

national sizes, the common wealth size 10.5×16.5 inches (26.5×42 cm) seems to be convenient in India. Method of gluing, stitching (cf. Croat. Taxon, 27:103-16 and Hicks et al., Taxon, 27:63-99, 1978), and polymer fixing are discussed by several authors. Labels should be legible and durable and should give as much field information as possible. A map on the label does help.

The organisation of the integration and mounting sections should be such that there is the least possible interval between receiving a specimen and its availability in the herbarium.

Arrangement of specimens is either according to a particular system of classification or by alphabetical sequence of families. In Kew, some genera specimens have been rearranged according to outstanding monographs, e.g. Myristica. As regards herbarium cabinets, proper preservation, easy handling and possibilities of curation should determine the choice of a particular type.

Sterile entry, humidity and temperature control, regular pest control measures, etc. are some of the basic aspects of curation. Croat has surveyed the various possibilities. Extra care is needed in non-acclimatised herbaria situated in or close to gardens.

The value of herbarium increases with facilities for easy retrieval, both of specimens and information. Regional folders, card indices and computerised point-cuts are being used. Planning and vision, linked to practical considerations, should once again determine the right approach. The bigger the herbaria, the more difficult is to introduce innovations.

The herbarium is, above all, a place of study. A library with specialised literature, sufficient working space, proper microscopes, fire-proof heating sources and the service of typists and artists constitute the infra-structure for efficient work. Leenhouts (A guide to Practical Herbarium Taxonomy) has briefly indicated how a herbarium can be useful means of knowing plants and of making them known, used and appreciated by others.

The series of lectures abstracted above was delivered by Prof. C.J. Saldana, Director Centre for

Taxonomic Studies, St. Josephs' College, Bangalore, at the NBRI.

The material given above is based on the following:—

NBRI NEWS LETTER

A Quarterly House Journal Vol. VI.,

April 1979, No. 2, Pages 14 to 16.

4. Pulsatilla Research

The Experimental work on *Pulsatilla* and *Caulophyllum* has been referred to in the previous issues of the *Quarterly Bulletin*. The research work has been continued. Abstracts of research papers already communicated for publication or being read in scientific seminars/congresses are given hereafter.

The research work on *Pulsatilla* and *Caulophyllum* has attracted attention of scientists in India as well as abroad, especially Holland.

4.1 Effect of Pulsatilla (a Homoeopathic drug) 1000 & 10,000 potencies on ovaries, uterii and arcuate neurons of rats.

K. Chandrasekhar and Saraswati H. Velicheti.

(Communicated to Journal of Fertility and sterility)

This study was designed to fathom the effect of pulsatilla (a Homoeopathic drug) in its 1000 and 10,000 potencies on the ovaries, the uterii and arcuate neurons of albino rats. The drug and vehicle (90% alcohol) were fed orally during preoestrus and estrus and their effects assessed after days 1 and 5 of drug administration. It was found that pulsatilla in the 1000 potency decreased ovarian as well as uterine weights in rats fed during preoestrus. A histological examination showed that it increased the number of atretic follicles and reduced the diameter of corpora lutea. The drug also reduced the height of luminal epithelium and mitotic divisions in the luminal cells. All the same, mitotic divisions in stromal cells increased. The drug given at preoestrus reduced the nuclear volume of arcuate neurons. Thus, the ovarian and uterine changes are indicative of the drugs progres-

terogenic affinities in its 1000 potency. This is strengthened by the findings on the arcuate neurons.

On the other hand, pulsatilla in its 10,000 potency administered during preoestrus increased uterine weight after 5 days of treatment. It also enlarged the nuclear volume of neurons of arcuate components. These results indicate that the drug in its 10,000 potency possesses properties.

4.2 Parallel effects of 1000 and 10,000 potencies of Pulsatilla and Caulophyllum on uterus of Albino rats.

Saraswati H. Velicheti & K. Chandrasekhar.

(Paper for the Indian Science Congress, 1980.)

A comparative study of Pulsatilla and Caulophyllum (Homoeopathic drugs) in their 1000 and 10,000 potencies on the uterus of albino rats was undertaken. Histological examination showed that Pulsatilla reduced the (i) cell height of luminal epithelium, (ii) height of endometrium and (iii) mitotic response in luminal epithelial cells. All the same mitotic divisions in stromal cells increased. Contrary to these, the treatment of Caulophyllum resulted in increased height of endometrium, endometrial glands and luminal epithelial cells. These results indicate that Pulsatilla possesses progesterogenic properties while Caulophyllum has estrogenic properties.

4.3 Effect of 1000 and 10,000 potencies of Caulophyllum on ovary, uterus and brain of female albino rats.

(Work done between April and June 1979)

Mature female albino rats showing regular estrus cycle were selected for experimentation. They were divided into two groups; group A was treated during preoestrus stage while group B during estrus stage. They were further divided into 3 sub groups, which were treated with 90% alcohol, 1000, and 10,000 potencies of Caulophyllum respectively.

Both the groups were treated for 1, 3 and 5 days successively. Sections of ovaries, uterij (4U) and brain (5U) were stained with haemotoxylin and cosine. Height of luminal epithelial layer, endo-

metrium and diameter of coroporalutea were measured by using micro morphometric methods.

4.4 Abortiferous effects of Pulsatilla :—

Various potencies of Pulsatilla Viz 200, 1000, 10,000 and CM. are used in this experiment. The work on the comparative study of the abortiferous effect of these potencies is in progress.

Alongwith these two, the preliminary work of or experiment (b) is also taken up.

5. World News on Research in Homoeopathy.

Fourth Annual Symposium on Homoeopathic.

Medicine Birmingham, Saturday, 4 November, 1979.

The salient scientific/technical features of the symposium were as under :—

5.1 Research in Homoeopathy.

Under this heading, Dr. Anita E. Davies reviewed the contributions of Homoeopathy of former days leading upto those of our own time. Dr. R.J.F.H. Pinsent, until his recent retirement as Research Adviser to the Royal College of General Practitioners made a stimulating contribution including an account of his own recent recovery from Multiple Fractures with the help of Symptom.

Dr. Blackie compared and contrasted the properties of Calc. phos with Phosphorus and Silica.

SILICA

Dr. D. Rowland Edwards revealed how he had first become interested in Homoeopathy. He had attended a course at the London Homoeopathic Hospital after having become disturbed at the failure of a number of patients to respond to conventional therapies. He accepted Dr. Blackie's advice to try one remedy only at first and this was Arnica. He tried this on himself first of all after receiving a painful blow on the skin. The pain abated dramatically with one doze, and after one or two more doses, the incident was soon forgotten. Next day there was no bruising to be felt or seen. He gave short case histo-