

**AN ENGLISH INDEX  
TO THE PLANTS OF  
INDIA**

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An English Index to the Plants of India by H. Piddington

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**H. PIDDINGTON**

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COMPILED BY

H. PIDDINGTON,

*Foreign Secretary, Agricultural and Horticultural Society.*

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“ And in this sounde wee oftimes muche trouble and vexation, with moreover losses, bothe of precious tyme and lucre. *Fyrste*, that wee coulde never aske in  $\frac{c}{i}$  *Indian* tongues for suche herbes, or fruites, woodes, barkes, or gummes, as wee knowe full well, by experiance in sundrye other partes, to bee wholesomme, (many of our crews lyings sicke at this tyme,) or savorye, or usefull to trafficke withall. *Nexte*, thatt when anye were shewne us, we coulde in noe wise tell, from  $\frac{c}{g}$  names given too them by  $\frac{c}{g}$  *Gentooes*, whether or noe  $\frac{c}{g}$  like were alreadye knowne in *European* countryes: And yett these partes doe myghtylye abounde with herbes and woodes of sovraine vertew.”—*Master Richarde Kynges, his travells, and voyages, and traffickes, in foraygne countryes, in the Shippe Tamburlan.* Lond. MSS. fol. 1634.

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1832.

## PREFACE.

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A WORK enabling the European on his first landing to inquire for every Indian plant yet known to European botanists by its native name, if it has one; or to trace from the native name its scientific appellation, must be a desideratum to all; for there are none who, more or less, have not an interest in plants, either as studious pursuits, as amusements, as objects of commercial enterprise, or of domestic economy; and but too many of us in India find, that before we are sufficiently linguists to trace out a name, or botanists to ascertain a plant, years and climate, the pressure of business, or the deadening canker of disappointment, have taken from our pursuits the freshness, which alone can compensate that want of energy through which every thing in India so soon becomes stale and wearying, even to the most active minds.

A work then, which spares labour to all, to the Native as well as to the European, may claim the attention of every man who, either from motives of interest or of philanthropy, desires to see the science of Europe brought nearer to the resources of India; and such a work the Compiler has intended. It has been completed from every known source, principally the two volumes of Dr. Wallich's edition of

Roxburgh's Flora Indica, Ainslie's Materia Indica, Fleming, the Hortus Bengalensis, a valuable catalogue of Hindu names in the Gleanings of Science, &c. &c.

It is one of the many peculiarities of our situation in India, that those who have the most ability have generally the least disposable time ; no where too, do we so much find that, from the uncertainty of health, of situation, and even of life, things must be done as they best can, for the morrow is not ours : and this may plead as a motive that one, a tyro in Botany, should have undertaken such a work ; for, of the many so much better qualified than himself, not one probably could have had time to execute a plan requiring so much and such tedious detail. It is hoped then, that where imperfections are met with, it will be remembered, that its object is *to save time in research, and perhaps expence in books of reference* ; and that thus it is one of those works which are better ill done than not done at all.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN the following Vocabulary no attempt has been made to reduce the orthography of the native names to any fixed standard; for to do so would have required, both in the Compiler and the original collector of the plants, not only a correct knowledge of the different languages, but moreover one of the provincial dialects and of the pronunciation of the spoken language. How much these vary is well known to those who have paid attention to the subject; and, after all the attempts of those who have endeavoured to fix a standard, very much must be left which is almost of necessity arbitrary; for it is only a practised ear, and one aided by a knowledge of native orthography, which can distinguish between an *a*, an *u*, or an *o*, as in *Mādar*, *Mudar*; an Italian *i* for a *ee*, as *Jitee*, *Jeetee*: and then again, scarcely any two orientalists will use the same English letters to express the same sounds caught by the ear, even where they agree as to the system to be followed, unless they have first written the word in the native character.

From this difficulty the search for names in Part II. must always be to a certain degree vague and indefinite; but the smallest knowledge of Botany will correct any error which may take place; and to aid research as much as possible, repetition has been always preferred to omission, so that the same name, with but a trifling difference, will be often found repeated.

The innumerable Sanscrit synonymes which are found to some of the common plants in the Flora Indica, (there are 23 to *Vangueria* and 21 to *Solanum Jacquini*;) are however omitted, and the principal or first only preserved; because it is not intended to furnish a book of reference for the scholar, (for whom far better sources of information exist,) but a manual for common and every-day use.

Some names of plants will be found which are perhaps not indigenous or cultivated in India, and of which only the products are to be found in the bazar; as Ladan (*Cistus Creticus*,) Gum Labdanum; and Hing, (*Ferula asafoetida*,) asafoetida: but it was thought useful to leave these as a guide; to medical men more particularly.

The same names are often marked in both parts, or in the sections of Part II. as only belonging to one language, while they are, in fact, common to two or more; thus *Dillenia Indica* or *Speciosa*, is marked in Part I. as B. Chalta, while it is equally called by this name in Hindi.

To facilitate research, Part II. has been divided into two sections; but when any difficulty occurs, both should be examined in search of the name: for the different dialects often adopt the name used in the native country of the plant, with but at most a slight variation. The Karia-pillie of the Tamool, which is the Karia-phullee of the Bengalese (*Bergera Koenigii*), (originally perhaps from Southern India, though now a common plant about the gardens of Calcutta, its leaf giving a peculiar flavour to curries,) is an example of this sort of corruption.

Blank spaces have been designedly left after each letter in both parts, that names which may be found may be noted in them by the possessor of the work.

The note of interrogation has been added when any uncertainty exists.

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#### ABBREVIATIONS.

S. Sanscrit.	CYNG. Cingalese.
B. Bengalee.	CAN. Canarese.
H. Hindoe.	MAB. Mahratta.
N. Nawaar or the Napalese dialect.	G. Guzerattee.
TAM. Tamul.	M. Malabar.
T. Telinga.	

# PART I.

## INDEX

FROM

THE LINNEAN GENERA AND SPECIES

TO

The Native Names of Plants.

Gen. and Spec.	Native Names.
ABROMA <i>angusta.</i>	B. Oolut-kumbul.
ABRUS <i>precatorius,</i> ( <i>red.</i> )	S. Gunja; Goonja; Kaka-chinchi. B. Koonch. H. Guncha. TAM. Condu-munnie. T. Goorie-ghenza. CYNG. Olinda.
(white.)	B. Sweta-koonch.
ACACIA, see MIMOSA.	
ACALYPHA <i>Indica.</i>	S. Arittamunjayrie. B. Shwet-busunta; Kunda-amadoo. H. Kooppie. TAM. Koopamaynie. CYNG. Koopamenya; Wai-Koopamenya.
<i>betulina.</i>	H. Chinnie. TAM. Sinnie. T. Tsinniakoo.
ACANTHUS <i>Illicifolius.</i>	S. Hari-Kussa. B. Hakooch; Harkuch-kanta. M. Phaina-schelli; Paina-schulli.
ACHRYANTHES <i>aspera.</i>	S. Upamarga. B. Upanga; Apanga; Hoorhooriya; Chichiria. H. Agareh; Lalchirchiri. CYNG. Gas-karal-sebo.
<i>centrostachya.</i>	B. Hooceet.
<i>lappacea.</i>	B. Kuya-duya; Duya-kuya.
<i>alternifolia.</i>	B. Luta-muhooia. H. Gangatiah. T. Chancheli-kura.
<i>ferruginea.</i>	B. Rukta-sirinchee. H. Lal-sirinchee.
<i>scandens.</i>	H. Nooriya.