. Pl. 879; D. E. P. ii, 267; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 148.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 36 and 301.

LOCAL NAME.—“Mexican Tea Weed.” “Herba Santa Maria” in Brazil.

DISTRIB.—Common in many parts of India. Widely spread both in the Old World and in America.

A stinking weed. The leaves are alternate, narrow and distantly toothed and the inconspicuous green flowers are arranged in small sessile clusters. All parts of the plant have a remarkably strong smell.

It is now a common weed throughout Lakhimpur. Though used medicinally in many parts of the world, the natives of India have never found any use for it.

American oil of *Chenopodium* (Baltimore Oil) is obtained from *C. ambrosioides* var. *anthelminticum* Gray, which does not, as far as is known, occur wild in India. There is a good figure of this variety, which is often considered specifically distinct and then known as *C. anthelminticum* L, in Bentley and Trimen's Medicinal Plants, Vol. iii, 216.

49. *Spinacia* Linn.

62. *S. oleracea* Linn. F. B. I. v, 6; Eng. & Prantl iii, la, 64; Camb. Brit. Fl. ii, 64; Beng. Pl. 880; D. E. P. vi, 3, 330; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 146.

Dibrugarh. No. 97.

LOCAL NAME.—Palang, *pālak* (this name is also applied to *Beta*).
“Spinach.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India. Native country unknown.

Frequently grown as a *sāg*. Apparently wild forms of the plant with very small leaves were sometimes found about dwellings.

XXII. AMARANTACEAE.

50. *Amarantus* Linn.

Several species of *Amarantus* are grown in gardens and are used as *sāg* among which the most important are:—

63. *A. paniculatus* L. F. B. I. iv, 718; Eng. & Prantl iii, la, 103; Beng. Pl. 870; D. E. P. i, 214.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 26, 78 and 106.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and Ceylon. Also in East and West Asia and N. Africa

64. *A. gangeticus* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 719; Beng. Pl. 870; D. E. P. i, 212.

Dibrugarh. No. 167.

LOCAL NAME.—Marsā.

DISTRIB.—In India cultivated or found as an escape. Also in Tropical Africa and America.

55. *A. mangostanus* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 720; Beng. Pl. 871; D. E. P. i, 213.

Dibrugarh. No. 27.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon.

51. *Achyranthes* Linn.

60. *A. bidentata* Bl. F. B. I. iv, 730; Eng. & Prantl iii, la, 112; Beng. Pl. 875.

Dibrugarh. No. 353.

LOCAL NAME.—Apāmārga, bankhat.

DISTRIB.—Temperate and sub-tropical regions in India, abundant in Ceylon. Also in China, Java and Japan.

The villagers state that a bit of the plant tied on the waist of pregnant women is said to induce safe delivery.

XXIII. BASELLACEAE.

52. *Basella* Linn.

67. *B. alba* Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, la, 126; Fl. Ind. ii, 104

B. rubra Linn. F. B. I. v, 20; Beng. Pl. 882; D. E. P. i, 403; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 148.

Dibrugarh. No. 2.

LOCAL NAME.—*Poi sāg*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, wild or cultivated and in Ceylon. Also in tropical Asia and Africa.

A glabrous, succulent twiner often grown by the country people on cottages and shals and used by them as a *sāg*.

XXIV. PORTULACACEAE.

53. *Portulaca* Linn.

68. *P. oleracea* Linn. F. B. I. i, 246; Eng. & Prantl iii, lb, 59; Beng. Pl. 240; D. E. P. vi, 1, 329; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 158.

LOCAL NAME.—*Noniyā*. "Purslane."

DISTRIB.—Common in waste ground throughout India and in all warm countries.

A much branched succulent herb with wedge-shaped leaves and inconspicuous yellow flowers. Purslane is common in Lakhimpur especially on cultivated ground and near dwellings. The plant is eaten as a *sāg* and is said to have the property of absorbing and retaining the flavour of herbs with which it is cooked. This is one of the various plants formerly used as a pot-herb in Britain but now no longer used.

XXV. CARYOPHYLLACEAE.

54. *Stellaria* Linn.

69. *S. media* Linn. F. B. I. i, 230; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1b, 79; Beng. Pl. 237; D. E. P. vi, 3, 358.

Dibrugarh. No. 69.

LOCAL NAME.—“Chickweed.”

DISTRIB.—Throughout the temperate regions of India. Also in Arctic and North Temperate regions. Elsewhere doubtful native. It is probably introduced in India.

A very common and most variable weed. The chickweed is nearly as common in Lakhimpur as it is in England. It may be distinguished from all weeds like it by the lines of hairs which run on alternate sides of the stems in each succeeding internode. The dwellers in Lakhimpur are as ignorant as the English are of the fact that chickweed is very good to eat. Most cottagers told us that it was only eaten by cattle but at Ledo we met with people who knew its virtues as an article of diet. We found no local name for it.

55. *Drymaria* Willd.

70. *D. cordata* Willd. F. B. I. i, 244; Eng. & Prantl iii, 1b, 86; Beng. Pl. 238.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 28 and 80.

LOCAL NAME.—Lai jābari.

DISTRIB.—Tropical and sub-tropical India and Ceylon, in Sikkim up to 7,000 ft. Tropical Asia, Africa and America.

A very common way-side weed with opposite, cordate 3-5 nerved leaves, and interpetiolar stipules. The flowers are white and inconspicuous; the small green fruits cling to the clothes. It is known to all cottagers as a medicinal plant. The plant is heated, or more rarely, boiled, and the vapours given off are inhaled through the nose to cure headache. It is also said to be wholesome and cleansing when taken internally.

XXVI. MAGNOLIACEAE.

56. *Magnolia* Linn.

71. *M. pterocarpa* Roxb. Ann. R. B. G. Cal. iii, 2, 207 & fig. 53. Beng. Pl. 197.

M. sphenocarpa Roxb. F. B. I. i, 41; D. E. P. v, 107. *Liriodendron grandiflorum* Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 653.

North Lakhimpur and jungles near Dibrugarh. Nos. 307, 394.

LOCAL NAME.—Balom tūrī.

DISTRIB.—Tropical East Himalayas and from Nepal through Assam to Chittagong.

A forest tree. The large fleshy cylindrical buds are chewed with *pān* and said to blacken the mouth. The broken surface of the buds soon becomes black. Pieces chewed by us had a pleasant, pungent flavour.

XXVII. ANONACEAE.

57. *Artabotrys* R. Br.

72. *A. odoratissima* (Roxb.) R. Br. Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 37.

A. odoratissimus R. Br. F. B. I. i, 54; Beng. Pl. 202; D. E. P. i, 322. *Uvaria odoratissima* Roxb. Fl. Ind ii, 666. *Uvaria hamata* Roxb. (*loc. cit.*)

Dibrugarh. No. 344.

DISTRIB.—Indigenous in Burma and Ceylon but cultivated throughout India. Also Java and South China.

Cultivated at Dibrugarh. Old women collect its scented flowers but we were unable to discover for what they used them. See D. E. P. (*loc. cit.*)

58. *Anona* Linn.

73. *A. squamosa* Linn. F. B. I. i, 78; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 37 and 38; Beng. Pl. 206; D. E. P. i, 259; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 44.

Dibrugarh. No. 56 A.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sharīfa*, ātā. "Custard apple."

DISTRIB.—A native of Tropical America naturalised throughout India.

Cultivated for its fruits and generally found in association with *A. reticulata* L. (see below).

74. *A. reticulata* Linn. F. B. I. i, 78; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 38; Beng. Pl. 206; D. E. P. i, 258.

Dibrugarh. No. 56.

LOCAL NAME.—Nonā. "Bullock's Heart."

DISTRIB.—Naturalised in Bengal and elsewhere. Very common near villages.

A tree with narrow 2-ranked leaves. It is common by road-sides and in cottage gardens throughout the district. Planted, but oftener self-sown. The fruit is eaten.

XXVIII. MENISPERMACEAE.

59. *Stephania* Lour.

75. *S. hernandifolia* Walp. F. B. I. i, 103; Beng. Pl. 208; D. E. P. vi, 3, 359; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 54.

Dibrugarh. No. 131.

DISTRIB.—Bengal, Ceylon, Malay Peninsula, Australia and Africa.

A climber with finely grooved stems. The leaf stalk is attached some distance from the edge of the triangular leaf blade. A paste of the leaves is applied to the head for its cooling effect. The juice of the leaves is used as a cure for impotence.

XXIX. LAURACEAE.

60. *Cinnamomum* Bl.

76. *C. tamala* Nees & Eberm. F. B. I. v, 128; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 114; Beng. Pl. 899; D. E. P. ii, 319; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 200.

Laurus Cassia Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 207.

Dibrugarh. No. 337.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tējpāt*.

DISTRIB.—Tropical and sub-tropical Himalaya from near the Indus to Bhotan, Sylhet and Khasi Hills, cultivated in other parts.

A tree with aromatic 8-nerved leaves which are used as a condiment. Cultivated on a small scale. This is one of the trees whose bark is sold as 'Cassia Lignea' or 'Cassia Cinnamon' which is inferior to the bark of the true Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Breyh.).

61. *Machilus* Nees.

77. *M. bombycina* King mes. F. B. I. v, 861; Beng. Pl. 900; Ind. Trees, 531.

Jokai. No. 171.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sūm*.

DISTRIB.—According to Hooker (*loc. cit.*) it is said to be cultivated in the Assam Valley and along the Lower Himalaya as far west as Nepal. Brandis (*loc. cit.*) states that it forms extensive forests in the Sibsagar District. According to Prain (*loc. cit.*) it is also found in Chittagong.

The tree on which the muga silk worm feeds. It is extensively planted in orchards (*bāris*). In March the trees are covered with fresh green leaves and look very beautiful.

62. *Litsea* Lamk.

78. *L. polyantha* Juss. F. B. I. v, 162; Beng. Pl. 903; D. E. P. v, 82.

Tetranthera monopetala Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 821.

Margherita. No. 111.

DISTRIB.—From the Punjab and the Salt Range eastwards chiefly along the foot of the Himalaya ascending to 3,000 feet to Assam, and through Chittagong to Burma; also in the Coromandel and Penang, Java and China.

This is a common tree in Upper Assam and is planted about Dibrugarh. There are some good specimens of it on the Red Road which look very lovely when laden with masses of yellow flowers. Its leaves are sometimes used for the muga silk worm but it is much less used than *Sūm* (*Machilus bombycina* King).

XXX. CRUCIFERAE.

63. *Lepidium* Linn.

79. *L. sativum* Linn. F. B. I. i, 159; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 161; Beng. Pl. 223; D. E. P. iv, 627; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 120.

Dibrugarh. No. 83.

LOCAL NAME.—*Chansur*. "Cress."

DISTRIB.—Not known wild. Cultivated in many countries.

This is the common cress. It is grown in cottage gardens and eaten as a vegetable.

64. *Brassica* Linn.

80. *B. juncea* Hook. f. & Thom. F. B. I. i, 157; Beng. Pl. 220; D. E. P. i, 528; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 123.

Dibrugarh. No. 5.

LOCAL NAME.—*Rāi* (lāi). "Indian Mustard."

DISTRIB.—Largely cultivated throughout India.

A favourite crop of the up-country settlers in Lakhimpur. Mustard oil is expressed from the seeds.

65. *Raphanus* Linn.

81. *R. sativus* Linn. F. B. I. i, 166; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 179; Beng. Pl. 224; D. E. P. vi, 1, 393; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 129.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 37 and 38.

LOCAL NAME.—*Mūlī*. "Radish."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in all temperate and warm countries.

In Lakhimpur grown in cottage gardens. We met two forms of the plant which the natives, however, do not distinguish. One form has pale foliage and white flowers, the other has dark foliage and mauve flowers. The seeds yield an oil.

XXXI. CAPPARIDACEAE.

66. *Cleome* Linn.

82. *C. spinosa* Jacq. Enum. Pl. Carib. 26; Linn. Sp. Pl. 939.

C. spinosa Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 223. *C. heptaphylla* L. F. B. I. i, 168.

Margherita, found in railway station and on river banks. Nos. 124 and 41123.

DISTRIB.—Native of the West Indies. Now found in many parts of India.

A tall glandular herb with 7-foliolate leaves and handsome purple flowers, with conspicuous stamens. The whole plant gives out a curious fox-like smell. A native of the West Indies, this plant is now extensively naturalised in Upper Assam, thriving especially on river sand, often far from human habitations. It is sometimes grown in cottage gardens. A paste of the seeds applied locally is said to cure headache.

67. *Pedicellaria* Schrank.

83. *P. pentaphylla* (L.) Schrank. Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 223.

Gynandropsis pentaphylla DC. F. B. I. i, 171; Beng. Pl. 225; D. E. P. iv, 190; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 132. *Cleome pentaphylla* Linn. Fl. Ind. ii, 126.

Dibrugarh. No. 89.

