

involucral bracts 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm, ovate; inner about 1 x 0.15 cm, linear-oblongate or oblong. Achenes 3.5-4 mm long, narrowly oblong or oblongate, smooth, constricted at the top into a stout beak. Pappus 5-6 mm long, pale white, deciduous.

The taxon under discussion belongs to section *Mulgedium* Cass., which is characterised by drooping, narrowly cylindrical heads in large terminal panicles with outer involucral bracts very small and inner ones long. Within this section, *Lactuca graciliflora* has leaves sessile or narrowed to a slender petiole and small achenes that are constricted into a short, stout beak. In other Indian species of the section, the leaf has a long winged petiole, which is dilated and auricled at the base, and the elongated achenes merge with the beak.

**Fl. & Fr.:** August-November.

**Ecology:** A high altitude species, collected on alpine slopes at 3,000-4,000 m above msl.

**Illustration:** Mamgain and Rao (*loc. cit.*).

**Material examined:** Jalori Pass, coll. D.S. Dhaliwal 15500 (PUN).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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June 13, 1998

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29. *ANAPHALIS BUSUA* (BUCH.-HAM. EX D. DON) DC., (FAMILY: ASTERACEAE)  
— AN INTERESTING NEW RECORD FROM BIJNOR (U.P.), INDIA

The genus *Anaphalis* DC (Family Asteraceae) comprises about 35 species and in India all except one are confined to higher altitudes between 1,320 m and 5,610 m. *Anaphalis busua* is reported from Dehra Dun (990-1,320 m), Himalaya (1,800-3,600 m), Nainital (1,920 m) and Simla (2,190 m).

During a survey of the flowering plants of Bijnor, a district of western Uttar Pradesh (29° 2'-29° 58' N, 78° 0'-79° 5' E) 218-275 m above msl, a small population of *Anaphalis busua* was found at Balawali, growing on an embankment of the River Ganga. A brief description of the taxon and other pertinent data are given here.

*Anaphalis busua* (Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don) DC. Prodr. 6: 275.1838. *Gnaphalium busuam* Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don Prodr. 173.1825. *Anaphalis araneosa* DC. Prodr. 275.1838; Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 283.1881.

An erect, branched herb up to 1 m high. Leaves linear-lanceolate, white woolly abaxially, margins revolute, apex acute, unicostate, sessile base decurrent. Capitula in large terminal corymbose clusters, fragrant; each head c. 3.5 cm across, involucral bracts white-woolly, obtuse.

**Fl. & Fr.:** September-December.

**Material examined:** Athar s.n. Balawali;

Department of Botany Herbarium, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

December 27, 1999

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This is the first record of the taxon at such a low altitude (218-275 m above msl).

### 30. THE IDENTITY OF *HYGROPHILA BENGALENSIS* MANDAL ET AL., (FAMILY: ACANTHACEAE)

Mandal *et al.* (1997) described a new species of *Hygrophila* Br. (Acanthaceae) namely *H. bengalensis* Mandal Bhattacharjee *et* Nayek based on the collections of S.K. Mandal from Gorekhara, Sonarpur, 24-Parganas (South), West Bengal.

While establishing the new taxon, the authors stated that the new species is allied to *H. salicifolia* Nees and it differs in having "obovate to elliptic lanceolate leaves with undulated margin; yellow flowers; persistent calyx with marginal hairs; long slender style with articulated stigma; seeds 24-30, arranged alternately, attached by the recurved hook-shaped retinacula. Seeds testa with mucilaginous woolly hairs; arillated at the top, and ventrally notched." But a careful study of the protologue reveals that the morphological characters of *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* are identical with *H. erecta* (Burm. f.) Hochr. Study of the type and other specimens deposited at (CAL) also revealed that this newly described taxon *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* is identical with *H. erecta* (Burm. f.) Hochr.

Further, it is to be noted that some of the differentiating characters like "persistent calyx"; "recurved retinacula" and "testa with mucilaginous woolly hairs" are the common generic characters of *Hygrophila* Br. Moreover, none of the type specimens of *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* have the "obovate leaves" as

mentioned in the protologue.

Since *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* and *H. erecta* (Burm. f.) Hochr. are conspecific, *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* becomes a superfluous name of *H. erecta* (Burm. f.) Hochr. The present status of *H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* is as follows :

*Hygrophila erecta* (Burm. f.) Hochr. in *candollea* 15: 210. 1935.

*Ruellia erecta* Burm. f., *Fl. Ind.* 135. t. 41, f. 3.1768.

Type: Rheede, *Hort. Malabaricus* 9 : 119. t. 61. 1669 (Repr. - 2 : 89. f. 46. 1983).

*Hygrophila quadrivalvis* Nees, *Pl. Asiat. Rar.* 3 : 80. 1826; Clarke in *Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India* 4. 408. 1885.

Type: *Wall. Cat. num. list no.* 2374, 2374B-D microf. - CAL!

*H. bengalensis* Mandal *et al.* in *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 94(3): 546-548. 1997 *Syn. Nov.*

Type: Holotype - Gorekhara, Sonarpur, 24-Parganas (S). West Bengal. S.K. Mandal; 30.i.1996; 1216A (CAL!) isotype - 1216 B-D (CAL!).

November 15, 1998

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