

management of exploitable resources. Value of  $b$ , being less than 3, suggests that the body weight of *E. superba*, increases at a lower rate than the conventional cube of the length<sup>10</sup>. Such a deviation from isometric growth, reflects on the overall slow growth rate—a characteristic feature of organisms, inhabiting the supercooled polar waters<sup>11</sup>. Further studies on the length-weight relationship of *E. superba*, need to be undertaken, for a proper understanding of the magnitude of seasonal variations in the growth progression of harvestable krill resources of the Indian Ocean Sector of maritime Antarctic.

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## NEW RECORD OF SCLERACTINIAN CORAL *ASTRANGIA* SP. FROM INDIAN WATERS

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THE scleractinian coral, *Astrangia* sp. was found settled on aluminium and mild steel panels exposed at two stations, Cortalim Bridge and the Oil jetty of Marmagoa Harbour.

At Cortalim station the coral settled at 3 metres depth during Feb–May 83 and at the Oil jetty, at three different depths, 3, 4.5, and 6 m during Feb–May 83 as well as June–Sept 83. In addition, the long-term panel exposed for the period Feb–Sept 83 also had these forms indicating thereby their survival during the low-saline (10.27‰) monsoon period.

No corals have hitherto been recorded from Goa water<sup>1</sup> thereby making this the first record from Goa waters. Similarly, the work of Gopinath Pillai<sup>2</sup> does not list *Astrangia* sp. from the seas around India (figure 1). The other bioecological aspects of this coral are being reported elsewhere.

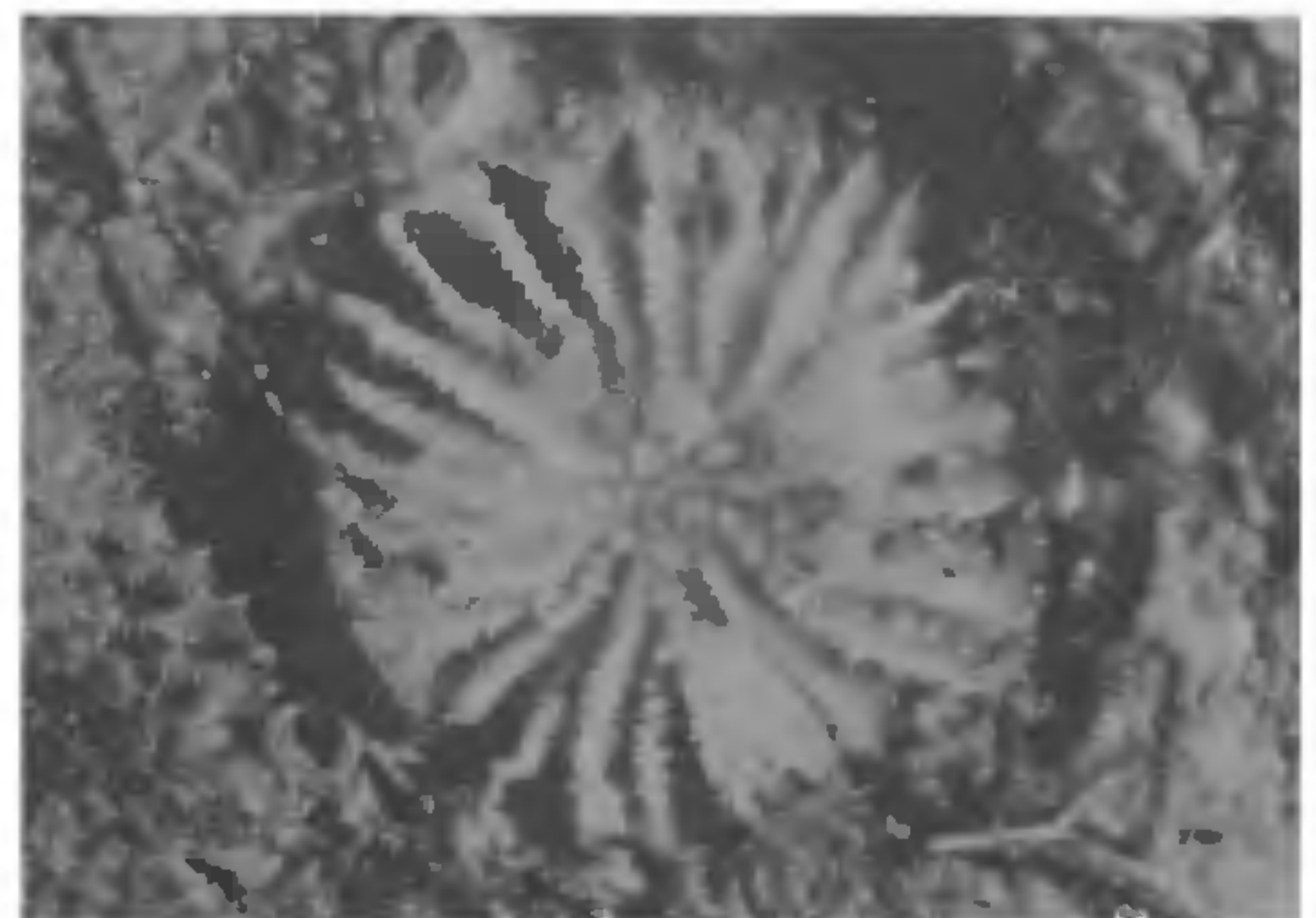


Figure 1. *Astrangia* sp.

