

terahedrally surrounded by four oxygen ions. The combination of these polyhedra results in an orthorhombic unit cell.

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A HIGH ALKALOID CONTAINING RACE OF *SOLANUM INCANUM* LINN., COLLECTED FROM THE PANIYAS OF KERALA

THE importance of the genus *Solanum* as a source of intermediates in the synthesis of cortisone has resulted in a search for high alkaloid containing Indian species of this genus. Amongst these *Solanum khasianum* with 5% and *Solanum elaeagnifolium* with 3% glyco-alkaloid have been reported by Maiti *et al.* (1964)¹ and *Solanum trilobatum* with 3.5% by Viswanathan (1973)².



FIG. 1. A *Solanum incanum* Linn. plant from the Paniyas of Kerala with white fruits. Chro. No. $2n = 24$.

Solanum incanum Linn., a species closely related to *Solanum melongena*, Linn., the brinjal, with which it hybridizes easily is found wild throughout India. Several geographical races showing morphological differences exist in this species. Zutshi (1968)³ reported 1.85% Solasodine in the Jammu variety and 2.2% in a race collected by the senior author from Kondotti. South Kerala. We collected 4 races from Kerala of which one was derived from a single fruit given by Valli Moopan, the Paniya Headman of Iritty, North Kerala, who said it was used as an oral contraceptive by the women of his tribe. The Paniyas are an aboriginal Tribe who lived on roots collected from the forest. They were famous for tiger hunting by spears as some of the African Tribes with whom they show some affinity.

Seeds of this "Paniya" variety of *Solanum incanum* were grown at the Ethno-botanical garden of the Field Research Laboratory, University of Madras. A uniform population of plants with white fruits was obtained. This character has not so far been observed in any variety of *Solanum incanum* collected by us, all of which had green fruits.

On chemical analysis of well-matured ripening fruits, this variety was found to contain 3.8 to 4.81% glyco-alkaloid which is the highest record for this species of *Solanum*.

Solanum incanum is as easy to cultivate as the brinjal. It yields 60-70 fruits per plant and it can easily replace *Solanum khasianum* as a source of glyco-alkaloid for commercial growing.

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MEGA-PORPHYRITIC DOLERITE INTRUSION AT SAN PEDRO, GOA

THIS note describes an occurrence of a megaporphyritic dolerite intrusion at San Pedro in a road metal quarry on the south bank of the Mandovi river near Km 7/2 on the Panjim-Ponda road. Micaceous quartzite is the dominant rock type along the northern coast of Goa. These unfossiliferous pre-Cambrian metasediments of Cuddapah age (Oertel, 1958) are profusely intruded by basic dykes and are covered by a laterite capping of