LOCAL NAME.—*Hurhur*, *hulhul*. Both names are applied to this and several allied herbs.

DISTRIB.—Abundant throughout the warm parts of India and all tropical countries.

A weed with 5-foliolate leaves, and 3-foliolate bracts, common throughout India. A paste of the seeds is applied locally in headache.

68. *Crataeva* Linn.

84. *C. religiosa* Forst. F. B. I. 172; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 228; Beng. Pl. 227; D. E. P. ii, 583; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 133.

Capparis trifoliata Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 571.

Dibrugarh. No. 137.

LOCAL NAME.—Barūnī.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, Burma and Ceylon. Also in Tropical Africa. According to Hooker indigenous in Malabar and Canara, cultivated elsewhere.

A tree with 3-foliolate leaves and conspicuous inflorescences of yellowish flowers. It is common throughout Lakhimpur near water. The bark is pounded and applied to painful parts (especially so used in headache).

XXXII. MORINGACEAE.

69. *Moringa* Juss.

85. *M. oleifera* Lam. Encyclop. i, 398; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2, 244.

Moringa pterygosperma Gaertn. F. B. I. ii, 45; Beng. Pl. 357; D. E. P. v, 276; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 396.

Dibrugarh. No. 46.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sahajnā*. "Horse Radish Tree."

DISTRIB.—Wild in the forests of the Western Himalaya and Oudh. Cultivated throughout India and in many other tropical countries.

An untidy tree with 2-3 pinnate leaves, white flowers and very long pods. The plant is pungent and all parts of it, even the twigs, are used in cooking. Because of the tearing and hacking it thus suffers, a good specimen of the tree is seldom seen.

XXXIII. CRASSULACEAE.

70. *Bryophyllum* Salisb.

86. *B. calycinum* Salisb. F. B. I. ii, 413; Eng. & Prantl iii, 2a, 34; Beng. Pl. 470; D. E. P. i, 543; Pharmacog. Ind i, 590.

B. pinnatum Kurz. Jour. As. Soc. Beng. 1876, ii, 309. *Cotyledon rhizophylla* Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 456.

LOCAL NAME.—Ass, do-pahar tengā (acid at noon).

DISTRIB.—In all tropical countries. Probably originally native of Africa.

A stout succulent herb with pinnate upper leaves from whose crenatures young plants readily arise. Common near houses. The leaves are eaten as *sāg*. They are said to taste more strongly acid at noon than at any other time of the day.

XXXIV. ROSACEAE.

71. *Rubus* Linn.

87. *R. moluccanus* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 330; Eng. & Prantl. iii, 3, 30; D. E. P. vi, 1, 583.

North Lakhimpur. No. 396.

LOCAL NAME.—Chītūli pakā.

DISTRIB.—From the Central and Eastern Himalayas to Burma, Deccan and Ceylon. Malay.

Very common in North Lakhimpur. The fruits are good to eat and the young leaves are used for sores about children's mouths. A hill plant not usually found below 3,000 ft.

72. *Eriobotrya* Lindl

88. *E. japonica* Lindl. F. B. I. ii, 370; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 25; Beng. Pl. 468; D. E. P. iii, 257.

Dibrugarh. No. 24.

LOCAL NAME.—“Loquat.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in many parts of India. Indigenous in China and Japan.

A tree with stout, crooked twigs bearing rosettes of tough, elliptic leaves which are woolly beneath. It is common in cottage gardens where it is grown for its fruits which are known as loquats.

73. *Prunus* Linn.

89. *P. persica* Benth. & Hk. f. F. B. I. ii, 313; D. E. P. vi, 1, 349.

P. persica (Linn.) Sieb. & Zucc. Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 53.

Dibrugarh. No. 1.

LOCAL NAME.—Hambarua. "Peach."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in the cooler parts of India and in all cool countries. Probably native of China.

Very commonly cultivated in cottage gardens. Though we never saw it far from cultivation we were interested to see how much at home the peach is in Upper Assam. It will be remembered that De Caudolle in his "Origin of Cultivated Plants" concludes that the peach is a native of China and that the Chinese carried it into Kashmir, Hekura and Persia : with the last of these countries it is generally associated in the minds of Europeans.

90. *P. triflora* Roxb. F. B. I. ii, 315.

P. trifolia Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 501.

Dibrugarh. No. 63.

LOCAL NAME.—Nara bogri.

DISTRIB.—Burma also in China.

A small tree in cottage gardens. The fruit is glabrous and red when ripe.

XXXV. LEGUMINOSAE.

SUB-FAMILY—MIMOSOIDEAE.

74. *Leucaena* Benth.

91. *L. glauca* Benth. F. B. I. ii, 290; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 115; Beng. Pl. 455; D. E. P. iv, 632.

Jokai. No. 182.

LOCAL NAME.—Toira kadam.

DISTRIB.—Probably indigenous only in Tropical America. Now common in India, tropical Asia and Africa.

A low tree or shrub with 2-pinnate leaves and whitish flowers in dense globose heads. The bark is eaten for internal pain. The wood is hard. The young fruits and ripe seeds are edible. It has been recently pointed out that a substitute for coffee can be made from the ripe seeds.

SUB-FAMILY—CAESALPINIOIDEAE.

75. *Tamarind* Linn.

92. *T. indica* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 273; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 139; Beng. Pl. 444; D. E. P. vi, 3, 404; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 532.

Dibrugarh. No. 54.

LOCAL NAME.—*Imlī*. "Tamarind."

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and the Tropics.

A beautiful tree with graceful pinnate leaves which sleep at night; and fragrant flowers. The fruit has a brittle shell which encloses the pulp and the seeds. Common throughout the district. The pulp of the fruit is sold in the bazars and used medicinally for various purposes (see *Amorphophallus*). There are many superstitions about this tree in which ghosts are supposed to abide.

76. *Bauhinia* Linn.

93. *B. purpurea* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 284; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 151; Beng. Pl. 442; D. E. P. i, 421.

Saikho a No. 319.

LOCAL NAME.—Kōinār sāg.

DISTRIB.—From the foot of the West Himalayas and Khasi Hills to Ceylon and Burma. Also in Penang and China. Often planted.

Bauhinias are familiar to all dwellers in India. The curious two-lobed leaf characteristic of the genus was the occasion for naming it after the Brother Botanists, Johann and Caspar Bauhin. *B. purpurea* Linn. is often grown in cottage garden hedges. The young leaves are used as a sāg.

77. *Caesalpinia* Linn.

94. *C. bonducella* Roxb. Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 174; Fl. Ind. ii, 357.

C. Bonducella Fleming. F. B. I. ii, 254; Beng. Pl. 449; D. E. P. ii, 3; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 496.

LOCAL NAME.—Nata leta guti, kaṭ karanj.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India. Cosmopolitan in the Tropics

A shrub with large 2-pinnate leaves. All parts of the plant, especially the pods, are covered with prickles. It is common in hedges. The large round seeds are used for many medicinal purposes, especially for stomach ache. It is often compounded with lemon.

95. *C. sappan* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 255; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 175; Beng. Pl. 449; D. E. P. ii, 10; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 500.

Jaipur, Phākial basti. No. 194.

LOCAL NAME.—Māk.

DISTRIB.—Eastern and Western Peninsulas and Burma. Also in Malaya.

A shrub with twice pinnate leaves and smooth, flat, woody pods. The Phākials take a paste of the seeds internally to cure fevers.

SUB-FAMILY—PAPILIONATAE.

78. *Trigonella* Linn.

96. *T. Foenum-graecum* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 87; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 244; Beng. Pl. 414; D. E. P. vi, 4, 86; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 401.

Dibrugarh. No. 95.

LOCAL NAME.—*Methī* (see also No. 97). “Fenugreek.”

DISTRIB.—Kashmir, Punjab and the Upper Gangetic Plain. Widely cultivated in India. Also in West Asia and Southern Europe.

Cultivated as a *sāg* about Dibrugarh. The whole plant, especially when dried, has a strong smell. It is used in Switzerland for flavouring cheese. The ancients attributed many medicinal properties to this plant which is still much used in Egypt; but present dwellers in Lakhimpur look upon it merely as a *sāg*. They moreover confuse it with *Melilotus indica* All. a plant readily distinguished by its long racemes of yellow flowers and inconspicuous pods. The pods of fenugreek are about 3 inches long, often strongly curved, and have a long beak.

79. *Melilotus* Juss.

97. *M. indica* All. Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 248; Beng. Pl. 413.

M. parviflora Desv. F. B. I. ii, 89; D. E. P. v, 225; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 405.

Dibrugarh. No. 94.

LOCAL NAME.—*Methī sāg* (this name properly belongs to *Trigonella Fœnum-græcum* L. (No. 96).

DISTRIB.—From the Punjab eastwards to Bengal, in the Western Peninsula and Afghanistan. Also in Europe and West Asia. Introduced in many other regions.

An annual herb with 3-foliolate leaves and racemes of small yellow flowers. The pods are inconspicuous. It is used as a *sāg* but is often confused with *Trigonella Fœnum-græcum* Linn.

80. *Cyamopsis* DC.

98. *C. tetragonoloba* Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 259.

C. psoralioides DC. F. B. I. ii, 92; Beng. Pl. 429; D. E. P. ii, 673.
Dolichos fabaeformis Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 316.

Sadiya. No. 80.

LOCAL NAME.—*Gūār*.

DISTRIB.—From the Himalaya to the Western Peninsula and Ceylon, but perhaps always cultivated. Also in Afghanistan.

A hairy annual with 3-foliolate leaves and dentate leaflets. It is grown in cottage gardens at Sadiya where the Marwaris have introduced it. The pods are eaten as a vegetable.

81. *Indigofera* Linn.

99. *I. anil* Linn. DC. Prod. ii, 225; F. B. I. ii, 99; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 262; Prain & Baker in Journ. Bot. 1902, 136—44; D. E. P. iv, 383.

I. suffruticosa Mill. Beng. Pl. 432.

Jokai. No. 176.

LOCAL NAME.—*Uangōni*. “West Indian Indigo.”

DISTRIB.—Native of America, cultivated in India.

A shrub with simple leaves, flowers in racemes and very numerous curved pods. It is grown in cottage gardens. The pounded bark is taken internally for stomach complaints.

82. *Sesbania* Pers.

100. *S. aegyptiaca* Pers. F. B. I. ii, 114; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 278; Beng. Pl. 403; D. E. P. vi, 2, 543; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 474.

Dibrugarh. No. 147.

LOCAL NAME.—Jintri, *jayantī*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, from the Himalayas to Ceylon. Cosmopolitan in the tropics of the Old World.

A shrub with yellow or red flowers and long flexible pods. This plant is a common cottage ornament. The flowers are used in certain Pajas. A well known medicinal plant.

83. *Aeschynomene* Linn.

101. *A. indica* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 151; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 319; Beng. Pl. 418; D. E. P. i, 126.

Hedysarum Neli-Tali Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 365.

Dibrugarh. No. 330.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sholā*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon and Siam. Cosmopolitan in the tropics.

A glabrous shrub with fine, pinnate leaves, yellowish flowers, and rough 7-9-jointed pods. The pith is the *Sola* used for making hats: it is also used for tinder. This plant is not uncommon in wet places.

84. *Cicer* Linn.

102. *C. arietinum* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 176; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 350; Beng. Pl. 366; D. E. P. ii, 274.

Dibrugarh. No. 51.

LOCAL NAME.—*Chanā*. "Gram."

DISTRIB.—Extensively cultivated throughout India, especially in the Northern Provinces. Also in other temperate and tropical countries.

A small vetch-like herb whose leaflets are serrate towards their ends. It is occasionally cultivated about Dibrugarh for fodder but it never ripens fruit.

85. *Vicia* Linn.

103. *V. faba* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 179; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 351; Beng. Pl. 367; D. E. P. vi, 4, 231.

Dibrugarh. No. 162.

LOCAL NAME.—*Baḡla*.

DISTRIB.—Origin unknown. Cultivated in prehistoric times.

In Lakhimpur occasionally cultivated in cottage gardens.

86. Lathyrus Linn.

104. L. sativus Linn. F. B. I. ii, 179 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 353 ; Beng. Pl. 368 ; D. E. P. iv, 590.

Dibrugarh. No. 19.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kisārī*.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated all over India. Also in West Asia, Tropical Africa and parts of Europe.

Much cultivated throughout the province. A small vetchling. The stems and petioles are winged. The flowers are usually sky blue and the upper border of the pod has two wings. Peasants about Dibrugarh told us that regular use of the grain caused paralysis. One man went so far as to say that no one should eat it oftener than once in two months. Animals are apparently immune from its evil effects as cows fatten kindly on it and give much milk. For the poisonous properties of this pulse see Report on Lathyrism in the Central Provinces in 1896—1902, by Major Andrew Buchanan, I.M.S. (1904).

