

## *PSEUDOCOLUS TELUGUDESAMENSIS* CHEERLA P. RAO—A SPECIES NOVA FROM INDIA

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The occurrence of *Pseudocolus* Lloyd (Clathraceae of Phallales) a genus new to India (Bilgrami *et al.*, 1979) has been reported (Rao and Pattabiram, 1982) from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India. Further studies revealed that these Nellore plants differ in their morphology from all the known species (Dring, 1980) of *Pseudocolus* Lloyd and hence, have been assigned to a new species (Rao, 1983). The same is described here.

*Pseudocolus telugudesamensis* Cheerla P. Rao. Species Nova (Figs. 1 and 2)

Ovum album, globosum, 4 - 5 cm in diametro receptaculum album, 12 cm longum. Stipes albus, crescens usque ad 6 cm cylindricus, spongiosus, cavus, ad basin angustatus, stipes divisus sursum in 11 columna undecim ca 6 cm longa, alba, spongiosa, apice connata—Columna triangularis in sectione. Anatomica tubula. Gleba in latere interiore columnae, vel nigra, foetide odorata olivoverde. Sporae hyalinae ellipticae et cylindricae 4 - 5 $\mu$  × 1-1.5 $\mu$ .

Typus lectus a C. P. Rao et K. R. Reddy (Nov 1980) VRCM/F-101-ad locum Ravuru Kandriga, Nellore District - Andhra Pradesh - INDIA. Positus in Museo botanico - V. R. College — Nellore.

The Egg white, globose, 4-5 cm in

diameter. Receptacle pure white - 12 cm long. The stipe white grows upto 6 cm cylindrical, spongy, hollow, tapering at base. Anatomically consists of a central large tube surrounded by several rings of smaller tubes which are over 3 dozens—at the upper broader end. The diameter of central tube 2 cm and the peripheral tubes vary from 0.1 to 0.3 cm.

The stipe divides into 8 to 11 columns or arms, 6 cm long which are white, spongy and united at the tips. The columns or arms are triangular in section, with one large tube occupying inner facing half and a group of about 3 to 5 smaller tubes forming the outer half. Each arm is broad at base and tapering upwards. Breadth varies from 0.5 to 1.5 cm and length from 4 to 7 cm. The Gleba is on the innerside of the arms, appearing olivegreen in colour and mucilaginous with a strongly repulsive stinking odour. The spores are hyaline, elliptic or cylindrical in shape, 4-5 $\mu$  X 1-1.5 $\mu$ .

Type specimen - C. P. Rao and K. R. Reddy (Nov 1980) (11 arms) VRCM/F-101 from Village Ravuru Kan-



Fig. 1 *Pseudocolus telugudesamensis*  
C. P. Rao

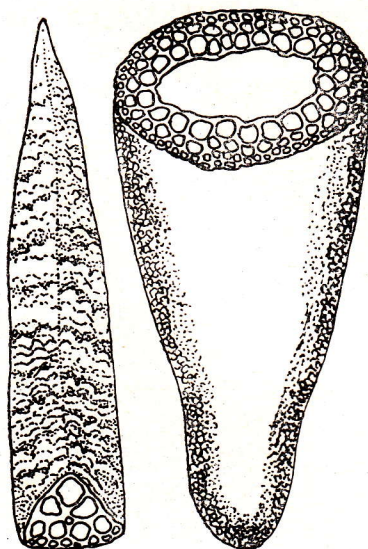


Fig. 2 The arm and the stipe showing the tubular internal structure (*Pseudocolus telugudesamensis* C. P. Rao), 2X.

driga in Nellore District-Andhra Pradesh-India, along with other specimens-VRCM/F-102 (8 arms) C. P. Rao and C. Mahesh ( Oct 1981 ), VRCM/F-103 (9 arms), C.P. Rao (Nov 1982) from Inamadugu village in Nellore District and VRCM/F-104 and F-105 (8 and 10 arms) C.P. Rao (Dec 1987) from Kavali in Nellore District, are preserved in the Museum of Botany Department-V. R. College-Nellore, India.

The genus *Pseudocolus* Lloyd includes two species :

1. *P. fusiformis* ( E. Fisch ) Lloyd, reported from several localities in Japan, Australia and America, is characterised

by a receptacle, white at base and pink to red above and reaches a height of 6.5 cm.

2. *P. garciae* ( Moller ) Lloyd, reported from Brazil in 1895 and since then not observed in any other locality in the world, has a receptacle, pure white throughout and grows up to a height of 5 cm. In both the species the receptacle divides into 3 to 4 vertical columns or arms.

A possible third species is also described as *Anthurus brownii* Mendoza from Philippines. This is pure white throughout with a short stipe dividing into 6 arms. But the author of the monograph on clathraceae ( Dring,



1980) thought it unwise to make a formal transfer of it to the genus *Pseudocolus* Lloyd because of the absence of evidence for a tubular structure of the receptacle as its author has not given its anatomical nature.

This new species *P. telugudesamensis* C. P. Rao resembles *P. garciae* (Moller) Lloyd in being pure white throughout but it differs from it as well as other species mentioned above, since the receptacle grows upto a height of 12 cm and the stripe divides into 8 to 11 vertical columns or arms.

*Etymology*—This new species is named after the province of occurrence "Telugudesam"—the land of Telugu language.

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