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### MORPHOLOGICAL AND GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF WILD AND HYBRID PEANUTS (*ARACHIS* SP.) CULTURED *IN VITRO*

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GROUNDNUT, has proved to be recalcitrant for plantlet regeneration from callus. A limited ability for organ differentiation in legume callus has been reported in peas<sup>1</sup>, alfalfa<sup>2</sup>, soybean<sup>3</sup> and cultivated peanut<sup>4</sup>. There

has been no report on the culture and maintenance of calli from wild species of *Arachis* with differing levels of polyploidy, which are useful in breeding work. This report attempts to present the work in this area.

Seven wild species of *Arachis* (three diploids and four tetraploids) and two interspecific hybrids grown under field conditions at the author's laboratory formed the source for various explants. Portions of stem, petiole and pinna were excised, washed well with water, surface-sterilized with 0.1% mercuric chloride for 1 min and finally rinsed thrice with double-distilled water. Standard Murashige and Skoog's medium supplemented with casein hydrolysate (0.1% w/v), coconut water (15% v/v) and 24-D (2 mg/l) was used. Twenty replicates were inoculated for each explant (with uniform expression) in each species or hybrid and the cultures were maintained under 16 hr daily light regime (2000 lux) at 25 ± 1°C.

Figure 1 shows the percentage response of vegetative explants from wild species and hybrids for callusing. In

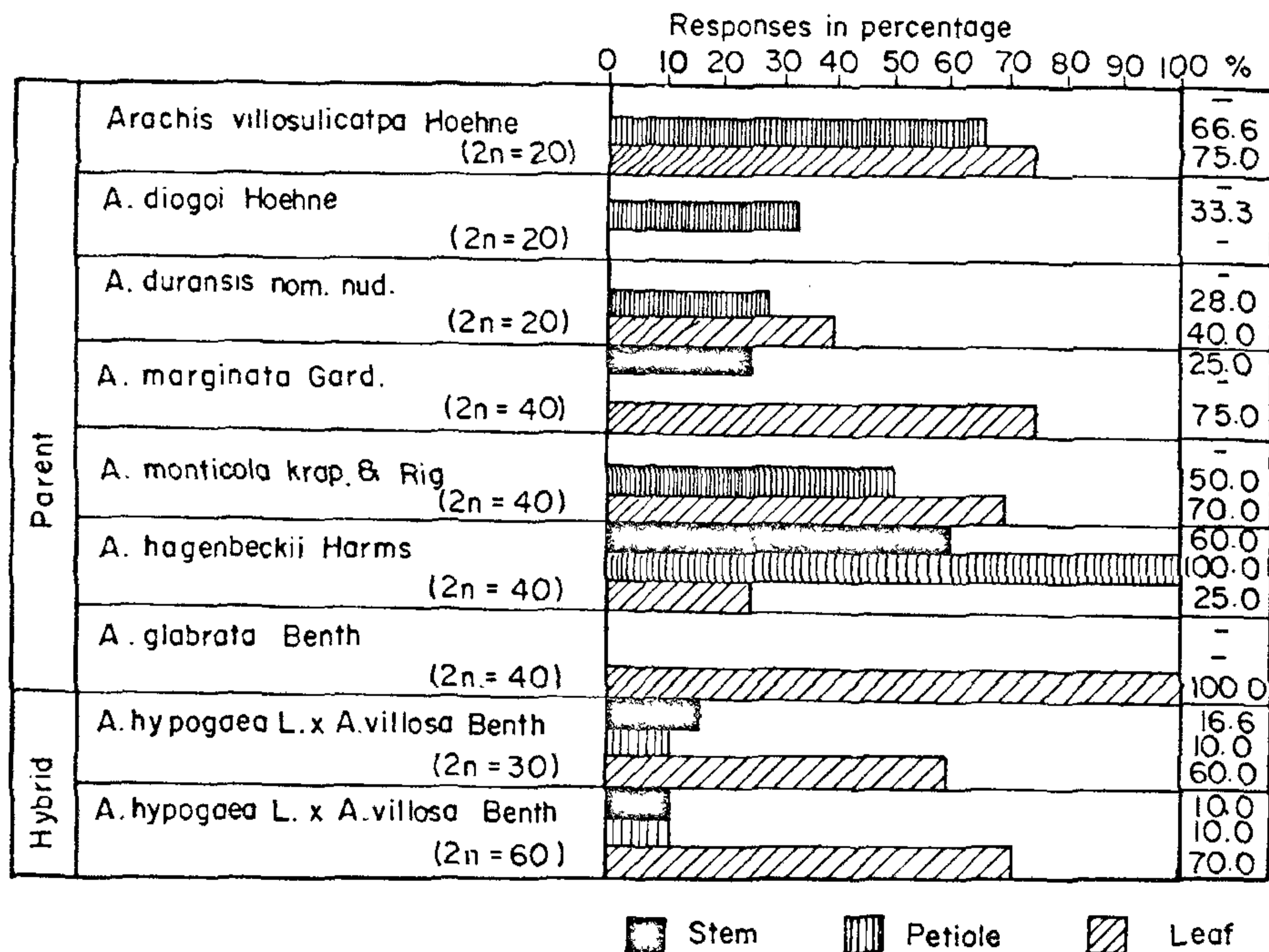


Figure 1. Explant responses of wild polyploid species and hybrids in *Arachis*.