

***Blumea malcolmii* (C.B. Clarke) Hooker f. [Asteraceae] a new record for the State of Assam, India**

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Abstract

Blumea malcolmii (C.B. Clarke) Hooker f. (Asteraceae) is one newly recorded species for North-East India collected from Assam. The species is basically endemic to India. Morphological differences with putative detailed of the species were discussed. Present paper highlighted the species along with description, phenology and distribution.

Key words: New species; *Blumea malcolmii*; Assam, New record.

INTRODUCTION

Blumea DC. (Asteraceae) is a genus of herbs, shrubs and small trees characterised by disciform capitula with outer filiform female florets and inner tubular bisexual florets, tailed anthers, and cypsela wall epidermis with one large oxalate crystal present in each cell. Many members of *Blumea* DC. (Asteraceae) is a genus of herbs, shrubs and small trees characterised by disciform capitula with outer filiform female florets and inner tubular bisexual florets, tailed anthers, and cypsela wall epidermis with one large oxalate crystal present in each cell. Many members of *Blumea* are widespread weeds commonly found in disturbed areas.

In India the genus is represented by 36 species (Hooker, 1884) and according to flora of India (Hajra *et al.* 1995) the genus is represented by 29 species. In the North-Eastern region the genus is represented by 6 species (Kanjilal *et al.* 1939). However, Barua & Nath (1998) and Choudhury (2005) recorded 10 and 11 species, respectively from Assam. During recent floristic studies, a species of *Blumea* was collected from the Tezpur area of Assam. The plant has been identified as *Blumea malcolmii* (C.B. Clarke) Hooker f. by consulting *Flora of India* (Hajra *et al.* 1995) and matching at CAL. However, there is no specimen of this species deposited in ASSAM herbarium. Identified specimen was deposited in the Herbarium of Gauhati University (GUBH) and at ASSAM. It has been observed that *Blumea malcolmii* (C.B. Clarke) Hooker f. is not reported from Assam earlier.

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TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Blumea malcolmii (C.B. Clarke) Hooker *f.*, Fl. Brit. India 3: 266. 1881; Hajra *et al.* 13: 132 – 133. 199; *Pluchea malcolmii* C.B. Clarke, Comp. Ind. 95. 1876. [Plate – I]

Herbs, stout, 30 – 60 cm high, strongly aromatic, with tap roots; stems much branched from base, erect or ascending, densely woolly with silky white hairs. Leaves obovate to oblanceolate, 1 – 12 cm x 0.7 – 5 cm, closely irregularly spinulose-serrate, obtuse, densely white woolly on both surfaces, sessile. Capitula in terminal fascicles, clustered at the ends of branches, 7 – 11 mm across; peduncle up to 2 cm long, densely woolly; involucre bracts linear, 2 – 8 mm long, acute, reflexed at maturity, densely woolly on dorsal surface; receptacle convex, alveolate, glabrous; central florets bisexual, with tubular corolla, 6.5 – 7 mm long, 5-lobed,

yellow, pubescent; marginal florets female, filiform, 5.5 – 6 mm long, 3-lobed, pubescent. Achenes brown, ribbed, silky, shining, pubescent, 1.5 – 1.8 mm x 0.5 – 0.6 mm. Pappus white, 6 – 6.7 mm long, berbellate.

Flowers & Fruits: November – February

Exiccatus: Tezpur, *Santa Paul No. 053*, dated 22.02.2012.

Distribution: India: on hill slopes, upto 1350 m in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagar Haveli, Karnataka and now from Assam. Endemic.

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