

**PULICARIA CRISPA BENTH.—A NEW RECORD FROM WEST BENGAL**

A weed was collected at Mojhhampur, Beldanga, on the banks of the river Bhagirathi, which on examination was found to be *Pulicaria crispa* Benth. of the family Compositae. The species is reported from Punjab, Sindh, the Upper Gangetic Plain and westwards to Arabia, Africa and the Canary Islands; its easternmost limit is Bihar. The collection of the plant from Murshidabad District further extends its distribution into West Bengal.

*Pulicaria crispa* Benth. in Gen. Pl. 2: 336, 1873; C. B. Clarke, Comp. Indicae 129, 1876; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 299, 1881.

Banks of river at Beldanga, Murshidabad District on 24.6.1966, D. N. Guha Bakshi 527, (deposited in CAL).

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**NOTE ON SPERGULARIA FALLAX LOWE IN NORTHERN INDIA**

*Spergularia fallax* Lowe in Hook. Jour. Bot. 8: 289, 1856. *Spergula fallax* (Lowe) Krause in Sturm, Fl. Deutsch. (ed. 2) 5: 19, 1901; Milne-Redhead in Kew Bull. 1950: 338, 1950; Burt & Lewis in Kew Bull. 1952: 349, 1952. *Arenaria flaccida* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2: 447, 1832, non Clairv. 1811.

This plant is not mentioned in any of the Indian floras. As the leaves are in false whorls and the seeds are broadly winged, the taxon is often misidentified as *Spergula pentandra* Linn. but can be distinguished from the latter species by the 3-styled and 3-valved capsule. An examination of the material housed in the herbaria of Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, Dehra Dun; Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun and Central National Herbarium, Calcutta, revealed that *Spergula pentandra* Linn. has not been collected from N. India.

All the materials kept under the name of *Spergula pentandra* in the above herbaria are *Spergularia fallax* Lowe.

*Distribution*: Madeira and Canary Islands, N. Africa, Nubia, Egypt, Palestine, Arabia, S. Persia, Afghanistan, Baluchistan, North and Central India.

*Ecological notes*: Common weed in cultivated and fallow fields and gardens during the cold season. Found also in other moist localities.

*Flowers and fruits*: December to March.

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**A NOTE ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF LAGGERA FLAVA (DC.) BENTH. OF HOOKER'S FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA**

The taxon under consideration had been treated under *Blumea* by De Candolle and *Laggera* by other authors. Gagnepain (Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 26: 76, 1920) segregated it to a monotypic genus *Blumeopsis*. Raizada (Indian For. 92: 315, 1966) treats it under *Laggera*. In her monograph on *Blumea*, Randeria (*Blumea* 10: 176-317, 1960) showed that the three genera can be separated as follows:

Leaves decurrent, anthers tailless	...	...	<i>Laggera</i>
Leaves not decurrent			
Anthers tailed	...	...	<i>Blumea</i>
Anthers tailless	...	...	<i>Blumeopsis</i>

Earlier workers considered that *Erigeron falcatum* D. Don (1825) is synonymous with *Laggera flava* (DC.) Benth. [= *Blumea flava* DC. (1836)] and therefore *E. falcatum* D. Don was considered as the earliest specific epithet for the plant by Merrill (J. Arnold Arb. 19: 70, 1938) and Raizada (loc. cit.). It has been shown by Ludlow and Raven (Kew Bull. 17: 71, 1963) that *E. falcatum* D. Don is *Conyza leucantha* (D. Don) Ludlow & Raven (loc. cit.). The earliest validly published specific epithet of the plant, therefore, is *Blumea flava* DC. Prodr. 5: 439, 1836. Hence the nomenclature of the plant will be as follows:

**Blumeopsis flava** (DC.) Gagnep. in Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris 26: 76, 1920. *Erigeron falcatus* auct. pl. non D. Don, 1825. *Blumea flava* DC. Prodr. 5: 439, 1836. *Laggera flava* (DC.) Benth. in Gen. Pl. 2: 290, 1873; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 270,

1881. *L. falcata* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 1: 350, 1891; Raizada in Indian For. 92: 315, 1966.