87. Pisum Linn.

105. P. sativum Linn. F. B. I. ii, 181 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 355 ; Beng. Pl. 369 ; D. E. P. vi, 1, 277 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 489.

Dibrugarh. No. 10.

LOCAL NAME.—*Maṭar*. “Garden Pea.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the world.

The ordinary green pea of English vegetable gardens recognised by its huge stipules. It is commonly cultivated throughout the district.

88. Cajanus DC.

106. C. indicus Spreng. F. B. I. ii, 217 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 372 ; Beng. Pl. 383 ; D. E. P. ii, 12 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 489.

Dibrugarh. No. 20.

LOCAL NAME.—*Arhar*. “Pigeon Pea.”

DISTRIB.—Extensively cultivated throughout India up to an altitude of 6,000 ft. in the Himalayas. Cosmopolitan in the tropics, probably a native of the Old World.

An erect shrub with 3-foliate leaves and silky branches. Cultivated here and there for its seeds which are used as pulse.

89. Phaseolus Linn.

107. P. mungo Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 380 ; Beng. Pl. 387.

P. mungo Linn. var. *radiatus* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 203 ; D. E. P. vi, 1, 191 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 488.

P. radiatus Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 296.

Dibrugarh. No. 341.

LOCAL NAME.—*Māṭī kalāī*, *māsh*.

DISTRIB.—Extensively cultivated all over India and in tropical regions.

An extensively cultivated pulse, with 3-foliate leaves and bright yellow flowers. It is particularly common about Sadiya where it is grown to pay off debts. The leaves are very variable.

90. *Vigna Savi.*

108. *V. sinensis* Endl. var. *sesquipedalis* Hassk. Pl. Jav. Rar. 386 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 381.

V. Catiang Endl. F. B. I. ii, 205 (in part) ; Beng. Pl. 389 ; D. E. P. vi, 4, 236 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 489.

Dibrugarh. No. 388.

LOCAL NAME.—Lasar mäh.

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan in the tropics but mainly cultivated.

In Lakhimpur occasionally grown in cottage gardens. The foliage resembles that of the scarlet runner. The pods are long and usually arranged in pairs. The seeds are eaten as a pulse.

109. *V. Catjang* Walp. Linnaea, xiii, 533 ; Ind. Kew. iv, 1199.

Sadiya. No. 381.

LOCAL NAME.—It is locally called “Moth,” a name which properly belongs to *Phaseolus aconitifolius* Jacq.

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan in the tropics.

A bean brought by Marwaris to Sadiya. Used as a vegetable. The seeds are pounded to make sweetmeats.

91. *Pachyrrhizus* Rich.

110. *P. bulbosus* (L.) Britton Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 383.

P. angulatus Rich. F. B. I. ii, 207 ; Beng. Pl. 390 ; D. E. P. vi, 1, 1.

Dolichos bulbosus Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 309.

Dibrugarh. No. 356.

LOCAL NAME.—Pâni âlû.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India, but not known in a wild state. In Tropical Asia and America.

This is the common “Sankh âlû” of Bengal. It may be recognised by its flattened, hairy pods with wavy margins. The large tuberous root is eaten both raw and cooked. No other part of the plant is of use.

92. *Dolichos* Linn.

111. *D. lablab* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 209 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 3, 383 ; Beng. Pl. 391 ; D. E. P. iii, 183 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 489.

Dibrugarh. No. 3.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sem*

DISTRIB.—Universally cultivated throughout India, ascending in the Himalayas to 6-7,000 ft. Said to be found wild. Cultivated also in the tropics of the Old World.

A twiner whose curious coarse pods are used as *sāg*. The plant is common in cottage gardens.

XXXVI. OXALIDACEAE.

93. *Oxalis* Linn

112. *O. corniculata* Linn. F. B. I. i, 436; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 20; Beng. Pl. 294; D. E. P. v, 658; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 246.

Dibrugarh. No. 101.

LOCAL NAME.—Tengā se tengā.

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan. In India common everywhere by road-sides and on cultivated ground.

A common wood-sorrel with 3-foliolate leaves and bright yellow flowers, very common by road-sides. It is eaten as a vegetable but some say that it purges.

113. *O. corymbosa* DC. Prodr. i, 696; Rec. Bot. Surv. vi, 1, 8, & fig. ix.

O. Martiana Zucc. Denkschr. Akad. Muench. ix, 144.

Dibrugarh. No. 102.

LOCAL NAME.—Tengā se tenga.

DISTRIB.—Native of Madagascar. Introduced into India and recorded from Darjeeling and other temperate parts of India.

This plant also called "tengā se tengā" is a larger species than *O. corniculata* Linn. and it has larger pink flowers. It is a curse in the European gardens throughout Upper Assam. The underground parts of the plant consists of numberless small tubers budding off a central tuberous mass. These young tubers fall into the soil as the plant is uprooted rendering its extermination impossible. The tubers are eaten by cottagers and have a pleasant flavour.

XXXVII. LINACEAE.

94. *Linum* Linn.

114. *L. usitatissimum* Linn. F. B. I. i, 410; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 31; Beng. Pl. 289; D. E. P. v, 2; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 239.

Dibrugarh. No. 50.

LOCAL NAME.—*Alsī*. "Linseed" and "Flax."

DISTRIB.—Believed to be a native of the Mediterranean region. Cultivated in both eastern and western hemispheres. In India grown chiefly for its oil seeds.

The flax plant. A slender herb with narrow leaves and pretty blue flowers. It is often grown along the borders of fields. Oil is expressed from the seeds. The flax of Europe which yields the linen fibre is another variety of this plant which has never been successfully cultivated in India.

XXXVIII. BUTACEAE.

95. *Zanthoxylum* Linn.

115. *Z. Hamiltonianum* Wall. F. B. I. i, 494; D. E. P. vi, 4, 325; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 256.

Dibrugarh. No. 127.

LOCAL NAME.—Teza mui, tej-moi.

DISTRIB.—From Sikkim through Assam to Burma.

A prickly, foetid shrub with pinnate leaves each with 2 or 3 pairs of glossy leaflets. It occurs in the jungle and is fostered by herbalists. The root is used for toothache, stomach ache and boils.

96. *Murraya* Linn.

116. *M. Koenigii* Spreng. F. B. I. i, 503; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 188; Beng. Pl. 302; D. E. P. v, 288; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 262.

Dibrugarh. No. 145 and Jokai No. 188.

LOCAL NAME.—Maskoita.

DISTRIB.—Along the foot of the Himalayas from Garhwal to Sikkim up to 5,000 ft., Bengal and Burma southward to Travancore and Ceylon. Often cultivated.

A very ornamental tree often grown in cottage gardens. It has long pinnate leaves and dense, corymbose inflorescences of beautiful white flowers. The juice of the root is said to be good for pain associated with the kidney.

97. *Aegle* Correa.

117. *A. marmelos* Correa. F. B. I. i, 516; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 194; Beng. Pl. 305; D. E. P. i, 117; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 277.

Dibrugarh. No. 86.

LOCAL NAME.—Bel.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, often cultivated for the fruit.

A tree with strong straight thorns and 3-foliolate, deciduous leaves. The fruits are as large as pumelos and have a woody rind. The bel tree is very commonly cultivated in cottage gardens throughout the district. The fruits are used in dysentery.

98. *Citrus* Linn.

118. *C. aurantium* L. F. B. I. i, 515; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 193; D. E. P. ii, 335; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 269.

Sadiya. No. 376.

LOCAL NAME.—Sakulā tēngā. A similar name is, in the list of cultivated plants of Assam (*teste* Agri. Dept. Ass. Bul. i.) given to a variety of Citron. "Orange."

DISTRIB.—Hot valleys along the foot of the Himalayas extending to Sikkim and the Khasi Hills. Cultivated in many countries.

119. *C. medica* L. var. *genuina* Engl. Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 200.

C. medica L. var. *proper* Hook. f. F. B. I. i, 514; D. E. P. ii, 350.

C. medica L. var. *typica* Prain. Beng. Pl. 306.

Sadiya. No. 384.

LOCAL NAME.—Ass, *jhara tēngā*, *turung*. “Citron.”

DISTRIB.—Throughout the warm moist regions of India generally cultivated but said to be found wild in parts of the Central and Eastern Himalayas also in Chittagong and the Western Peninsula.

Cultivated in Sadiya. The fruits are eaten.

120. *C. medica* L. var. *acida* Hook. f. F. B. I. i, 515; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 200 Beng. Pl. 306; D. E. P. ii, 355; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 269.

C. hystrix DC. var. *acida* (Roxb.) Bonavia. Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 200. *C. acida* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 390.

Sadiya. No. 375.

LOCAL NAME.—Nimū tēngā. “Sour Lime.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and Burma, said to be wild in the warm valleys of the outer Himalayas from Gharwal through Sikkim to Assam and Chittagong. Cultivated in many countries.

The fruits are used along with the seeds of *Caesalpinia bonducella* for stomach ache.

XXXIX. MELIACEAE.

99. *Melia* Linn.

121. *M. azedarach* Linn. F. B. I. i, 544; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 288; Beng. Pl. 313; D. E. P. v, 221; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 330.

LOCAL NAME.—Bakāyan, ghorā nim. “Persian Lilac.”

DISTRIB.—Persia, China. Naturalised throughout India and Burma, said to be wild in the Himalayan tract; cultivated elsewhere.

The so-called “Persian Lilac.” A tree with large twice pinnate, fern-like leaves and panicles of beautiful lilac flowers. It is common throughout the district and is often infested with *Loranthus* (*q. v.*). The fruits are poisonous but are sometimes used medicinally. The stones of the fruits are used as beads.

100. *Azadirachta* Juss.

122. *A. indica* A. Juss. Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 288; Ind. Trees, 139.

Melia Azadirachta Linn. F. B. I. i, 544; Beng. Pl. 314; D. E. P. v, 211; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 322.

LOCAL NAME.—*Nīm*.

DISTRIB.—A common tree throughout the greater part of India, often planted, as it is in all hot climates.

A tree with simply pinnate leaves. The leaflets are very oblique. It is common throughout India and all parts of it are used medicinally.

101. *Dysoxylum* Blume.

123. *D. Hamiltonii* Hiern F. B. I. i, 548; Eng. & Prantl iii, 4, 292; D. E. P. iii, 199.

Dibrugarh. No. 126.

LOCAL NAME.—Gendheli pama.

DISTRIB.—Darjeeling Terai to Assam and Sylhet.

A tall tree found in the jungles. All parts are strongly foetid of garlic. The pinnate leaves are very long and the leaflets are oblong and very oblique at the base. The bark is used internally for pains in the stomach.

XL. EUPHORBIACEAE.

102. *Phyllanthus* Linn.

124. *P. reticulatus* Poir. F. B. I. v, 288; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 19; Beng. Pl. 935; D. E. P. vi, 1, 223; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 261.

Dibrugarh. No. 123.

LOCAL NAME.—Henkotia.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical India, Burma and Ceylon. Also Tropical Africa, China and Malay Islands.

A much branched shrub with oblong leaves. The juice is used for diarrhoea in infants.

125. *P. emblica* Linn. F. B. I. v, 289; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 20; Beng. Pl. 935; D. E. P. vi, 1, 217; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 261.

Phakyal basti. No. 195.

LOCAL NAME.—Amloki, *amlā*, *amla*. “Emblie Myrobalan.

DISTRIB.—Throughout Tropical India and Burma wild or planted, Ceylon, Malaya Peninsula and China.

A tree with numerous very small leaves, which are arranged in one plane so that the branchlets look like pinnate leaves. It is often grown in cottage gardens. The fruits, known as the Emblic Myrobalans, are astringent and are eaten.

103. *Baccaurea* Lour.

126. *B. sapida* Muell. Arg. F. B. I. v, 371; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 30; Beng. Pl. 940; D. E. P. ii, 362.

Pierardia sapida Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 254.

Jokai. No. 178.

LOCAL NAME.—Leteka tengā.

DISTRIB.—Base of the Eastern Himalayas through Assam to Burma, Malaya Peninsula and Andamans.

One tree seen in the cottage garden in Jokai. Fruits are eaten.

104. *Antidesma* Linn.

127. *A. sp.* probably *A. Bunius* Spreng. F. B. I. v, 358; D. E. P. i, 269; Beng. Pl. 938.

Dibrugarh. No. 154.

LOCAL NAME.—Hengas tēngā.

A large tree with mouse-tail like inflorescences. The acid fruits are eaten.

105. *Bischofia* Blume.

128. *B. javanica* Blume. F. B. I. v, 345; Beng. Pl. 926; D. E. P. i, 454.

B. trifoliata Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 33. *Andrachne trifoliata* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 728.

Dibrugarh. No. 158.

LOCAL NAME—Uriya ām.

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malay region and Pacific Islands.

A common forest tree. The leaves are trifoliate and the flowers are dioecious in copious panicles. The natives attribute many properties to it. The juice, which becomes red on keeping, cures sores.

