

SYNEDRELLA VIALIS (LESS.) A. GRAY – A NEW RECORD TO THE FLORA OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Introduction

While carrying out botanical explorations to various localities of Kangra District during the period 2006-2007, the authors came across an interesting plant, which on perusal of relevant literature (Hooker, 1881; Chowdhery and Wadhwa, 1984; Rao *et al.*, 1988; Chowdhery in Hajra *et al.*, 1995), critical examination and matching with specimens (collection Nos. 18150, 74485 89178) in the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, (BSD) Northern Circle, Dehra Dun (Uttarakhand), revealed that the species identified as *Synedrella vialis* (Less.) A. Gray, is a new record to the flora of Himachal Pradesh.

The genus *Synedrella* Gaertn. (Asteraceae) is represented by 2 species in India namely *S. nodiflora* (L.) Gaertn. and *S. vialis* (Less.) A. Gray (Chowdhery in Hajra *et al.*, 1995). *S. vialis* has been reported for the first time from India (Maharashtra) by Ahuja and Pataskar (1969). Later on it has been reported by various workers from different parts of the country like Uttar Pradesh (Naithani and Chandra (1988) and Karnataka (Hebbar *et al.*, 2002). Very recently *S. vialis* has been located in different localities of Kangra District. The genus *Synedrella* is

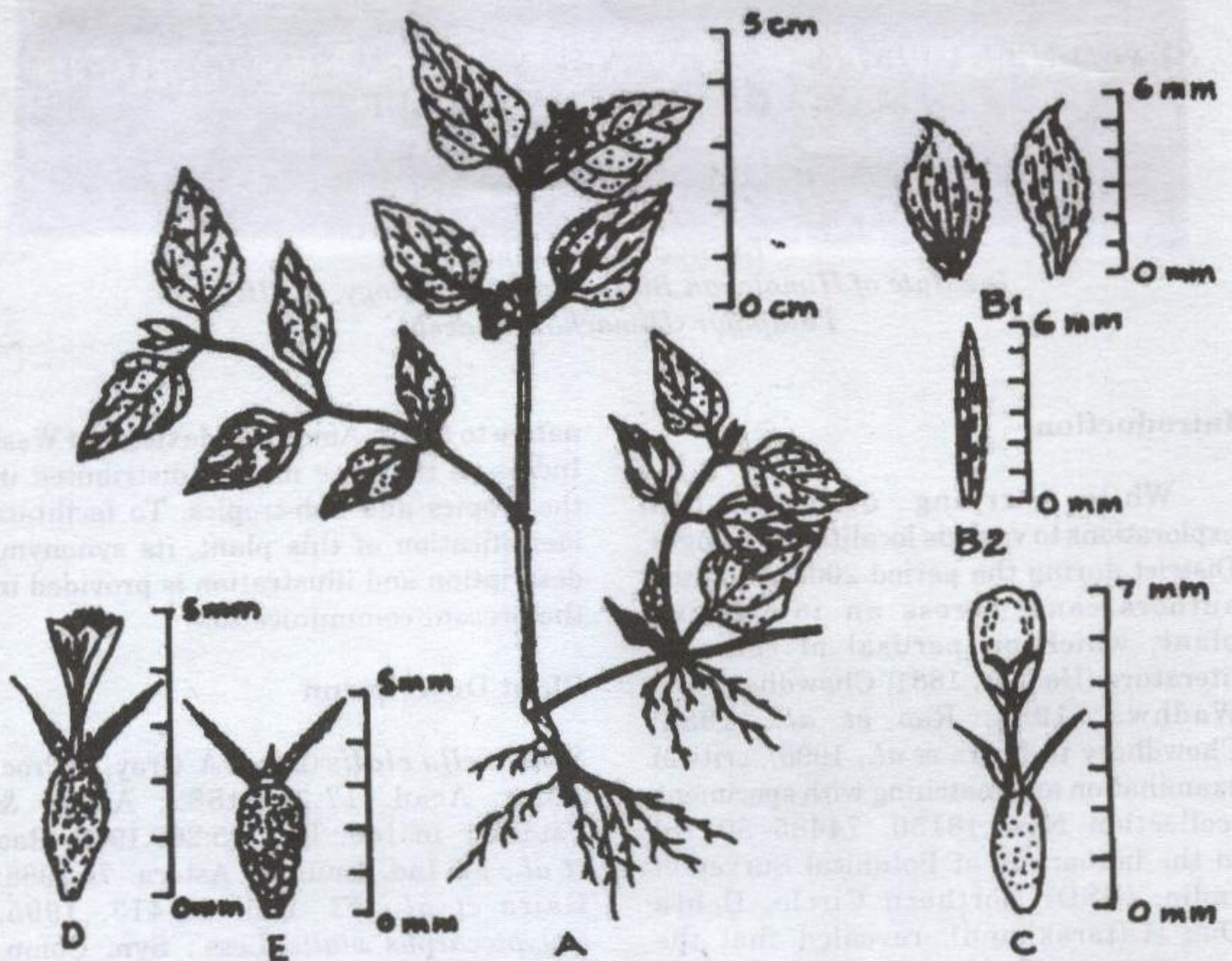
native to South America, Mexico and West Indies as they are mainly distributed in the tropics and sub-tropics. To facilitate identification of this plant, its synonym, description and illustration is provided in the present communication.