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### A NEW VARIETY OF *JATROPHA VILLOSA* FROM MADRAS STATE

***Jatropha villosa* Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.**

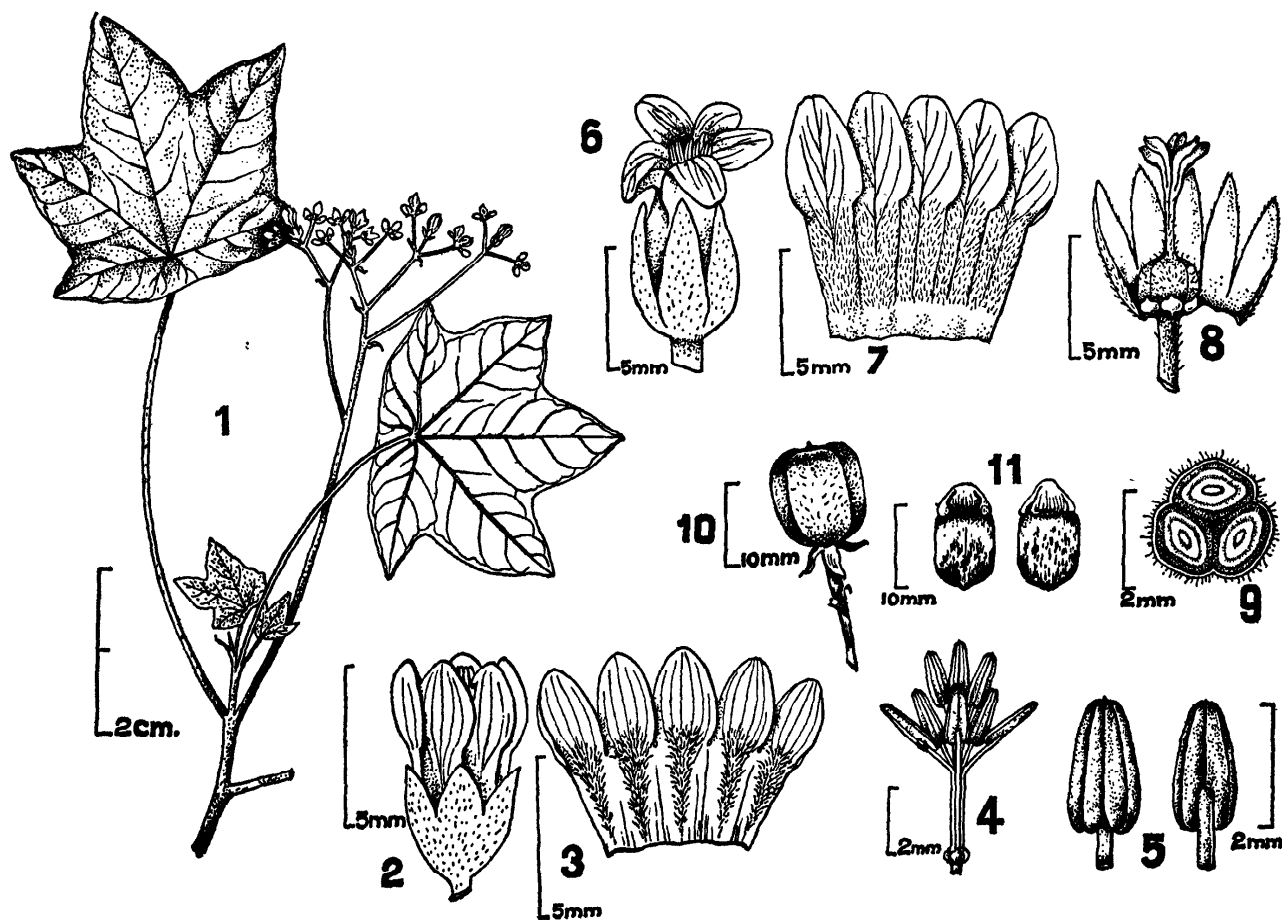
Accedit ad varietatem *villosam* sed ab ea differt ramulis et floribus plus minusve glabris, foliorum lamina palmata, 3-5 loba, lobis late ovatis acuminatis, sepalis masculinis unitis usque ad medium.

Holotypus Ramamurthy 20937 A et isotypi Ramamurthy 20937 B-E lecti 15-8-1964 in silva Melamadam, in Ramnad Dist. in ditone Madra-

sensi, paratypi Ramamurthy 25824 A-E lecti eodem loco 15-9-1965. Holotypus et paratypus Ramamurthy 25824 A positi in CAL, caeteri in MH ad Coimbatore.

***Jatropha villosa* Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.**

Allied to *J. villosa* Wight var. *villosa* but differs in having more or less glabrous branchlets and leaves; lamina palmate, 3-5 lobed; lobes broadly



*Jatropha villosa* Wight var. *ramnadensis* Ramamurthy var. nov.

Figs. 1-11: 1. Portion of a branch. 2. Male flower. 3. Corolla (Male) split open. 4. Staminal column. 5. Stamens. 6. Female flower. 7. Corolla (Female) split open. 8. Calyx split open showing gynoeceum. 9. C.S. of ovary. 10. Fruit. 11. Seeds.