106. *Croton* Linn.

129. *C. caudatus* Geisel. F. B. I. v, 388; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 39; Beng. Pl. 943; D. E. P. ii, 615.

C. drupaceus Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 643.

Jungles near Dibrugarh. No. 305 also No. 185.

LOCAL NAME.—Latā māhudi.

DISTRIB.—Eastern Himalayas to Assam and Burma, the Deccan, Malacca, Ceylon, Java, Philippines.

A scurfy shrub, often climbing, with long inflorescences of whitish flowers. It is common in the jungles about Dibrugarh and very common about Jaipur. The young leaf buds are pounded up with the leaves of *Caesalpinia sappan* Linn. and used for liver diseases.

130. *C. tiglium* Linn. F. B. I. v, 393; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 39; Beng. Pl. 943; D. E. P. ii, 617; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 281.

North Lakhimpur. No. 398.

LOCAL NAME.—Kanī bhī, *jaipāl*. "Croton-oil-plant."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated or naturalised in Eastern Bengal, Assam and Burma. According to Haines it is found wild in British Bhutan in forests remote from any cultivation. Believed to be a native of the Malay Archipelago. Found also in Ceylon and China.

A low tree. The seeds yield the well known croton oil. In Lakhimpur the seeds are ground in water and the infusion is used to kill insect pests.

107 Ricinus Linn.

131. R. communis Linn. F. B. I. v, 457; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 71; Beng. Pl. 952; D. E. P. vi, 1, 506; Pharmacog. Ind. fii, 301.

Dibrugarh. No. 32.

LOCAL NAME.—*Arand*. “Castor-oil Plant.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and naturalised near habitations. Probably indigenous in Africa.

The common castor oil plant, A huge, rapidly growing annual with red or green palmately lobed leaves. It is grown very extensively in cottage gardens. The leaves are used as a food for the Eri silk worm.

108. Manihot Adans.

132. M. utilisissima Pohl. F. B. I. v, 239; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 79; Beng. Pl. 940; D. E. P. v, 157; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, App. 203.

Sadiya. No. 362.

LOCAL NAME.—Himlū ālū. “Cassava.”

DISTRIB.—Native of South America. Cultivated in nearly all tropical regions.

A large shrub with palmately lobed leaves. It is a native of Brazil, but now forms the chief food of many tropical countries. The tubers yield “tapioca.” In Lakhimpur grown in basti gardens.

109. Euphorbia Linn.

133. E. hirta Linn. Sp. Pl. 454; Amoen. Acad. iii, 114.

E. pilulifera Linn. F. B. I. v, 250; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 104; Beng. Pl. 925; D. E. P. iii, 298; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 247, 261. *E. hirta* Willd. Fl. Ind. ii, 472.

Dibrugarh. No. 75.

LOCAL NAME.—Dūdyā (a name applied to many plants with milky juice).

DISTRIB.—Throughout all the hotter parts of India and Ceylon. Found in all tropical and sub-tropical countries.

Commonly, but wrongly, known as *E. pilulifera* Linn. A very common weed with opposite leaves which are very oblique at the base and very dense conical inflorescences. The whole plant is covered with crisped hairs. The milk which flows freely from the broken plant is applied locally to stop bleeding. In some parts of India this plant is collected on a large scale for sale in America where it is used in the preparation of proprietary medicines.

XLI. ANACARDIACEAE.

110. *Spondias* Linn.

134. *S. mangifera* Willd. F. B. I. ii, 42; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 151; Beng. Pl. 356; D. E. P. vi, 3, 338; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 395, 549. Margherita. No. 117.

LOCAL NAME.—*Amrā*. “Hog-Plum.”

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, wild and cultivated; Tropical Asia.

A small tree all parts of which have a peculiar penetrating mango-like smell. The leaves are pinnate, each leaflet has a strong vein running near to and parallel with the margin. This tree is fairly common throughout Lakhimpur. The bark when cut is spongy, pink, and very strong smelling. The trees are generally much cut and slashed by the natives but we could not find out the reason for this. The fruits, “Hog plums” are eaten and have medicinal reputation.

XLII. HIPPOCASTANACEAE.

111. *Aesculus* Linn.

135. *A. punduana* Wall. F. B. I. i, 675; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 276; D. E. P. i, 128.

Jokai. No. 172.

LOCAL NAME.—Kaman bi.

DISTRIB.—Eastern Himalayas to Assam and Burma. Also in Siam.

A beautiful tree readily recognised by its resemblance to the common Horse Chestnut (*A. hippocastanum* L.) from which, however, it differs by its more delicate appearance and by the absence of prickles from the fruits. *A. punduana* Wall. when flowering in March is one of the glories of the Brahmaputra Valley and is common throughout Lakhimpur. The powdered bark is used as a fish poison.

XLIII. SAPINDACEAE.

112. *Sapindus* Linn.

136. *S. mukorossi* Gaertn. F. B. I. i, 683; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 315; Beng. Pl. 344; D. E. P. vi, 2, 468; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 370.

S. detergens Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 280.

Sadiya. No. 377.

LOCAL NAME.—*Haithā gūti* (i.e., green pigeon food), *rīthā*. “Scorpion Tree.”

DISTRIB.—From North-west India through Bengal to Sylhet and Assam, generally cultivated. Said to be found wild on the Arakan Yoma and Minbu District, Burma. Also in China and Japan.

A tree with long, pinnate leaves. The leaflets are narrow, pale green and have an almost white midrib which projects on the under surface of the leaflet. This plant is apparently not common in the district. We saw a specimen in a cottage garden at Sadiya. The nut lathers in water and is used for washing clothes. A paste of the nut is used internally in fevers.

XLIV. BALSAMINACEÆ.

113. *Impatiens* Linn.

137. *I. tripetala* Roxb. F. B. I. i, 470 ; Fl. Ind. ii, 453.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 358, 41158

LOCAL NAME.—Karyā bijal, dām çokā.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Himalaya, from Sikkim to Assam.

An annual herb with long-stalked leaves and purple flowers. It is common about Dibrugarh especially by the Red Road. The juice of the root is used in hæmaturia. One tola of the juice is mixed with one tola of milk.

XLV. RHAMNACEÆ.

114. *Zizyphus* Juss.

138. *Z. Jujuba* Lamk. F. B. I. i, 632 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 402 ; Beng. Pl. 333 ; D. E. P. vi, 4, 367 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 351.

Dibrugarh. No. 49.

LOCAL NAME.—*Ber*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, wild and extensively cultivated. Also in Malay Archipelago, China, Tropical Africa and Australia.

A small tree beautiful in all its parts, common by roadsides and in cottage gardens. The leaves are 3-nerved, dark green above and covered with brownish pink wool beneath. This wool reddens the light beneath the curiously bent and drooping branches. The ripe fruits look like large cherries and taste not unlike crab-apples. The unripe fruits are put into curries.

XLVI. VITACEÆ.

115. *Leea* Linn.

139. *L. crispa* Willd. F. B. I. i, 665 ; Beng. Pl. 340 ; D. E. P. iv, 616 ; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 365.

L. crispa Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 5, 455.

Above Dibrugarh. No. 314.

LOCAL NAME.—Beju.

DISTRIB.—Sikkim Himalaya through East Bengal, and Chittagong to Assam. Konkan.

A tall, perennial herb common throughout the district. The stems and petioles bear beautifully crisped, membranous wings which make the plant look very curious. The stems readily break off clean at the nodes so that the plants fall to pieces when men or large animals walk about among them. The berries are eaten and stain the mouth purple. The dainty young shoots appear above the ground in March; the berries are ripe in October.

XLVII. ELAEOCARPÆ.

116. *Elæocarpus* Linn.

140. *E. serratus* Linn. F. B. I. i, 401; D. E. P. iii, 206.

Dibrugarh. No. 134.

LOCAL NAME.—Jal-pai.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Himalaya, Bengal to Assam and from North Kanara to Travancore and Ceylon. Also in Java.

A large tree with coarsely serrate leaves. The acid fruits are eaten.

XLVIII. TILIACEÆ.

117. *Corchorus* Linn.

141. *C. capsularis* Linn. F. B. I. i, 397; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 22; Beng. Pl. 286; D. E. P. ii, 535.

Dibrugarh. No. 329.

LOCAL NAME.—Mārā sāg, tītā marā, *pāḥ*. (Beng.) "Jute."

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hotter parts of India, Burma and the Malay Peninsula. Extensively cultivated in Bengal. Grown in most tropical countries.

This is the kind of jute which has much wrinkled fruits which are about as broad as long. The lower pair of serratures of the leaves are long as in the other kind (*C. olitorius* Linn.)

This plant is much grown in cottage gardens. An infusion of the leaves is a well known remedy for dyspepsia.

118. *Triumfetta* Linn.

142. *T. rhomboidea* Jacq. F. B. I. i, 395; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 28; Beng. Pl. 285; D. E. P. vi, 4, 202; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 238.

Sadiya. No. 378.

LOCAL NAME.—Okṛā gūṭī, ban-okṛā (see *Urena*).

DISTRIB.—Common throughout tropical and sub-tropical India and Ceylon. Also in Malay Islands, China and tropical Africa.

A herb with variously shaped leaves, yellow flowers and clinging fruits. It occurs in hedges. Its root is used as a diuretic in the same way as *Urena lobata* L. but is inferior to it.

XLIX. MALVACEÆ.

119. *Malva* Linn.

143. *M. verticillata* Linn. F. B. I. i, 320; Beng. Pl. 256; D. E. P. v, 143.

Dibrugarh. No. 23.

LOCAL NAME.—Lafā sāg.

DISTRIB.—Temperate Himalaya through Sikkim to Assam, and Nilgiris. Sometimes cultivated. Europe, the Mediterranean region, Amoor land and China.

One of the commonest and perhaps the most characteristic cold weather crop of Upper Assam. The leaves are circular in outline and long-stalked. The flowers are in dense clusters. The seeds are sown in November and the leaves are ready for eating in February. This plant is such a favourite sāg among the Assamese that we tried its use as a vegetable but were disappointed in it. The plant abounds in slime. It is probable that the Assamese never use it by itself.

120. *Sida* Linn.

144. *S. rhombifolia* Linn. F. B. I. i, 323; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 43; Beng. Pl. 259; D. E. P. vi, 2, 681.

Dibrugarh. No. 354.

LOCAL NAME.—San bareil.

DISTRIB.—Widely distributed throughout India and the tropics of both hemispheres.

The roots are taken internally to help child-birth. The horn is also tied round the abdomen for the same purpose. It should be borne in mind that the use of a plant as a charm is often derived from the knowledge possessed at a former epoch of its medicinal properties. As far as we know all plants used as charms are pharmacologically active. The interest of this plant is that it is both taken internally and used as a charm for the same purpose.

121. *Urena* Linn.

145. *U. lobata* Linn. F. B. I. i, 329; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 45; Beng. Pl. 261; D. E. P. vi, 4, 212; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 228.

Sadiya. No. 379.

LOCAL NAME.—Okrā gūti, ban-okrā (see *Triumfetta*).

DISTRIB.—Generally distributed throughout the hotter parts of India and the tropics of both hemispheres.

One of the commonest wayside herbs. The leaves are nearly circular in outline and have from five to seven angles. The flowers are pink and the fruits are beset with numerous short bristles so that they cling to the clothes. The root of this plant is a very popular diuretic.

122. *Hibiscus* Linn.

146. *H. sabdariffa* Linn. F. B. I. i, 340; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 48; Beng. Pl. 267; D. E. P. iv, 243; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 212.

North Lakhimpur. No. 397.

LOCAL NAME.—Tengā marā. “Rozelle.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in all tropical countries.

This is the “rozelle” of West Indies. A herb with neither hairs nor prickles. The stems are often red. The leaves are narrow entire or slightly lobed. In cottage gardens not infrequent. All parts of the plant are eaten as *sāg*.

147. *H. cannabinus* Linn. F. B. I. i, 339; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 48; Beng. Pl. 267; D. E. P. iv, 231; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 213.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 90, 336. Dibrugarh Island No. 337.

LOCAL NAME.—Pāṭuā, belātī pāṭuā. “Deccan Hemp.”

DISTRIB.—Apparently wild east of Northern Ghats. Cultivated in most tropical countries.

A prickly shrub with entire lower leaves and deeply lobed upper leaves. The calyx is seated on an involucre of 7–10 narrow bracteoles. In Lakhimpur little, if at all, cultivated, but occasionally seen in cottage gardens. It furnishes a fibre. All parts of the plant are edible.

148. *H. esculentus* Linn. F. B. I. i, 343; Beng. Pl. 265; D. E. P. iv, 237; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 210.

Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Mey. in Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 50. *H. longifolius* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 210.

Dibrugarh. No. 331.

LOCAL NAME.—*Bhindī*. “Ladies’ Fingers.”

DISTRIB.—Believed to be originally a native of India. Cultivated in all tropical countries.

