

ridges emphatic towards the base, slender, fusiform, 14-25 cm long. Seeds reddish, winged.

Fls. & Frts.: April-August.

ASSAM: North Cachar Hills, on hill slopes along the Kopili river bank, vicinity of the

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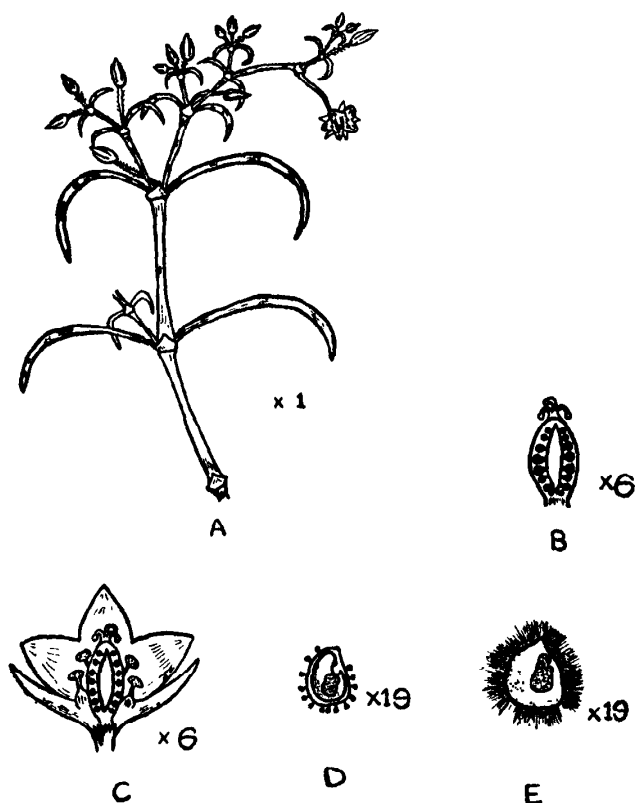
A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *SPERGULARIA RUBRA* (LINN.) J. & C. PRESL (CARYOPHYLLACEAE)

Spergularia rubra (Linn.) J. & C. Presl is a caryophyllaceous common weed of cultivated fields. It is widely distributed in North and West Asia and throughout Europe. Although it is reported from the plains of

Punjab and adjacent areas, this is the first report of its occurrence in Delhi. The correct nomenclature, concise description and ecological notes of this species are given here.

***Spergularia rubra* (Linn.) J. & C. Presl** Fl. Cechica 94. 1819. *Arenaria rubra* Linn. Sp. Pl. 423. 1753. *Spergula rubra* (Linn.) Dietr. Syn. Pl. 2: 1598. 1840; Edgew. & Hook. f. in Fl. Brit. Ind. 1: 244. 1874; Duthie, Fl. Upp. Gang. Pl. 1. 64. 1960 (repr. ed.).

Suberect or prostrate annual herb, stem slightly compressed, much branched at the base, hairy, 2-3 mm across. Leaves in opposite unequal pairs, sessile, stipulate, linear, flat, fleshy, 40-50 × 2-2.5 mm; stipules broad, scarious, silvery, connate. Inflorescence a lax cymose panicle, flowers on 5-6 mm long pedicles, 6-8.5 mm across. Sepals 5, free up to the base, lanceolate, obtuse, greenish, hairy, 5.6 × 2.5 mm. Petals 5, light pink or white, ovate, obtuse, shorter than sepals, 3.5-4.5 × 3 mm. Stamens 10, filaments dilated at base, anthers yellow. Ovary sessile, 3-carpelled, 1-locule with many ovules; styles 3. Capsule ovoid, longer than sepals; seeds dark brown, subtrigonus, granulate, glandular hairy, with slightly thickened margins, usually exalate, rarely alate. By



Spergularia rubra (Linn.) J. & C. Presl
A. Habit. B. Gynoecium. C. L. S. Flower. D, E. Seeds.

using Oosting's abundance scale (The study of plant communities, 1956) it is found that *Spergularia rubra* is infrequent on old alluvial soils and is absent on recent, low lying alluvial and residual soils.

Flowers and fruits: February-April.

Specimens examined: Delhi, Alipur, Bhat WW 382 (Herb. of S. S. College).

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EUPHORBIA AGOWENSIS HOCHST. EX BOISS.—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

Euphorbia agowensis Hochst. ex Boiss. in DC. Prodr. 15(2): 70. 1862.

A perennial herb upto 143 cm high, base fruticose, twisted (old branches erect and rigid), grooved, dichotomous or trichotomous branching, internodes long. *Leaves* 2-8.5 × 0.6-2.5 cm, puberulous when young, at length glabrous, lower leaves alternate, upper leaves opposite or ternate, oblong, lanceolate or obovate, acute, obtuse or emarginate, mucronate, entire or denticulate, base cuneate, shortly petioled; stipules glanduliformis. *Cyathia* terminal, turbinate, velvety externally and at throat, subsessile, subtended by 2 or 3 ovate or rotund leaves; glands 4 or 5, free, transversally oblong, subsessile, situated in between the cucullate and ciliate involucral lobes. *Male flowers* bracteolate; bracteoles lacerate, hairy; filaments hairy, thick, erect, jointed above the middle; anthers yellow, two celled, opening longitudinally. *Female flowers* pedicellate, stalk hairy; ovary hairy, trigonous; styles 3, hairy, free, bifid. *Capsules* trigonous, separating into one seeded cocci from a persistent axis. *Seeds* 4 mm long, oblong, compressed, longitudinally 5-ridged, wrinkled, caruncle transversely oblong.

The plant is nearer to *Euphorbia geniculata* Ort. but can be distinguished as follows:

Perennials, more than a metre high; leaves smaller, variable in shape, petioles

short; cyathia velvety; glands 4-5, transversely oblong, situated in between involucral lobes; seeds compressed, pale yellow, wrinkled..... *E. agowensis*.

Annuals, less than a metre high; leaves larger, obovate, acute, petioles long upto 4 cm; cyathia glabrous; gland one, funnel shaped, situated laterally on the involucre; seeds 3 mm long, ovate with truncate base, black, granulate..... *E. geniculata*.

Specimens examined: TAMILNADU: Nilgiri Dt., on way from Anaikatty to Kutrapatti (850 m alt.), 24-11-1970, Subbarao & Kumari 27800 (MH); Anaikatty to Kutrapatti (650 m alt.), 20-7-1972, Subbarao 40591 (MH).

Distribution: Abyssinia, Agow, 4000-5000 ft.; near sea shore of Dha'ac island in Indian Ocean.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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