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 (Hebbare 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. Involutural 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,
un bisexual, 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 haustorianum* Miller, *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn., *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Persoon, *Xanthium indicum* Koenig, *Galinsoga parviflora* Cavanilles, *Oxalis cornuclata* 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**: *Syneurella vialis* (Less.) A. Gray (Asteraceae), New record, Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.

**साइनेड्रेला वैयलिस (लेस.) ए.ग्रे – हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए नयी पादप प्रजाति**
बूट लाल, औष प्रकाश, वरुण शर्मा, आर.डी. सिंह एवं एस.के. उनियाल

**साइनेड्रेला वैयलिस हिमाचल प्रदेश से कांगडा जनपद के विभिन्न स्थानों में पाया गया। इस प्रजाति की पहचान हेतु प्रस्तुत पत्र में इसकी वाह्य संरचना एवं परिस्थितिक टिप्पणी दी गयी है।**

**References**