A tall herb, hairy but never prickly, with 3-5 lobed leaves. The flowers are yellow with a crimson eye. Fine crops of it may be seen near Dibrugarh. The plants grown for seed reach 2 meters in height.

123. *Gossypium* Linn.

149. *G. obtusifolium* Roxb. Fl. Ind. III, 183; Watt, Wild and Cultivated Cotton Plants of the World, 139.

G. herbaceum L. var. *obtusifolium* Roxb. F. B. I. i, 347.

Dibrugarh. No. 310.

DISTRIB.—Believed to be a distinctly oriental species. Cultivated in India, Ceylon, Malay Archipelago, Philippines, and Upper Egypt.

This cotton is grown by the Miris. It has small blunt leaves and is shrubby in habit. Its flowers are somewhat tinged with red.

150. G. sp.

Khāntī basti. No. 193.

LOCAL NAME.—Kāpā.

It has large leaves with 3-5 lobes and very large bracteoles almost enclosing the flowers when not fully open. It is very like Pernambuco cotton but we could find no mature bolls nor seeds. Both Khāntīs and Miris cultivate some kinds of *Gossypium*.

L. STERCULIACE.E.**124. Abroma Linn.**

151. A. augusta Linn. F. B. I. i, 375; Beng. Pl. 278; D. E. P. i, 8; Pharmacog. Ind. i, 233.

Abroma augustum Linn. f. Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 86.

Dibrugarh. No. 161. Sadiya. No. 361.

LOCAL NAME.—Gunakhia karāi, *ulaṭkañwal*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout the hot and moist parts of Upper India, wild or cultivated. Also in Java, Phillipines and China.

An untidy shrub with downy branches, large purplish flowers and curious membranous 5-winged fruits. It is not uncommon near cottages. This plant is much used in Ayurvedic medicine for diseases of women. The bark is used for sores. A paste of the root is used internally and externally to cure abscess. The bark affords a strong white bast fibre.

125. Sterculia Linn.

152. S. villosa Roxb. F. B. I. i, 355; Beng. Pl. 274; D. E. P. vi, 3, 365.

Saikhoa. No. 317.

LOCAL NAME.—Udal.

DISTRIB.—Sub-Himalayan tract from the Indus eastwards to Burma, also in Malabar.

A tree with white bark and large 3-7 lobed leaves occasionally grown in cottage gardens. A fibre is obtained from the bark.

153. S. coccinea Roxb. F. B. I. i, 357; D. E. P. vi, 3, 361.

North Lakhimpur. No. 399.

LOCAL NAME.—Kūtāri dabūa māh.

DISTRIB.—Tropical Eastern Himalaya from Sikkim to Assam and Burma.

A tree with entire leaves and curious flowers with narrow incurved sepals which often curve by their tips. In N. Lakhimpur the fruits are eaten.

LI. THEACEÆ.

126. *Thea* Linn.

154. *Thea sinensis* L. Seem. Trans. Linn. Soc. xxii. t. 61 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 182-3.

T. assamica Masters in Journ. Agri. Horti. Soc. Ind. iii, 63. *Camellia theifera* Griff. F. B. I. i, 292 ; D. E. P. ii, 70 & vi, 3, 417-79 ; *Camellia Thea* Link Ind. Kew. i, 400.

Jaipur forest. No. 41156.

LOCAL NAME.—*Chāe, chā*. "Tea."

DISTRIB.—Indigenous in Assam and Cachar. Largely cultivated in India, Ceylon, China and Java.

We found this plant growing wild in the Jaipur jungles.

LII. GUTTIFERÆ.

127. *Garcinia* Linn.

155. *G. lancifolia* Roxb. F. B. I. i, 263 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6, 235 ; D. E. P. iii, 470.

Dibrugarh. No. 41144. Near Jokai. No. 188.

LOCAL NAME.—*Rūpohī takrā*.

DISTRIB.—East Bengal to Assam.

A tree with narrow leaves which taper very markedly at both ends. It grows near cottages. The fruit is eaten.

LIII. FLACOURTIACEÆ.

128. *Taraktogenos* Hassk.

156. *T. Kurzii* King in Journ. As. Soc. Beng. lix, ii, 630 ; Beng. Pl. 232 ; Agri. Ledg. No. 5 of 1905.

Hydnocarpus Kurzii Warb. Eng. & Prantl. iii, 6a, 21.

Dibrugarh. No. 315.

LOCAL NAME.—*Chaulmugra*. "True Chaulmugra."

DISTRIB.—East Bengal through Assam to Burma.

Common by the river about six miles above Dibrugarh. A tree with oblong leaves which have a swelling where the blade meets the stalk, and round fruits as large as cricket balls. These fruits are full of large seeds whose adjacent surfaces are faceted. The well known Chaulmugra oil is expressed from these seeds.

129. *Flacourtia* Comm.

157. *F. cataphracta* Roxb. F. B. I. i, 193 ; Beng. Pl. 231 ; D. E. P. iii, 398.

F. jangomas Miq. Eng. & Prantl iii, 6a, 43.

Dibrugarh. No. 132.

LOCAL NAME.—Mota kalin, *paniyālā*.

DISTRIB.—Bengal and Assam to Burma and South India, often cultivated; Malay Peninsula and China.

A thorny tree. A decoction of the bark is used for biliousness. The fruits are eaten.

LIV. PASSIFLORACEÆ.

130. *Passiflora* Linn.

158. *P. edulis* Sims. Eng. & Prantl ii, 1, 133 Fig. 88 H and iii, 6a, 91.

Makum Kila basti. No. 114.

LOCAL NAME.—Loṭā bel. "Passion flower."

DISTRIB.—A native of America, grown in Assam and parts of Bengal.

A passion flower with less showy flowers than the species (*P. coerulea* Linn.) commonly covering house walls in England. It is met with here and there in cottage gardens where it is grown for its fruit. Numberless species of *Passiflora* have edible fruits: we ourselves have eaten the fruits of *P. coerulea* L. ripened in the south of England.

LV. CACTACEÆ.

131. *Cereus* Haw.

159. *C. sp.*

Dibrugarh. No. 140.

LOCAL NAME.—Hār ghūnasa.

A climber whose fleshy, cylindrical stems have ribs which bear small tufts of thorns. A native of America fairly common in the jungle near cottages. The plant is pounded and applied to broken limbs to heal them. This use was perhaps suggested by the way in which it binds together the branches of the trees on which it grows.

LVI. ELAEAGNACEÆ.

132. *Elaeagnus* Linn.

160. *E. latifolia* Linn. F. B. I. v, 202; Eng. & Prantl iii, 6a, 251; Beng. Pl. 908; D. E. P. iii, 205.

E. conferta Roxb. Fl. Ind. i, 440.

Jokai. No. 184.

LOCAL NAME.—Mirika tenga.

DISTRIB.—Distributed throughout sub-tropical and temperate regions of India and Burma. Also Malay Islands and China.

A shrub with silver spangled leaves, often cultivated in cottage gardens. The fruit ripens in April. It is acid and much relished by the people of Lakhimpur.

LVII. PUNICACEAE.

133. *Punica* Linn.

161. *P. granatum* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 581; Eng. & Prantl iii, 7, 25; Beng. Pl. 505; D. E. P. vi, 1, 368; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 44.

Dibrugarh. No. 48.

LOCAL NAME.—*Anār*. “Pomegranate.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in India and Burma as well as throughout the warmer parts of the world. Believed to be wild in the extreme north-western regions of India, in Afghanistan and Persia.

A small tree with familiar orange-red flowers. Often seen in cottage gardens especially about Dibrugarh. The fruits are eaten and believed to be medicinal.

LVIII. MYRTACEAE.

134. *Psidium* Linn.

162. *P. Guajava* Linn. Ind. kew. iv, 641.

P. Guajava Linn. F. B. I. ii, 468; Beng. Pl. 487; D. E. P. vi, 1, 351; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 30. *P. Guajava* Raddi. Eng. & Prantl iii, 7, 68, fig. 36, 69.

Dibrugarh. No. 57.

LOCAL NAME.—*Amrūd*. “Guava.”

DISTRIB.—A native of Mexico and of tropical and sub-tropical America. Naturalised throughout India.

A small tree with curious smooth bark and flowers resembling those of a *Eugenia*. It is very common in cottage gardens throughout the district. The fruits (guavas) are cooked and eaten.

135. *Eugenia* Linn.

163. *E. jambos*. Linn. F. B. I. ii, 474; Beng. Pl. 490; D. E. P. iii, 7.

Jambosa vulgaris DC. Eng. & Prantl iii, 7, 84.

Dibrugarh. No. 70.

LOCAL NAME.—*Gulāb jāman*.

DISTRIB.—Largely cultivated throughout India, the Indo-Malayan region and elsewhere in the tropics.

LIX. MELASTOMATACEAE.

136. *Melastoma* Linn.

164. *M. malabathricum* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 523; Eng. & Prantl iii, 7, 153; Beng. Pl. 496; D. E. P. v, 210.

LOCAL NAME.—Phutki. “Wild or Indian Rhododendron.”

DISTRIB.—Throughout the Indo-Malayan region. Abundant in the eastern part of India.

A shrub with rough leaves and mauve-purple flowers. Four of the stamens are much longer than the other four. It is very common especially on deserted tea gardens and cleared jungle. Planters call this plant “Wild Rhododendron.” Apparently no part of it is of any use. It has been said that ink can be prepared from the fruits.

137. *Osbeckia* Linn.

165. *O. nepalensis* Hook. F. B. I. ii, 521 ; Beng. Pl. 495.

North Lakhimpur. No. 395.

LOCAL NAME.—Bagā phatkalā.

DISTRIB.—Subtropical Himalaya from Nepal eastwards to Burma.

A shrub occurring here and there throughout the district. It is generally thought, both by natives and Europeans, to be a white flowered variety of *Melastoma malabathricum* L. Its eight stamens are all equal in length. In N. Lakhimpur the flowers are pounded and applied to sores in children's mouths.

LX. ARALIACEÆ.

138. *Tetrapanax* K. Koch.

166. *T. papyrifera* (Hook.) Koch. Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 34.

Dibrugarh. No. 347.

LOCAL NAME.—“Rice-paper tree” of China and Japan.

DISTRIB.—Formosa, China and Japan. Introduced in India.

This plant has escaped from Mr. Haddow's garden at Dibrugarh where it was cultivated. It yields the well known “Rice-paper.”

139. *Acanthopanax* Dene., & Planch.

167. *A. aculeatum* Seem. F. B. I. ii, 726.

A. aculeatus (Ait.) Seem. Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 50.

Sadiya. No. 363.

LOCAL NAME.—Pechi chū.

DISTRIB.—Assam to China, Japan.

Rather common in the jungle but not cultivated. A climber with digitate leaves and small flowers arranged in dense umbles. All parts of the plant are fragrant. An ink is prepared from the fruits.

140. *Heteropanax* Seem.

168. *H. fragrans* Seem. F. B. I. ii, 734 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 53,
Beng. Pl. 542 ; D. E. P. iv, 226.

Panax fragrans Roxb. Fl. Ind. ii, 76.

Sadiya. No. 367.

LOCAL NAME.—Keserū pāt.

DISTRIB.—From the Siwaliks in the Sub-Himalayan tract to Burma. Abundant in Bengal. Also Tonquin, Java and China.

A tree with large, pinnately compound leaves, and flowers in umbels which are arranged in long panicles. The leaves are used for feeding the Eri silk worm but are not so good as the leaves of the castor-oil plant.

LXI. UMBELLIFERÆ.

141. *Hydrocotyle* Linn.

169. *H. rotundifolia* Roxb. F. B. I. ii, 668 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 119 ; Beng. Pl. 535.

Dibrugarh. No. 61.

LOCAL NAME.—Mānī mūnī.

DISTRIB.—North-west Himalayas, Bengal and Sikkim to Khasia, Malabar hills and Ceylon. Throughout Malaya and in Guinea.

A very common wayside herb very well known as a medicinal plant. The stems are prostrate and root at the nodes. The leaves are circular. They are applied to boils to draw out the pus.

170. *H. asiatica* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 669 ; Beng. Pl. 535 ; D. E. P. iv, 311 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 107.

Centella asiatica Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 119.

Dibrugarh. No. 60.

LOCAL NAME.—Mānī mūnī.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical and sub-tropical regions.

This is also a common wayside herb like the above. Its leaves are usually much larger and darker green than those of *H. rotundifolia* Roxb. The leaves are also applied to boils to draw out pus. The leaves of this plant have been given internally for leprosy. They contain a substance called *vellarin*, which is probably a mixture of a resin and a fatty body (see Pharmacog. Ind. *loc. cit.*) In view of the recent work done on the treatment of leprosy and tuberculosis by salts of fatty acids this *vellarin* should be investigated chemically and pharmacologically.

142. *Eryngium* Linn.

