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FLORA INDICA;

OR,

DESCRIPTIONS OF INDIAN PLANTS.

BY THE LATE

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ETC. ETC.

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For a purging with gripes, two of the fresh leaves are rubbed up in a little water, and given to an adult for a dose, once in twenty-four hours.

CLASS XXI.

MONOECIA MONANDRIA.

AMBROSINIA. Schreb. gen. N. 1383.

Spathe one-leaved. *Calyx* none. *Corol* none. *Stamina* inserted round the top of the style. *Capsule* many-seeded.

1. *A. ciliata*. Roxb.

Leaves long-petioled, lanceolar. *Spathe* shorter than the leaves, with a tubular base, and expanding, ciliate apex. *Capsule* six-celled.

Beng. Kerali.

Found on the wet banks of rivulets, ponds, and wet places in Bengal. Flowering time the hot season.

Root perennial, perpendicular, tuberous, stoloniferous with long fleshy fibres. *Leaves* radical, petioled, lanceolate, veinless, somewhat fleshy, from six to thirty-six inches long. *Petioles*, upper half cylindric, lower half sheathing; some spathaceous bractes surround their lower parts. *Scapes* axillary, solitary, short, somewhat compressed. *Spathe*, base tubular, and somewhat gibbous, middle portion cylindric, and convolute; *apex* expanding, sub-lanceolate; *margins* ciliate with a long, flexible purple filament; the lower tubular portion where the fructification is lodged is half separated by a

transverse membrane from the upper portion as in *A. spirale*, *Filaments* none. *Anthers* numerous, sessile, surrounding the lower portion of the stigma. *Germ* conical, crowned, six-celled as in the ripe state. *Style* cylindrical. *Stigma* oblong, apex turbinate, the lower portion surrounded with anthers. *Capsule* rounded, six-furrowed, and crowned with the six corresponding points of the ridges, six-celled. *Seeds* from six to eight in each cell, affixed by their bases to a central receptacle, each is augmented by a large spongy substance, or envelope. *Embryo* erect, furnished with a perisperm, and many subulate cotyledons as in *Pinus*.

2. *A. spirale*. R.

Leaves petioled, linear-lanceolate. *Spathe* sessile, much shorter than the leaves, twisted. *Capsule* five-celled, at least the germ has five distinct cells.

Arum spirale. Retz. *Obs.* ii. p. 30-1. Willd. iv. 486.

A native of the moist shady banks of ponds, or standing sweet water on the coast of Coromandel.

Root perennial, stoloniferous. *Stem* none. *Leaves* radical, petioled, narrow-lanceolar, smooth, from six to eight inches long, and about half an inch broad. *Petioles* sheathing. *Scapes* scarcely any. *Spathe* axillary, about as long as the petioles of the leaves, the lower portion, or chamber of fructification hid and shut; the upper portion thereof open at the base; above shut, and twisted, of a dark purple colour, particularly the inside, and there transversely rugose.

3. *A. retrospirale*. R.

Leaves linear-lanceolar. *Spathe* first twisted to the right, and there closed; then to the left, and there open. *Capsule* five-celled, five-valved.

A native of the northern parts of Bengal, it delights in a moist soil.

Root consisting of white brownish, long, fleshy fibres. *Stem* none. *Leaves* petioled, linear-lanceolar, smooth, entire, from

six to twelve inches long. *Petioles* enlarging at the base into sheaths for those within. *Scape* scarcely any. *Spathe* inverted round the base of the germ, and rising amongst the leaves to nearly the same length, below the part where the fructification is lodged a little swelled, and half hid in the earth, the next four or five inches erect, cylindric, completely closed, and twisted to the right; above this there is still about one third of the spathe which is open, and much twisted to the left, the whole of a dull green colour on the outside, and streaked with dark purple within. *Corol* none. *Filaments* none. *Anthers* numerous round the stigma or apex of the style, immediately below them are several, sub-cylindric glands in a verticel round the style. *Pistils* in the swelled base of the spathe. *Germ*, superior, conical, five or six-lobed, each lobe crowned with a large gland. *Style* cylindric. *Stigma* firmly united to the semi-partition, which crowns the chamber of fructification. *Capsule* conical, from five to six-celled, from five to six-valved, opening from the apex. *Seeds* a few in each cell.

It comes exceedingly near *A. spirale* in appearance, yet differing very widely from it. First, in the lower part of the spathe being closed and twisted to the right, then the upper portion to the left and open; and in the partition thereof being incomplete. Secondly, in having nectarial glands round the style beneath the anthers. Thirdly, in having a capsule of five or six cells, and a few large seeds in each.

4. *A. unilocularis*. *R.*

Stemless. *Leaves* linear-lanceolate. *Spathe* as long as the leaves, twisted. *Capsule* one-celled.

Teliny. Pechika, boora-gadee.

A native of Coromandel, in marshy places, and borders of lakes, where it is partly in sweet water. Flowering time the rainy season.

Root fibrous, stoloniferous. *Stemless*. *Leaves* radical, erect, ensiform, smooth, below expanding to embrace those underneath; from nine to eighteen inches long, and about one broad.

Scape axillary, short, erect, compressed, growing broader towards the apex. *Spathe* as long as the leaves, erect, below convolute; above the spadix twisted like a screw to a very fine, straight point; there is an horizontal partition which separates in a great measure, the upper twisted part from the gibbous part below; colour of the outside purplish, that of the inside much deeper, and beautifully spotted with darker spots. *Corol* none. *Nectary*, four or five oval, anther-like glands, crowning the top of the germ, round the style. *Filament* scarcely any visible. *Anthems* very numerous, surrounding in form of a globe the top of the style just below or even touching the partition. *Pistil*, in the lower convolute belly of the spathe. *Germ*s conical. *Style* filiform, the length of the belly of the spathe. Its apex is firmly united to the horizontal partition above-mentioned. *Pericarp*; *capsule* leathery, conical, one-celled, one-valved. *Receptacle* conical, affixed at the base and apex, free round the sides. *Seeds* numerous.

ARUM. Schreb. gen. N. 1387.

Spathe one-leaved, cowled. *Spadix* or *receptacle* with the female florets round the base, stameneous about the middle and naked above.

SECT. I. *With simple Leaves.*

1. *A. colocasia*. Willd. iv. 481.

Stemless. *Leaves* peltate, ovate, repand, semi-bifid at the base. *Scape* shorter than the petioles. *Spathe* much longer than a spadix, cylindric, erect; *club* sub-cylindric, length of the antheriferous part of the receptacle. *Anthems* many-celled.

Sans. Kuchoo.

Beng. Goori-Kuchoo.

A. Ægypticum. Rumph. Amb. v. t. 109.