Plant Description

Synedrella vialis (Less.) A. Gray, in Proc. Amer. Acad. 17:217.1882; Ahuja & Pataskar in Ind. For. 95:267.1969; Rao *et al.*, Fl. Ind. Enum. - Astera. 74.1988; Hajra *et al.*, Fl. Ind. 12:413. 1995; *Calyptocarpus vialis* Less., Syn. Comp. 221.1832. *et.* in Linnaea 9:269. 1834; DC., Prod. 5:630. 1836 (Fig. 1).

A small, prostrate, pubescent, annual or perennial herb, rooting at nodes, branched from the base. Roots adventitious, stout. Stem terete, having nodes and internodes. Leaves opposite, ovate-lanceolate, acute, cuneate at the base, petioled, 2.5-4.5x0.5-1.5 cm, margins serrate, hairy on both surfaces. Petiole winged. Heads sessile or pedunculate, solitary or some times in groups of two. Involucral bracts 2-seriate, outer 4, 6 x 4 mm, herbaceous, ovate-lanceolate, acute, hairy, ciliated on margins; inner linear-lanceolate, paleaceous, 6 x 1 mm, ciliated on margins. Ray florets ligulate, 5-9,

Fig. 1



Synedrella vialis (Less.) A. Gray

A. Plant, B1. Outer involucre bract, B2. Inner involucre bract, C. Ray floret, D. Disc floret, E. Achene.

unisexual, female, corolla yellow 2-3 lobed, style bifid. Achenes dorsally compressed, narrowly winged, crowned with 2 spines. Disc florets hermaphrodite, tubular, limb 4-fid, style bifid. Achenes slightly compressed, narrowly winged, tubercled, shortly hairy, crowned with 2 spines or triquetrous with 3 spines.

Ecological Notes

It is considered to be a noxious or invasive weed. It is generally found along

road-sides, in open or partial shady and moist places in association with *Bidens pilosa* Linn., *Ageratum haustonianum* Miller, *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn., *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Persoon, *Xanthium indicum* Koenig, *Galinsoga parviflora* Cavanilles, *Oxalis cornuculata* Linn. and other herbaceous plants.

Specimens Examined

Palampur (1300 m) : IHBT Campus (HP), 31.3.2006 Om Parakash (PLP 9517); Bathu

(650 m) : Ranital (HP), 10.8.2007 Brij Lal (PLP 11756), and Dehra village (500 m) : Dehra (HP), 30.6.2007 Brij Lal (PLP 12134) all from District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India.
Fl. & Fr. : Most part of the year.

Distribution :

Global – South America, Mexico, West Indies and India.
 India – Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh.

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SUMMARY

Syneurella vialis (Less.) A. Gray (Asteraceae) is a new generic record to the flora of Himachal Pradesh. The plant has been collected from different localities of Kangra District, H.P. Morphological characters, habit and ecological notes of the plant are given to facilitate the identification.

Key words : *Synedrella vialis* (Less.) A. Gray (Asteraceae), New record, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.

साइनेड्रेला वायलिस (लैस.) ए.ग्रे – हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए नयी पादप प्रजाति
 बृज लाल, ओम प्रकाश, वरुण शर्मा, आर.डी. सिंह एवं एस.के. उनियाल
 सारांश

साइनेड्रेला वायलिस हिमाचल प्रदेश से कांगड़ा जनपद के विभिन्न स्थानों में पाया गया। इस प्रजाति की पहचान हेतु प्रस्तुत पत्र में इसकी वाह्य संरचना एवं पारिस्थितिक टिप्पणी दी गयी है।

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