171. *E. foetidum* Linn. Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 142.

Dibrugarh. No. 84 and Ledo. No. 107.

LOCAL NAME.—Barmā dhaniyā.

DISTRIB.—Brazil, West Indies and Florida.

A much branched prickly herb, very aromatic when bruised. The flowers are arranged in numerous small conical heads. This plant is an alien, but it is now very common all over Lakhimpur reaching far into the jungle wherever roads have been made. It is well known to all the country people who add one or two of the very aromatic leaves to their carries. It is difficult to know why they associate the plant with coriander (dhaniyā). They often showed us the two plants together saying this dhaniyā (*Coriandrum*) is the *desi* one and this (*Eryngium*) the *belāti* or Burmese one.

143. Coriandrum Linn.

172. *C. sativum* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 717 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 159 ; Beng. Pl. 540 ; D. E. P. ii, 567 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 129.

Dibrugarh. No. 55.

LOCAL NAME.—*Dhaniyā*. “Coriander.”

DISTRIB.—Native country not known. Cultivated almost everywhere.

Most cottagers grow a plot of *dhaniyā* which is one of the most keenly relished spices in Lakhimpur. The people when speaking of it show evident signs of pleasure and often explain that its flavour is better than that of the Burmese kind (*Eryngium*). The powdered ripe fruits are used in curries. The unripe infructescences are sometimes fried and eaten.

144. Daucus Linn.

173. *D. Carota* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 781 ; Eng. & Prantl iii, 8, 249 ; Beng. Pl. 541 ; D. E. P. iii, 43 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 134.

LOCAL NAME.—*Gājar*. “Carrot.”

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan. Cultivated everywhere.

Occasionally cultivated but extremely common on river sand which is dry during the cold weather.

LXII. ALANGIACEAE.**145. Alangium Lamk.**

174. *A. begoniatifolium* Harms. Eng. & Prantl. iii, 8, 261.

Marlea begoniatifolia Roxb. F. B. I. ii, 743 ; Beng. Pl. 546 ; D. E. P. v, 186.

Dibrugarh. No. 160.

LOCAL NAME.—Bhelū.

DISTRIB.—From Northern India to Bengal and Burma. Also China and Japan.

A small tree with horizontal branches. The leaves are nearly circular and often form a beautiful mosaic. The flowers are inconspicuous. There is hardly a cottage garden in the northern part of the district without a specimen of this tree. It is much used for hedging.

LXIII. SAPOTACEAE.**146. Chrysophyllum Linn.**

175. *C. Roxburghii* G. Don. F. B. I. iii, 535 ; Eng. & Prantl iv. 1, 148 ; D. E. P. ii, 273.

Dibrugarh. No. 153.

LOCAL NAME.—Ban pita.

DISTRIB.—Assam to Burma, also in the Deccan from Konkan to Ceylon, Malay Peninsula, Java and Sumatra.

An evergreen tree not uncommon in the district. The leaves are leathery, oblong, lanceolate and end in a rather abrupt point. When mature they are quite glabrous. The fruits are eaten and have a pleasant flavour, but the pulp is so sticky that it is difficult to enjoy them.

LXIV. OLEACEAE.

147. *Nyctanthes* Linn.

176. *N. arbor-tristis* Linn. F. B. I. iii, 603 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 15 ; Beng. Pl. 660 ; D. E. P. v, 434 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 376.

Dibrugarh. No. 139.

LOCAL NAME.—Sewali phul, *harsinhâr*.

DISTRIB.—From Central India to Bundelkhand and Burdwan, also in Oudh and North-western Terai. Cultivated throughout India and in other hot countries.

A bush or small tree with opposite, ovate, very rough, leaves which often show irregular lobing, and clusters of white flowers. It occurs in cottage gardens here and there. The juice of the leaves is used internally for fevers. The flowers yield a dye.

LXV. GENTIANACEAE.

148. *Exacum* Linn.

177. *E. tetragonum* Roxb. F. B. I. iv, 95 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 64 ; Beng. Pl. 706 ; D. E. P. iii, 306 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 517.

Sadiya. No. 371.

LOCAL NAME.—Debi phul.

DISTRIB.—Northern India through Assam to Burma, also in Malaya and China.

A beautiful herb with 4-winged stems, opposite, narrow leaves and large gentian-blue flowers. It grows amongst grass and is particularly common at Sadiya. The flowers are much used for religious purposes.

LXVI. APOCYNACEAE.

149. *Alstonia* R. Br.

178. *A. scholaris* R. Br. F. B. I. iii, 642 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 138 ; Beng. Pl. 672 ; D. E. P. i, 197 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 386.

Sadiya. No. 385.

LOCAL NAME.—Chhâtûn, sityana.

DISTRIB.—Throughout the tropical parts of the Indo-Malayan region and China.

A handsome tree. The leaves are arranged in whorls of 7 and are whitish beneath. The flowers smell like the Sweet-flag. This tree is common throughout the district. Its bark is the *Alstonia* of the British Pharmacopœia. The people of Lakhimpur use the plant only in superstitious ways such as tying the young leaves of it round children's necks to cure bowel complaints.

150. *Tabernaemontana* Linn.

179. *T. coronaria* Br. F. B. I. 646 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 148 ; Beng. Pl. 673 ; D. E. P. vi, 3, 401 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 413.

Jaipur. No. 302.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tagar*.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and Burma. Native country unknown.

A small shrub with much forked branches, glossy leaves, and white flowers. The Phākials grow it in their villages and use it for some medicinal purpose but show much secrecy about it and will not tell us exactly how or for what they use it.

151. *Thevetia* Linn.

180. *T. nerifolia* Juss. Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 159 ; Beng. Pl. 669 ; D. E. P. vi, 4, 47 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 406.

Dibrugarh. No. 136.

LOCAL NAME.—Karbi. "Yellow Oleander."

DISTRIB.—A native of America, cultivated extensively and almost naturalised in India.

The so-called Yellow Oleander, a native of America, is now very common in the plains of India. It is a shrub with narrow leaves and large bright yellow flowers. There are good examples on the Red Road at Dibrugarh. The milky juice is very poisonous but the natives apply it for pain. We were even told that it was applied to sores in children's mouths, but such treatment must be very dangerous.

LXVII. ASCLEPIADACEAE.

152. *Calotropis* R. Br.

181. *C. gigantea* R. Br. F. B. I. iv, 17 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 2, 239, Beng. Pl. 688 ; D. E. P. ii, 34 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 428.

Margherita. No. 103.

LOCAL NAME.—*Āk, madār*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India to Malay Islands and S. China.

A shrub abounding in milky juice. The leaves are thick and cottony beneath, and the flowers are fleshy and pale purple. It is common on waste places. The milk is applied to inflamed parts.

LXVIII. CONVULVULACEAE.

153. *Argyrea* Lour.

182. *A. argentea* Choisy. F. B. I. iv, 185 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 2i ; Beng. Pl. 741.

Jokai. No. 186.

LOCAL NAME.—Tolkoyā ālū.

DISTRIB.—From Bengal through Assam to Chittagong, Khasi Hills.

A climber with broadly ovate leaves which are hairy above and silky beneath, and with rose-purple trumpet-shaped flowers. The plant has milky juice. The tuber in the form of a paste is applied externally in abscess of the stomach. Leaves are applied to boils.

154. *Ipomoea* Linn.

183. *I. batatas* Lamk. F. B. I. iv, 202 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 31 ; Beng. Pl. 735 ; D. E. P. iv, 478.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 12 and 13.

LOCAL NAME.—Rang ālū. "Sweet potato."

DISTRIB.—Presumably a native of America but naturalised in India and extensively cultivated.

A widely creeping herb with angular leaves. There are two varieties. One with white, the other with red tubers. Both are favourite crops with cottagers throughout the district. The plants thrive particularly well on the sandy soil of the island at Dibrugarh.

155. *Cuscuta* Linn.

184. *C. reflexa* Roxb. F. B. I. iv, 225 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 40 ; Beng. Pl. 23 ; D. E. P. ii, 671 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 584.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 66 and 41145.

LOCAL NAME.—Amar latī, *akkas bel*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon. Also in Malaya.

A common parasite whose fleshy, thread-like stems form dense yellow masses in various shrubs. On the Red Road at Dibrugarh it is especially in evidence on shrubs of *Thevetia nerifolia* Juss. It also frequently infests *Zizyphus Jujuba* Lamk. An infusion of the plant is said to make an excellent wash for sores. The natives say that it cleanses and brings about rapid healing.

LXIX. BORRAGINACEÆ.

156. *Cordia* Linn.

185. *C. myxa* L. F. B. I. iv, 136 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 83 ; Beng. Pl. 714 ; D. E. P. ii, 563 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 518.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 155 and 173.

LOCAL NAME.—Karboal, *lasorā*. “Sebestens.”

DISTRIB.—Throughout the Indo-Malayan region and Egypt. Often cultivated.

A common forest tree with ovate or oblong leaves and smallish white flowers. An infusion of the charcoal of the wood is used for indigestion and constipation. The fruits are eaten. Europeans sometimes call them “Sebestens.”

157. *Cynoglossum* Linn.

186. *C. glochidiatum* Wall. F. B. I. iv, 156; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 103.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 121 and 144.

LOCAL NAME.—Dhalā bianī sābtā.

DISTRIB.—From Assam to Burma.

A rough herb with narrow leaves, inconspicuous flowers and prickly clinging fruits. The juice of the root is given to stop the vomiting of infants.

LXX. VERBENACEÆ.

158. *Vitex* Linn.

187. *V. negundo* L. F. B. I. iv, 583; Beng. Pl. 833; D. E. P. vi, 4, 248; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 73.

Jokai. No. 179.

LOCAL NAME.—*Sanbhālū*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon, Afghanistan and East Asia to the Philippines.

Not uncommonly grown in cottage gardens. A small tree with opposite leaves each hairy 3-5 narrow leaflets which are dark above and white beneath. The inflorescences are covered with a white felt. A well known medicinal plant. The leaves eaten with salt are said to cure stomach troubles.

LXXI. LABIATÆ.

159. *Gomphostemma* Wall.

188. *G. lucidum* Wall. var. *canescens* Prain Ann. R. B. G. iii, 2, 263. Dibrugarh. No. 130.

DISTRIB.—East Himalayas.

A coarse, densely wooly herb common by roadsides, etc. The root is used in pneumonia.

160. *Lencas* R. Br.

189. *L. linifolia* Spreng. F. B. I. iv, 690; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 252; Beng. Pl. 856; D. E. P. iv, 633; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 423.

Dibrugarh. No. 92.

LOCAL NAME.—Guma.

DISTRIB.—From Bengal and Assam to Burma and in the Deccan from Concan to Travancore. Also Malaya and Mauritius.

An annual with narrow leaves and white flowers. Perhaps the commonest weed in Assam. It is one of the plants which has a habit of growing in pure communities on cultivated land, looking very much like a crop, but it is never cultivated. The children pull off the corollas and suck the honey just as European children do with *Lamium album* L. (White Dead-Nettle). In native medicine it is used for loss of appetite. The leaves are wrapped in a plantain leaf and heated and then eaten. The first effect of this treatment is that the appetite decreases to such an extent that the patient is unable to take any food at all. On the 2nd day this passes off and he takes food with avidity. The use of the plant in this way is probably an introduction from up-country. Many natives of Assam told us that the plant was good for nothing. We met with no one who knew of the plant being used in the ways mentioned by Watt in the Dictionary of Economic Products.

161. *Mentha* Linn.

190 *M. arvensis* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 648 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 319 ; D. E. P. v, 228 ; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 104.

M. sativa Willd. Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 7.

Dibrugarh. No. 71.

LOCAL NAME.—*Podina*. "Mint."

DISTRIB.—Throughout Upper India and the warmer regions of Europe and North America.

This is the common mint grown in cottage gardens.

162. *Perilla* Linn.

191. *P. ocimoides* L. F. B. I. iv, 646 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 326 ; Beng. Pl. 851 ; D. E. P. vi, 1, 140.

Dibrugarh. No. 392.

LOCAL NAME.—*Bagā til*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout Upper India to Burma, particularly in the eastern provinces, often cultivated. Also Cochin China to Japan.

A coarse, hairy, strong-scented annual. The flowers are in pairs on long, one-sided racemes. The Khāmtis grow this plant about their dwellings. They fry and eat the seeds which they say taste excellent, like oil.

163. *Elsholtzia* Willd.

192. *E. blanda* Benth. F. B. I. iv, 643 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 328.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 82, 312 and 41185.

LOCAL NAME.—*Bantulukī*, *ban tulsī*.

DISTRIB.—From Central Himalayas to Burma. Also Sumatra.

A deliciously scented herb, with long, spike-like inflorescences. It is common in cleared jungle. It is known to cottagers as a "tulsī substitute." The volatile oil of this plant should have market value.

164. Ocimum Linn.

193. Ocimum basilicum L. F. B. I. iv, 608; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3a, 369; Beng. Pl. 843; D. E. P. v, 440; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 83.

Dibrugarh. No. 42; Sadiya. No. 372; *Khāmtī basti*. No. 193.

LOCAL NAME.—*Ādā kūrī*. "Sweet Basil."

DISTRIB.—Throughout the warmer parts of India and Malaya Also W. Asia and Africa.

A strong smelling herb. The flowers are in whorls. The calyxes when bent down in fruit give the plant a curious appearance. It is common throughout the district in gardens and apparently wild. It is used as a spice in curry.

194. Ocimum sanctum L. F. B. I. iv, 609; Eng. & Prantl. iv, 3a, 371; Beng. Pl. 843; D. E. P. v, 443; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 86.

Sadiya. No. 364.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tulsī*.

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malayan region, West Asia to Arabia.

The sacred *tulsī* of the Hindus. Distinguished from the last by its much smaller flowers arranged in slender spikes. It is looked upon with great reverence and much care is taken to keep clean and smooth the plot of earth on which it grows. When plants are looked upon with superstitious reverence they generally have medicinal value.

LXXII. SOLANACEÆ.**165. Capsicum Linn.**

195. C. annum L. Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 20; Beng. Pl. 748; D. E. P. ii, 134.

LOCAL NAME.—*Lāl jhalakiya*. "Chillie."

DISTRIB.—Throughout the warmer parts of the world but generally under cultivation.

The common "Chillie." The ripe fruits are bright red. Seen in nearly every cottage garden in the district.

166. Solanum Linn.

196. S. nigrum L. F. B. I. iv, 229; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 22; Beng. Pl. 745; D. E. P. vi, 3, 623; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 549.

Dibrugarh. No. 118.

LOCAL NAME.—*Lat kosi, makoh*. "Common Nightshade."

DISTRIB.—All temperate and tropical regions.

The common "Nightshade" of England. A herb or small shrub with stalked inflorescences and black or red berries. A decoction of the leaves is taken internally for inflammation. The fruits are eaten.

197. *S. spirale* Roxb. F. B. I. iv, 230; Beng Pl. 745; D. E. P. vi, 3, 264.

Sadiya. No. 369.

LOCAL NAME.—Teta kusi.

DISTRIB.—From East Bengal to Burma.

A small shrub with neither thorns nor hairs. The flowers are arranged in short racemes, each flower having a rather long stalk.

Common, especially at Sadiya. The leaves are eaten in curry.

198. *S. tuberosum* L. F. B. I. iv, 229; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 22; Beng. Pl. 745; D. E. P. vi, 3, 265.

Dibrugarh. No. 93.

LOCAL NAME.—Bambai alū. "Potato."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the world.

Potatoes thrive in Lakhimpur especially on the sandy soil near the river. They are generally sown in October and dug up in February.

199. *S. melongena* L. F. B. I. iv, 235; Eng. and Prantl iv, 3b, 23; Beng. Pl. 746; D. E. P. vi, 3, 258.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 15, 16, 17, and 81. Sadiya. No. 366.

LOCAL NAME.—Benga, *baingan*. "Brinjal," "Egg Plant."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India and the warmer regions of the globe. Native land not known.

The brinjal is cultivated throughout Lakhimpur especially by settlers from up-country.

The three chief varieties are :—

(i) "Dangar benga."—A stout annual form with large leaves and very large purple fruits.

(ii) A perennial form with small dark fruits.

(iii) A perennial form with small white fruits.

200. *S. toryum* Sw. F. B. I. iv, 234; Beng. Pl. 746; D. E. P. vi, 3, 264; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 560.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 346 and 41184.

LOCAL NAME.—Hāthī bhekūrī.

DISTRIB.—Throughout tropical parts of India, very common in Bengal and Assam. Also Malaya, China, Philippines and Tropical America.

A shrub with prickly stems; there are no prickles on the leaves which bear star-like hairs. This species has been a great pest in Upper Assam; it is said that the military outpost at Saikhoa was deserted chiefly because it was overwhelmed by this plant. It is now common at Saikhoa and Sadiya but not elsewhere. The fruits are eaten as a vegetable and said to be good for enlarged spleen.

201. *S. lycopersicum* L. Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 24.

Lycopersicum esculentum Mill. F. B. I. iv, 237; Beng. Pl. 743; D. E. P. v, 100.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 9 and 40.

LOCAL NAME.—Belāti bengā. "Tomato."

DISTRIB.—Native of Tropical America, cultivated throughout the warmer parts of the world.

Mr. G. A. Gammie in his Report on A Botanical Tour in the Lakhimpur District of Assam, 1894 (Rec. Bot. Surv. i, 74) remarked on the way in which tomatoes thrived in the district. They do especially well on the sandy tracts near the river. In addition to the kind ordinarily grown in England there is also a kind with very small fruits which have an excellent flavour.

202. *S. indicum* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 234; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 25, Beng. Pl. 746; D. E. P. vi, 3, 258; Pharm. Ind. ii, 555.

Sadiya. No. 366.

LOCAL NAME.—Titā bhekūri.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Malaya. Also Philippines and China.

A shrub found in basti gardens. It has thorns on the stems and leaves. The fruits are eaten when ripe.

167. *Datura* Linn.

203. *D. suaveolens* Humb. Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 27.

Saikhoa. No. 320.

DISTRIB.—A native of South America, now naturalised in India.

A shrub or small tree up to twelve feet in height. The flowers are pendulous and often as much as a foot in length. The fruit is a large pendulous berry. Grown in basti gardens. It is generally found as a garden plant but is becoming naturalised throughout Upper India.

This plant contains scarcely any active principle and must not be substituted for *D. fastuosa* Linn.

204. *D. fastuosa* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 242; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 28; Beng. Pl. 751; D. E. P. iii, 32; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 585.

Dibrugarh. No. 100.

LOCAL NAME.—*Dhatūrā*. "Datura."

DISTRIB.—Throughout India, particularly in waste places. Malay, Trop. Africa.

An annual herb, common in waste places, usually not more than four feet in height. The flowers are erect and much smaller than those of *D. suaveolens* Humb. The fruit is a prickly capsule. This is the common *Datura* and is now official in the British Pharmacopoea. There is an occasional demand for the dried leaves of this plant.

168. *Nicotiana* Linn.

205. *N. tabacum* L. F. B. I. iv, 245; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 32; Beng. Pl. 752; D. E. P. v, 353; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 632.

Jokai. No. 174.

LOCAL NAME.—*Tānbākū*.

DISTRIB.—A native of America, cultivated throughout India as well as in all warmer countries.

206. *N. rustica* Linn. F. B. I. iv, 245; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 32; Beng. Pl. 725; D. E. P. v, 352.

Jokai. No. 175.

LOCAL NAME.—*Belātī tanbākū*.

DISTRIB.—A native of Mexico, now cultivated everywhere.

Both very commonly grown in country gardens for home use. *N. tabacum* L. is the larger of the two plants, it has large sessile elliptic leaves with wedge-shaped base. *N. rustica* L. which is now preferred to *N. tabacum* L. by the natives, has smaller stalked leaves and the base of the lamina is cordate or obtuse.

LXXIII. SCROPHULARIACEAE.

169. *Bonnaya* Link & Otto.

207. *B. reptans* Spreng. F. B. I. iv, 284; Beng. Pl. 770.

Dibrugarh. No. 352.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kāsī daryā*.

DISTRIB.—Eastern India to Burma, in the Deccan, Konkan and Madras. Also Java and the Philippine Islands.

A creeping herb with opposite, finely serrate leaves and small purplish flowers. It occurs at Dibrugarh but is apparently not common. The herb is applied externally for worms in the skin.

LXXIV. PEDALIACEAE.

170. *Sesamum* Linn.

208. *S. indicum* DC. F. B. I. iv, 387; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 262; Beng. Pl. 792; D. E. P. vi, 2, 502; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 26.

Sadiya. Nos. 386 and 41450.

LOCAL NAME.—*Til*. "Sesame."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in the warmer parts of India and in all tropical countries. Native country doubtful, probably Asiatic.

The common sesame. In Sadiya it is cultivated here and there but apparently it is not a successful crop.

LXXV. ACANTHACEAE.

171. *Strobilanthes* Blume.

200. *S. flaccidifolius* Nees. F. B. I. iv, 468; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 305; D. E. P. vi, 3, 375.

Phākial basti near Jaipur. No. 199. Khāmtī basti, Dibrugarh. No. 391 also No. 141.

LOCAL NAME.—Lampat. "Assam Indigo plant."

DISTRIB.—North and East Bengal through Assam to Burma. Also South China.

A glabrous shrub with opposite leaves acute at both ends and panicles of purple flowers. It is cultivated on a small scale by the Phākials and Khāmtis throughout the district who extract from it a blue dye. The herb is left in water till it rots, then lime is added to the water and the fabric dipped into it. The fabric is then taken out and dried in the sun and again immersed. This is repeated several times. The colour is deep and lasting. The Khāmtis near Dibrugarh grow a large field of it and call it "Ram Ghas."

172. *Phlogacanthus* Nees.

210. *P. Jenkinsii* Clarke. F. B. I. iv, 513.

Dibrugarh. No. 44.

LOCAL NAME.—Titā phul or titā gāchh.

DISTRIB.—Confined to Assam and Burma.

A shrub with opposite leaves which are acute at both ends, and short axillary panicles of red flowers. It is commonly planted in hedges and about dwellings. The natives propagate it by cuttings. A decoction of the leaves is used for diseases of the spleen and liver, and for fevers.

173. *Justicia* Linn.

211. *Justicia gendarussa* L. F. B. I. iv, 532; Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 347; Beng. Pl. 818; D. E. P. iv, 557; Pharmacog. Ind. iii, 48.

Dibrugarh. No. 142.

LOCAL NAME.—Bari sūndari, hur jaurā.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon. Also Malaya, China and Philippines.

An erect herb with narrow leaves and terminal spikes of flowers. The plant is often grown about cottages and has reputation of being good for asthma.

212. *Justicia Adhatoda* L. Eng. & Prantl iv, 3b, 349; Fl. Ind. i, 126.

Adhatoda Vasīca Nees. F. B. I. iv, 540; Beng. Pl. 819; D. E. P. i, 109; Pharm. Ind. iii, 50.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 43 and 138.

LOCAL NAME.—Baga bahek, *arūsa*.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India and Ceylon. Also Malaya and S. E. Asia.

A shrub with short spikes of white and pink two-lipped flowers. Common in hedges and round about dwellings. The entire plant is boiled and the expressed juice, sometimes mixed with honey, is used as a remedy for cough.

LXXVI. RUBIACEÆ.

174. *Hedyotis* Linn.

213. *H. stipulata* Br. F. B. I. iii, 63.

Oldenlandia hirsuta Linn. f. Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 25.

Dibrugarh. No. 350.

LOCAL NAME.—Barāli bokoā.

DISTRIB.—Temperate Himalayas to Assam. Also Java and Japan.

A slender sticky herb. Wrapped in a plantain leaf and given to cattle, it is said to cure them of worms and sores in the skin (probably the larvæ of a Blue-bottle, *Pycnosoma*, which not infrequently breeds in wounds and sores in Assam.)

175. *Uncaria* Schreb.

214. *U. sessilifructus* Roxb. F. B. I. iii, 30; Fl. Ind. 1, 520; Beng. Pl. 553.

Jungle near Dibrugarh. No. 306.

LOCAL NAME.—Būrūkhti akhūhā.

DISTRIB.—From East Bengal to Burma.

A creeper found in the jungle about Dibrugarh. As in other *Uncarias* some of the inflorescences are modified to form stout recurved-hooks. The cut stems give water freely with which wanderers in the jungle quench their thirst. The bark is boiled and the water, strained off, is used as a mordant.

176. *Gardenia* Linn.

215. *G. campanulata* Roxb. F. B. I. iii, 118; Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 77; Fl. Ind. i, 710; Beng. Pl. 565; D. E. P. iii, 479.

Margherita. Nos. 115 and 116.

LOCAL NAME.—Bimana.

DISTRIB.—From the Eastern Himalayas to Burma.

A shrub with opposite branches most of which end in stout thorns, and yellow globular fruits about 2 inches in diameter. The juice of the fruit is used as a fish poison.

177. *Vangueria* Juss.

216. *V. edulis* Vahl. F. B. I. iii, 136; Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 91; Beng. Pl. 575; D. E. P. vi, 4, 221.

Sadiya. No. 370.

LOCAL NAME.—Kaṭkarā ṭengā.

DISTRIB.—Native of Madagascar. Cultivated in India and China and also found in Africa.

A small tree which bears many apple-like fruits. This plant is native of Madagascar. It is very common about Sadiya. The fruits are good to eat and are very greedily devoured by goats.

217. *V. spinosa* Roxb. F. B. I. iii, 136; Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 91; Beng. Pl. 575; D. E. P. vi, 4, 221.

