Pedalium murex Linn. hitherto unrecorded medicinal plant from Uttar Pradesh

S.N. Srivastava and Gaurav Srivastava

Botany Department, D.A.V. (P.G.) College, Azamgarh-276001

Srivastava, S.N. & Srivastava, G. 2006. *Pedalium murex* Linn. hitherto unrecorded medicinal plant from Uttar Pradesh. *Geophytology* 36 (1&2): 125-126.

Key-words—Pedalium, New record, Uttar Pradesh, Phytogeography, Medicine.

PEDALIUM murex Linn. is an important medicinal plant hitherto not reported from Uttar Pradesh (Duthie 1929, Raizada 1974). It is being reported for the first time from Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The geographical limit of the district is 25° 38' to 26° 27' north latitude and 82° 40' to 83° 52' east longitude.

The genus *Pedalium* of the family Pedaliaceae is represented by only one species in India. There is no previous record from Upper Gangetic region (Maheshwari, 1963).

Pedalium murex Linn. Syst. 1123, 1759; Hook.f. in FBI.4:386.1884; Haines, Bot.Bih. & Or. Vol.II 692, Maheshwari, Flora of Delhi, 262,1963.

It is an erect, much-branched, sub-fleshy herb. Leaves opposite or the upper alternate, ovate, margin distantly crenate, 1.0 - 3.5 cm long, two dark violet coloured or else golden brown glistering glands are present at the base of petiole and pedicel. Flowers solitary-axillary yellow. Calyx 5-partite, lobes lanceolate. Corolla broad, funnel shaped, broadly tubular beyond the calyx; lobes unequal, oblique, about 2.5 cm in diameter. Stamens 5, only 4 fertile, didynamous, fifth stamen is reduced to staminode. Carpels 2, syncarpous. Ovary superior, bicarpellary bilocular, ovules 2 in each locule. Fruits drupaceous with four sharp horizontal spines.

The occurrence of this plant species in the area is rare. It has been found growing along the road-side in damp sandy soil in association with Sida acuta Burm. Polygonum plebium R. Br., Acalypha indica Linn., Boerhavia diffusa Linn. and Ammania baccifera Linn.

Fls. & Frts. : September-October

Local Name : Bada Gokhru

Locality : Azamatgarh (Azamgarh).

It is a native of India. The plants are distributed in Gujarat, Punjab, Deccan Peninsula, Ceylon, Delhi and Tropical Africa.

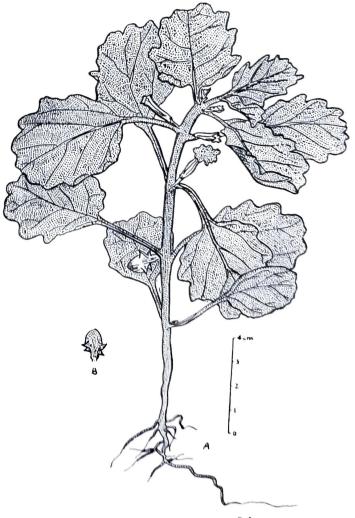


Fig. 1 Pedalium murex Linn.

The four angled spiny fruit contains a mucilaginous alkaloid, fat, resin and gum. An infusion or extract thus prepared from the fresh leaves and stems in cold water is demulscent and diuretic, useful in disorder of the urinary system, gonorrhoea, dysuria and spermatorrhea.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to the Principal, Dr. R.K. Gupta, Dr. S.C. Srivastava and Dr. S.R. Pandey for their valuable support. Thanks are also due to Dr. D.C. Saini (Scientist), Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany, Lucknow for help in various ways.

REFERENCES

- Duthie, JF 1929. Flora of Upper Gangetic Plain and of the adjacent Siwalik & Sub-Himalayan Tracts. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.
- Haines, H H 1921-1924. The Botany of Bihar and Orissa. The Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
- Hooker, J D 1882. Flora of British India L. Reeve & Co. Ashford, Kent, London.
- Maheshwari, J K 1963 Flora of Delhi. (C.S.I.R.), New Delhi.
- Raizada, M B 1976. Supplement to Duthie's Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plain and of the adjacent Siwalik & Sub-Himalayan Tracts, Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun.
- Srivastava, S N 1986. Flora of Azamgarh (Tahsils- Ghose, Sagri & Muhammadabad), Ph.D. Thesis, Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur.