It is hoped that, this technique, now named as "Soft-Wood grafting" would solve the problems of vegetative propagation and the establishment of the most of the tropical and sub-tropical plants.

The author feels that the same technique of soft-wood grafting with necessary modification in defoliation period and the period for the grafting during the year depending upon the region if tried on tropical crops like nutmeg, clove, coffee, durian, langsat, loquat, litchi, mangosteen, rambutan, avocado, etc., and temperate fruit crops like apple, pear, peach, plum, almond, cherry, apricot, etc., holds the prospects of yielding encouraging results.

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CUSCUTA CHINENSIS LAMK. ON *ELEUSINE CORACANA* GAERTN. (RAGI)—A NEW RECORD

DODDER (*Cuscuta* spp., Convolvulaceae) is a total stem parasite on many plants. In India, *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb., *C. hyalina* Roth. and *C. chinensis* Lamk. are known to occur as parasites on a number of plants. Among these *C. chinensis* has been reported to infest crops like chilli, niger and bitter gourd in Dharwar region[1] and cowpea in Visakhapatnam region[2].

In a field at Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra (GKVK) of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, *C. chinensis* was observed on *Medicago sativa* L. (lucerne) and *Eleusine coracan.* Gaertn. (Ragi) (Fig. 1) which were grown in alternate rows. The infestation was found to be very severe on lucerne but not so rigorous on ragi. In the case of the latter, the parasite was found to prefer young stems and leaf sheaths where it produced more number of haustoria. The infested parts of the host first showed the signs of yellowing and then gradually dried up. On the contrary, the parasite thrived well and entered into reproductive phase. The mechanical binding of the young stems of ragi by the parasite also appears to cause some damage to the host.

The fact that *C. chinensis* has not been listed in the "Flora of Bangalore District"[3] indicates that it might be a recent introduction to this area. However, it is the first record of ragi acting as host for any species of *Cuscuta* in general and for *C. chinensis* in particular. Its appearance on lucerne, although reported earlier from elsewhere[4], is observed in this area for the first time. *C. chinensis* has also been found growing on *Clerodendrum inerme* Gaertn., *Polygonum plebejum* R, Br. and *Delonix regia* Raf. in Hebbal campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. On *Clerodendrum inerme* Gaertn. it grows gregariously and produces flowers and seeds profusely all round the year.

FIG. 1. *C. chinensis* on Ragi.

The appearance of *Cuscuta* on ragi and lucerne raises problems connected with the control of the parasite.

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