Dibrugarh. No. 351.

LOCAL NAME.—Kūtkūrā, kaṭkarā.

DISTRIB.—From Northern Bengal to Burma.

A bush or tree with straight opposite thorns. The powdered leaves are said to be good for diphtheria.

178. *Coffea* Linn.

218. *C. arabica* L. F. B. I. iii, 153; Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 104; Beng. Pl. 572; D. E. P. ii, 460; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 215.

Dibrugarh. No. 146.

DISTRIB.—Believed to be native of Arabia, cultivated in many of the tropical regions.

The cultivated Coffee plant, occasionally planted about cottages.

179. *Paederia* Linn.

219. *P. foetida* L. F. B. I. iii, 195; Eng. & Prantl iv, 4, 125; Beng. Pl. 578; D. E. P. vi, 1, 2; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 225.

Above Dibrugarh. No. 309.

LOCAL NAME.—Beveli latā.

DISTRIB.—From Central and Eastern Himalayas to Burma; Malaya; to Borneo.

A twiner with opposite, long-petioled leaves and tubular flowers whitish without and purple within. It is distinguished from other plants by its extremely filthy smell. The bitter juice is much valued as a remedy for diarrhoea.

LXXVII. CUCURBITACEAE.

180. *Melothria* Linn.

220. *M. heterophylla* Cogn. Monog. Phan. iii, 618; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 15.

Zehneria umbellata Thwaites. F. B. I. ii, 625; Beng. Pl. 527; D. E. P. vi, 4, 355; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 89. *Momordica umbellata* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 710.

Dibrugarh. No. 308.

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malayan region, China and Japan.

A common climbing herb with very variously shaped leaves. Medicinal properties are attributed to the root which is often given with *Croton caudatus* Geisel (No. 130).

181. *Momordica* Linn.

221. *M. charantia* L. F. B. I. ii, 616; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 24; Beng. Pl. 521; D. E. P. v, 256; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 78.

Dibrugarh. No. 72.

LOCAL NAME.—Karelā.

DISTRIB.—In the tropical parts of the world, generally cultivated in India.

A weak gourd growing in loose patches, often apparently wild. The leaves are variously lobed. The small fruits, which are curiously corrugated and tubercled, are used in curries. The plant is often grown in cottage gardens.

182. *Luffa* Cav.

222. *L. cylindrica* Roem. Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 25.

L. aegyptiaca Mill. F. B. I. ii, 614; Beng. Pl. 520; D. E. P. v, 96; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 280. *L. pentandra* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 714.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 59, 87 and 332.

LOCAL NAME.—Bhūl.

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout the tropics. Native country unknown.

A hairy climber with nearly circular 5-lobed leaves. It is common in hedges throughout the district. The seeds are used medicinally. The skeleton left by the fruit after the decay of the soft parts forms the well known bath-luffa. Bath luffas are largely imported into India from Japan.

223. *L. acutangula* Roxb. F. B. I. ii, 615; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 25; Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 713; Beng. Pl. 520; D. E. P. v, 94; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 280.

LOCAL NAME.—Nasyā tarūi.

DISTRIB.—India, Ceylon and Malaya.

A gourd with rough leaves and characteristic elongate ten-angled fruits. It is commonly cultivated as a vegetable.

183. *Cucumis* Linn.

224. *C. trigonus* Roxb. F. B. I. ii, 619; Fl. Ind. iii, 722; Beng. Pl. 522; D. E. P. ii, 635; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 65.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 150 and 342.

LOCAL NAME.—Gurmī.

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malayan region.

Generally wild. The fruits are eaten when ripe. The green fruits are sometimes dried and fried.

225. *C. sativus* Linn. F. B. I. ii, 620 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 28 ; Beng. Pl. 523 ; D. E. P. ii, 632.

Lakhimpur. No. 164.

LOCAL NAME.—*Khira*. “Cucumber.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in all warm and warm temperate countries in the world. Native country unknown.

Grown in gardens.

184. *Lagenaria* Seringe.

226. *L. vulgaris* Ser. F. B. I. ii, 613 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 30 ; Beng. Pl. 519 ; D. E. P. iv, 580 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 67.

Cucurbita lagenaria Linn. Fl. Ind. iii, 718.

Dibrugarh. No. 35.

LOCAL NAME.—Lau. “Bottle gourd.”

DISTRIB.—Apparently wild in India and Abyssinia. Now cultivated throughout the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world.

Very commonly cultivated. A large softly hairy climbing herb. The tendrils divide into two branches. The flowers are large and white and the fruit though very variable in shape always has a woody rind. The unripe fruits are boiled and eaten. The seeds are sown in November and the fruits are ripe the following February.

185. *Trichosanthes* Linn.

227. *T. anguina* L. F. B. I. ii, 610 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 31 ; Beng. Pl. 518 ; D. E. P. vi, 4, 31.

Sadiya. No. 389.

LOCAL NAME.—Dhūndolī, chichengā. “Snake gourd.”

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in India. Also in Malaya and China.

Recognised by its white fimbriated corolla and long snake-like fruits traversed from end to end by white stripes. Extensively cultivated as a vegetable.

186. *Hodgsonia* Hk. f. & T.

228. *H. heteroclita* Hk. f. & T. F. B. I. ii, 606 ; Beng. Pl. 516.

H. macrocarpa (Bl.) Cogn. Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 32. *Trichosanthes heteroclita* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 705.

LOCAL NAME.—Āstepa (Phākial).

DISTRIB.—From the Eastern Himalayas through Assam to Burma. Also Malaya.

A large climber with leathery, 3-5 lobed leaves and brownish yellow petals which end in a long fringe. The fruits are globular. The Phākials apparently prepare some article of food from the seeds of this plant.

187. *Cucurbita* Linn.

229. *C. maxima* Duch. F. B. I. ii, 622 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 33 ; Beng. Pl. 524 ; D. E. P. iii, 638.

Dibrugarh. No. 34.

LOCAL NAME.—Lāl kumrā, kadū. "Giant pumpkin."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated in all warm and temperate countries. Native country unknown.

Cultivated in garden throughout the district on account of its fruit.

188. *Cephalandra* Schr.

230. *C. indica* Naud. F. B. I. ii, 621 ; Beng. Pl. 523 ; D. E. P. ii, 252 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 286.

Coccinea cordifolia Cogn. Monog. Phanerog. iii, 529 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5. *Coccinea indica* W. & A. Prod. 347. *Momordica monadelphæ* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 708.

Makum Kila basti. No. 113 ; above Dibrugarh. No. 311 ; and Dibrugarh. No. 340.

LOCAL NAME.—Bhāt karelā, kundūrū.

DISTRIB.—Throughout India. Also in Malaya and Africa.

A climbing herb with unbranched tendrils, white flowers and scarlet fruit which is commonly eaten as a vegetable. The green fruits can also be eaten raw and taste somewhat like-cucumber. The juice of the root of this plant is used in diabetes.

LXXVIII. COMPOSITAE.

189. *Xanthium* Linn.

231. *X. strumarium* L. F. B. I. iii, 303 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 223 ; Beng. Pl. 607 ; D. E. P. vi, 4, 318 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 262.

Dibrugarh. No. 120.

LOCAL NAME.—Agara.

DISTRIB.—In all the warmer regions in the world. Probably originally American.

A very common weed in Lakhimpur especially in sandy places. It is believed by some to cure the bite of a mad dog ; for this purpose the root is made into a paste and applied to the wound. *Xanthium* belongs to a small group of *Compositae* which differ markedly from the rest of the family. *Xanthium* itself has staminate and carpellary flowers in separate heads. The involucre bracts of the carpellary head, which contains but two flowers, are united together to form a nearly closed shell which in fruit is covered with hooked spines. This plant is now common in most of the warmer regions of the northern hemisphere. It is probably a native of America and owes its present wide distribution to the ease by which the bristly infructescences are carried about by animals and in wool. In S. Africa legislative measures have to be adopted to exterminate *Xanthium spinosum* Linn. as wool infested with these burs fetches a lower price.

190. Siegesbeckia Linn.

232. S. orientalis L. F. B. I. iii, 304 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 231 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 264.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 31 and 349.

LOCAL NAME.—Ban tulsī (a name applied to many fragrant plants), gawāl bahalgānī.

DISTRIB.—All warm countries.

A common weed. The leaves are opposite and toothed. The outer involucreal bracts are club-like and remain densely glandular after the fruits are ripe, thus aiding in their dispersal. The whole plant has a curious aroma and is said to have some medicinal uses. The term "Ban tulsī" is applied to several plants. *Siegesbeckia orientalis* L. has the habit of *Xanthium strumarium* L. but even when not in flower can be readily distinguished by its opposite leaves. The autumn form has more foliage and flower heads than the spring form.

191. Eclipta Linn.

233. E. alba Hassk. F. B. I. iii, 304 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 231 ; Beng. Pl. 610. ; D. E. P. iii, 201 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 266.

Dibrugarh. No. 65.

LOCAL NAME.—Ghenrāg.

DISTRIB.—All warm countries.

A common weed with opposite leaves usually covered with stiff white hairs. The flower heads are inconspicuous and the fruits are 3-angular in section and devoid of pappus. The leaves are reputed to cure sores when applied to them. A Dibrugarh Kaviraj calls the plant 'Kahar'rāj' and says that the roots merely tied to the belly cures all kinds of ills in it.

192. Wedelia Jacq.

234. W. Wallichii Less. F. B. I. iii, 307 ; Beng. Pl. 612.

W. biflora DC. Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 235. *Verbesina biflora* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 440.

Dibrugarh. Nos. 66 and 41178.

DISTRIB.—From Kumaon to Burma. Also Java.

An untidy weed with opposite leaves and inconspicuous heads of yellow flowers. It is said to heal wounds when applied to them.

193. Spilanthus Linn.

235. S. acmella L. F. B. I. iii, 307 ; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 237 ; Beng. Pl. 614 ; D. E. P. vi, 3, 329 ; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 283.

Spilanthus Amella Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 410.

Khāmtī basti, Jokai. No. 187 ; and near Railway Station, Jaipur. No. 102.

LOCAL NAME.—Pī rāz hā.

DISTRIB.—All warm countries.

An inconspicuous wayside herb common throughout the district. The leaves are opposite and 3-nerved and the conical heads are borne on long stalks. It is also sometimes grown in

gardens. The flower heads are used for toothache. When chewed they make the mouth first tingle then become numb. The Assamese attribute the introduction of the plant to the Khāntis. The Khāntis certainly do grow it. Apparently the plant is sometimes administered to women after child-birth.

194. *Saussurea* DC.

236. *S. affinis* Spreng. F. B. I. iii, 373; Beng. Pl. 624.

S. carthamoides Ham. Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 320. *Aplotaxis carthamoides* Ham. DC. Prod. vi, 540. *Serratula carthamoides* Roxb. Fl. Ind. iii, 407.

Dibrugarh. No. 120.

LOCAL NAME.—Gangā mūlā.

DISTRIB.—From Bengal to Burma. Also China and Japan.

A tall annual herb very common by the river at Dibrugarh. The plant resembles a thistle but it has no prickles. The juice of the root is given with other medicines for diseases of women.

195. *Carthamus* Linn.

237. *C. tinctorius* L. F. B. I. iii, 386; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 332; Beng. Pl. 625; D. E. P. ii, 183; Pharmacog. Ind. ii, 308.

Dibrugarh. No. 6.

LOCAL NAME.—*Kusum*. "Safflower."

DISTRIB.—Cultivated throughout India. Perhaps a cultivated form of *C. oryacantha* Bieb. found from Lahore westwards to the Caucasus.

A thistle-like plant with beautiful orange coloured flower heads. Stray plants were seen on cultivated ground. This plant yields a well known dye.

196. *Lactuca* Linn.

238. *L. sativa* L. DC. Prod. vii, 138; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 372; Fl. Ind. iii, 403; Beng. Pl. 628.

L. Scariola Linn. var. *sativa* Hook. f. F. B. I. iii, 404; D. E. P. iv, 578; Pharm. Ind. ii, 313.

Dibrugarh. No. 39.

LOCAL NAME.—Salad. "Lettuce."

DISTRIB.—Cosmopolitan.

The common garden lettuce. Cultivated by some cottagers in their gardens. It is sown in October and is ready to be eaten in March.

197. *Crepis* Linn.

239. *C. japonica* Benth. F. B. I. iii, 395; Eng. & Prantl iv, 5, 374; Beng. Pl. 627.

Khānti basti, Jaipur. No. 197.

LOCAL NAME.—Masī jo kang (Khānti).

DISTRIB.—Indo-Malayan region, China and Japan.

An annual, rather succulent herb with lobed leaves and numerous small flower-heads crowded together. It is common throughout the district. The Khāntis grow it in their gardens and eat the leaves.

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[Synonyms and species incidentally mentioned are in italics.]

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