
A PODOSTEMAD FROM KUMAON
(CENTRAL HIMALAYAS)

MEMBERS of the family Podostemonaceæ have been recorded in this country from South India, Assam, Eastern Himalayas (cf. Hooker¹ and Willis²) and recently Haines³ has described one species (*Lawia zeylanica*) from Orissa. In the Himalayas, there are no records of Podostemonaceæ west of Darjeeling. The collection of a podostemad from Kumaon is thus of interest in connection with the geographical distribution of the family.

The plant was found growing closely attached to large stones in the bed of the Kosi river at Chananda (29° 46' N. and 79° 38' E.), about 16 miles from Almora and 4,500 feet above the sea-level, in the months of August and September. The exact spot can be located by its situation opposite to the Gandhi Ashram of Chananda. On comparison with the other members of the family, it is seen that this podostemad belongs to the genus *Zeylanidium* Tul., described as a subgenus of *Hydrobrynum* Endl. by Willis² in his account of the Podostemonaceæ of India and Ceylon. The genus *Zeylanidium* at present includes three species, *Z. olivaceum* (Gardn.) Engl., *Z. lichenoides* (Kurz) Engl. and *Z. Johnsonii* (Wight) Engl. The present material from Kumaon does not appear to agree with any one of these and is to be regarded as a new species.

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1. Hooker, J. D., *Flora of British India*, 1886, 5.
2. Willis, J. C., "A Revision of the Podostemaceæ of India and Ceylon", *Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Perad.*, 1902, 1, 181-250.
3. Haines, H. H., *Botany of Bihar and Orissa*, 1924, 5.
