

***Blumea belangeriana* DC. (Compositae): a new plant record for North East India**

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Abstract

Blumea belangeriana DC. (Compositae) is a new plant recorded for North-East India from Assam. Detailed description, flowering and fruiting time, distribution, association and illustration of the plant has been provided for its identification.

Key words: *Blumea belangeriana* DC., New record, Assam, NE India

Members of the genus *Blumea* DC. (Compositae : Inuleae) are widespread weeds commonly found in disturbed areas. While Hooker (1882) recorded 36 species for India, Hajra *et al.* (1995) has presented a lesser number of 29 species only. In the North-Eastern region of the country the genus is represented by 6 species (Kanjilal *et al.* 1939), but for Assam Barua & Nath (1998) and Choudhury (2005) recorded only 10 and 11 species respectively.

A good number of voucher specimens were collected from different corners of Assam and were identified by matching at CAL and with the available images of herbarium specimens from online databases from K, NY, MO, MNHN and CANB. For the up-to-date nomenclature www.plantlist.org was consulted. Consultation of literature (Kanjilal *et al.* 1939; Deb 1983; Hajra *et al.* 1995; Barua & Nath 1998; Choudhury 2005) and herbarium specimens revealed that *Blumea belangeriana* DC. is not so far reported from any part of the North-Eastern India. So, the present record of the species from Assam forms its first report of occurrence from this part of the country.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Blumea belangeriana DC., Prodr. 5: 444. 1836; Hooker *f.*, Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 266. 1881; Rao in Fl. Ind. 13: 119. 1995.

Erect herbs; stems reddish-brown, simple, ± 30 – 80 cm tall, densely pilose with long white hairs towards the tip, glabrous at base. Leaves sessile or sub-sessile, obovate-oblong, 2-18 cm x 0.9-9cm, serrate, apiculate, tapering at base, strigose on upper darker surface. Heads in dense terminal and axillary corymbose panicles, sessile, 5 – 8.5 mm in diameter; involucre bracts 4-seriate; outer lanceolate-ovate, 2 mm long, hairy, pubescent, margins dirty scarios and ciliated, dentate; inner bracts, lanceolate, pubescent, 7.5 mm long, purple tipped, scarios; receptacle convex, alveolate, glabrous; outer florets filiform, pistillate, 4.5 – 6 mm long, 3 lobed, pubescent; central florets tubular, bisexual, yellow, 5 – 6.5 mm long,

pubescent, 5-lobed. Achenes terete, oblanceolate, brown, hairy, 8-ribbed, 0.9 – 1.1 x 0.5 – 0.6 mm. Pappus white, uniseriate, 4 – 5.6 mm long.

Flowering & Fruiting: November – April

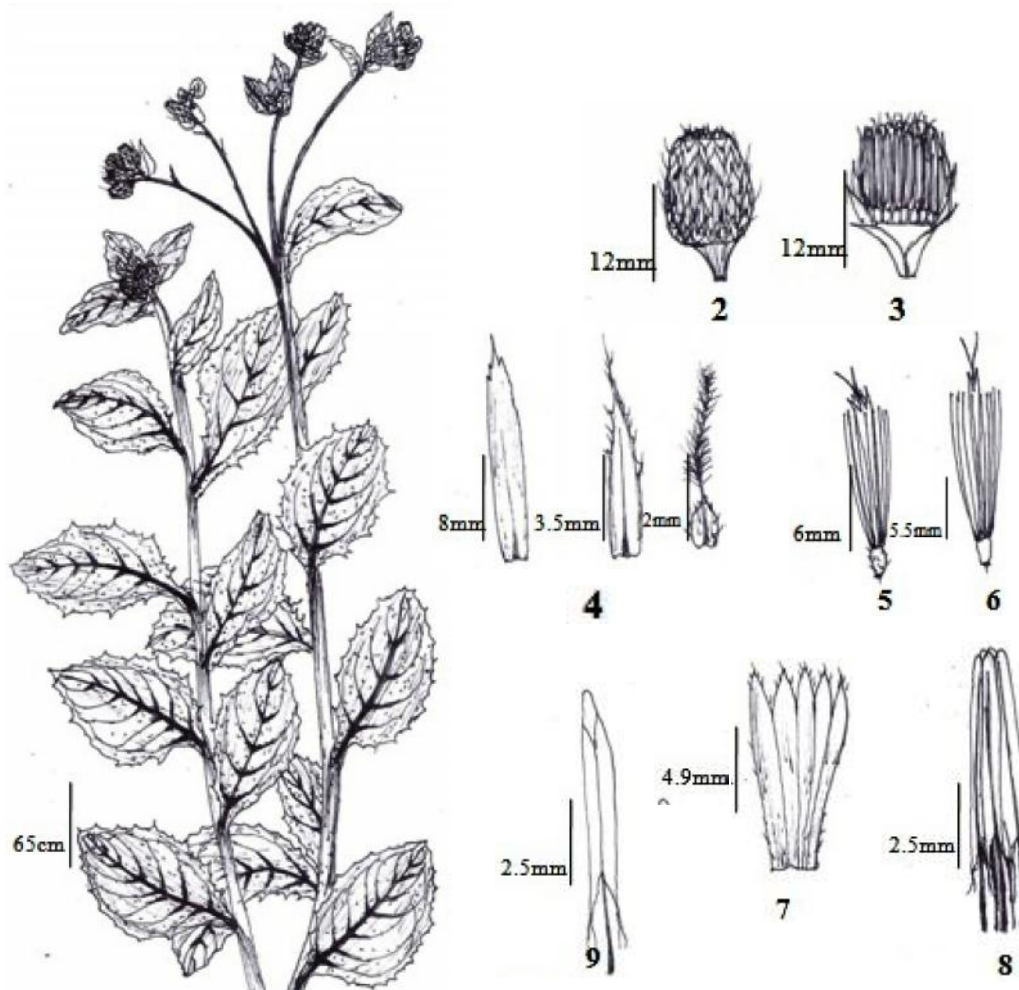


PLATE – I. *Blumea belangeriana* DC.: Flowering twig; 2. Capitulum; 3. Longitudinal section of capitulum; 4. Bracts; 5. Tubular inner floret; 6. Filiform outer floret; 7. Corolla; 8. Androecium; 9. A stamen

Association: In moist area along road side, streams, hilly slopes and forest margin. *Blumea barbata* was associated with *Cyperus rotundus* Bentham, *Blumea lacera* (Burman) DC., *Funaria* sp. and also with some other grasses and ferns.

Distribution: INDIA: Western Ghats, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Nagaland. Assam: Barpeta, Baksa, Sonitpur, Nalbari, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong.

Specimen Examined: Ed. R.F. Hohenacker, India (in), Indes orientales: prope Sirsi, 1.1848, *F. Metz*, 777 (MNHN-P-P00692154); India, Karnataka, Banglore district, 29.1.1978, *O.*

Saldhara, 0036 (CAL); Malappuram district, *Babo*, A. 37625 (CAL); Assam, Barpeta district, Bansbari, 8.5.11 *Santa Paul*, 0006; Baksa district, Subankhata, 20.5.11 *Santa Paul*, 0014; Sonitpur district, Bhalukpong, 23.02.2012, *Santa Paul*, 0052; Nalbari district, Dhomdoma, 24.2.12, *Santa Paul*, 0056; Kamrup district, Jalukbari, 15.3.12, *Santa Paul*, 0074; Karbi Anglong district, Deopani, 17.3.12 *Santa Paul*, 0075.

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