

## ***Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown (Lamiaceae): a new record for Assam, India**

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### **Abstract**

*Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown (Lamiaceae) is reported as an addition to the flora of Assam. Detailed description along with photographs and distribution has been provided for its easy identification.

**Key words:** *Leucas biflora*, Lamiaceae, New record, Assam.

### **INTRODUCTION**

During the survey on the Angiospermic flora of Udalguri district, Assam, an interesting plant specimen was collected. After critical study of the specimen and perusal of the available literatures (Hooker 1885; Majumdar & Datta 2011; Singh 2001), it is identified as *Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown of the family Lamiaceae. Chowdhury (2005) recorded the occurrence of 6 species of *Leucas* R. Brown, viz. *L. cephalotes* Sprengel, *L. indica* (Linnaeus) R. Brown ex Vatke, *L. lanata* Benthams, *L. mollissima* Benthams, *L. plukenetii* (Roth) Sprengel and *L. zeylanica* R. Brown from Assam. But the occurrence of *Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown was not reported earlier from the state of Assam in India. So, the present collection of *Leucas biflora* from Udalguri is a new report and addition to flora of Assam, India.

*Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown, Prodr. 504. 1810; Hooker f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 683. 1885; Mukerjee in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 14(1): 180. 1940. *Phlomis biflora* Vahl, Symb. Bot. 3: 77. 1794. *Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown var. *procumbens* (Desfontaines) Gamble, Fl. Madras 2: 1151. 1924. *Leucas procumbens* Desfontaines, Mem. Mus. Par. 11: 7. t.3, f.2. 1824; Hooker f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 683. 1885. **[Plate I]**

A perennial procumbent herb with nodal roots, branches many from the woody root stock; stem quadrangular, much pubescent with deflexed hair at the ribs. Leaves 1.5 – 3 cm long, ovate or ovate-oblong, obtuse or narrowed to sub-acuminate at apex, rounded, rounded-cuneate or narrowed at base, crenate-serrate, pubescent on both the surfaces especially on the veins; petioles 0.5 – 2 cm long, pubescent. Flowers in whorls, 1 to 6 flowered, axillary; pedicels up to 2 mm long; bracts about 2mm long, corolla white, bilabiate, lower lip 4 lobed, spreading, pubescent, upper lip concave, villous outside. Calyx tube 5 – 12 mm long, tubular, campanulate, straight, 10-ribbed, hispid outside especially on the ribs, thinly pubescent within above the middle with white deciduous hairs; mouth truncate; villi absent; teeth 10, 1 – 2 mm long, sub-equal, erect, triangular-subulate, ciliate. Corolla tube as long as calyx (including teeth), annulate within; both lips almost equal, upper one bearded with white hairs. Stamens



**PLATE I: *Leucas biflora* (Vahl) R. Brown: Fig. 1. Habit; Fig. 2. Close-up of a twig showing 2-flowered inflorescence; Fig. 3. A flower; Fig. 4. Calyx; Fig. 5. Corolla with attached stamens; Fig. 6. Gynoecium on a disc.**

4, didynamous, filament hairy; anthers orange in colour; nutlets 1.5 – 2 mm long, truncate at top, irregular granulate, brown.

**Flowering period:** Throughout year.

**Exsiccatae:** Barengabari village, Udalguri district, Assam (near the Bornadi Wild Life Sanctuary), Boro, 430; dated October 23, 2010 (Guahati University Herbarium).

**Distribution:** India [Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, now in Assam], Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

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