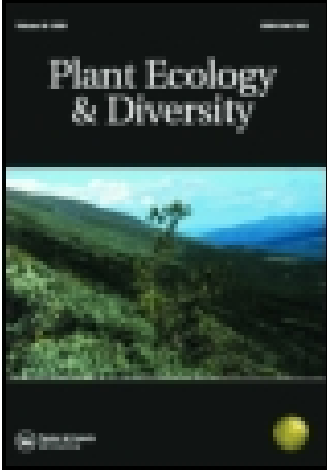


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IV. Account of a Trip to Travancore, Coonoor, &c.

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which the open-air cultivation of cinchona is carried on by government is on the south-eastern slopes of a long spur from Sinchal, 3743 feet above the level of the sea. Private individuals are also cultivating the cinchona at Darjeeling.

III. *Report on the Cinchona Operations in the Neilgherries.*

By Mr W. G. M'IVOR.

Mr M'IVOR reports in regard to the cultivation of cinchona at Ootacamond, on the Neilgherries, as follows:—

1. *Cinchona succirubra*, red bark, 102,344 plants.
2. *Calisaya*, yellow bark, 2137.
3. *officinalis* var. *Condaminea*, original loxa bark, 4494.
4. *officinalis* var. *Bonplandiana* (*C. chatmarguera*), select crown bark, 232,980.
5. *crespilla*, 1927.
6. *lancifolia*, Pitayo bark, 12.
7. *nitida*, 8426.
8. sp., 2769.
9. *micrantha*, 11,561.
10. *peruviana*, 3176.
11. *Pahudiana*, 425.

Mr M'IVOR also gives an account of the price of the bark of each in the London market, and of the comparative growth of the plants, as well as of the mode in which they have been distributed.

IV. *Account of a Trip to Travancore, Coonoor, &c.*

By Dr ALEXANDER HUNTER, Madras.

Dr Hunter's party consisted of thirteen persons—photographers, an artist, an industrial pupil, a gardener, &c. Dr Hunter describes the scenery of the country through which they passed, and various industrial products; both vegetable and geological. Among the plants observed were *Arachis hypogæa*, *Andropogon Calamus aromaticus* or Roussa, *A. Schænanthus* or lemon grass, *Agave americana*, *Fourcroya gigantea*, *Acacia arabica* or Babool, *A. Sundra*, *Cæsalpinia Sappan*, *C. coriaria*, *Inga dulcis*, *Lawsonia alba*, *Jatropha Curcas*, *J. multifida*, species of *Opuntia*, *Euphorbia Tirucalli*

or milk hedge, *E. Cuttimandoo*. These Euphorbias in the young state are eaten by goats.

In the vicinity of Vellore the hills begin to assume a great variety of bold, picturesque forms, and they run in ridges branching off in different directions, chiefly to the west. The peaks attain an elevation of 2600 to 3000 feet, but there is little tableland on the hills, and only a scanty supply of low scrubby vegetation. The rainfall at Vellore and the vicinity is considerably greater than at Madras, and the luxuriance and size of some of the trees attest this. There are a few that attain a considerable size in the avenues, as two species of *Bassia*, the *longifolia* or Illoopy and *latifolia* or Eppei, both handsome shady trees, with fine broad tops that contrast well with the common Banian. These trees yield a great profusion of seed, from which good oils for soap-making can be expressed. The seeds are brown, oval, and pointed, with a bitter nutty flavour. The Margosa or Neem (*Melia azadirachta*) is another tree that attains to a great size at Vellore, and yields a timber almost equal to mahogany, and often with better blaze-marks, if the wood is old. One of the largest and most showy trees of Vellore is the Naga or *Syzygium jambolanum*, which yields a fine timber, and a purple plum much eaten by the natives. This is a sweet and astringent fruit, very like the damson, and likely to make a good substitute for it. Another useful timber tree that thrives in this district is the soap nut (*Sapindus emarginatus*). The wood of this is very hard, well blazed, pale grey and yellow in colour, difficult to work, but taking a fine polish, and very durable. This is a hardy and shady tree, and ought to be more extensively planted in avenues for its timber. The soil about Vellore seems to be fertile, judging from the fine crops of Indian corn, tobacco, and paddy that are produced. The dense tops of large trees in the vicinity also attract attention even at a distance. But the chief interest of the station is associated with the fort and pagoda, which were built in the year 1365 by an inhabitant of Vizianagram named Bommi Reddi; he was a good soldier, and assisted the inhabitants of the town in capturing a large gang of robbers who had pillaged their property and were concealed in the neighbouring forest, where the fort now stands.

On attaining an elevation of 2000 feet at Ahtoor, the jungle begins to be less dense, and the character of the trees changes—only here and there a giant *Bombax* with its angular horizontal branches, or a more feathery *Eriodendron* with its graceful hanging leaves and curious prickly bark, may be seen towering above the stunted shrubby acacias, while here and there the gigantic leaves of the teak, or the soft velvety-leaved *abutilon* with fine large yellow flowers, form pleasing contrasts of foliage. A few showy *Ipomœas* and *Thunbergias* take the place of the *Convolvulus*es of the plains, and the gigantic pods of the *Entada Purscatha* or the large trifoliate leaves of the *Canavalia* or sword-bean may be seen in refreshing luxuriance. Dr Hunter also gives an account of the geological features of the country, and describes various rocks useful for pottery and for building purposes.

V. *Report on the Working of the Government Tea Factories and Plantations in the North-Western Provinces during 1863-64.* By WILLIAM JAMESON, Esq., Surgeon-Major.

Mr Jameson describes the manner in which the Government tea plantations and factories in the Kohistan and Doons of the North-Western Provinces have been worked during the year ending May 1864. The total yield of tea in Dehra Doon, Kumaon, and Kangra has been 66,352 lbs. The plantations have also yielded upwards of 85 tons of seeds.

The teas at Dehra Doon and Almorah are classified under souchong, pouchong, bohea, hyson-skin, and young hyson. Mr Jameson calculates that the produce of seeds in the Kohistan of the North-Western Provinces last year was 2361 maunds, and that each maund contains 24,000 seeds. Supposing that 4000 seedlings were required for an acre, Mr Jameson calculates that he might have upwards of 42 millions of seedlings, which would supply upwards of 10,000 acres. In thirty or forty years the Kohistan of the Punjab and of the North-Western Provinces might produce tea equal in quantity to the whole export trade of China. With good cultivation and good land, 300lb. of tea per acre might be easily obtained.

Photographs of the tea plantations in Kangra, sent by Dr Cleghorn, were exhibited.