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Rumex gangotrianus — a new species of Polygonaceae from India

C.D.R.I. Communication No. 4010

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RÉSUMÉ

ASWAL, B. S. & S. K. SRIVASTAVA (1987). *Rumex gangotrianus* — une espèce nouvelle de Polygonacées d'Inde. *Candollea* 42: 389-391. En anglais, résumé français.

Une nouvelle espèce *Rumex gangotrianus* Aswal & Srivastava spec. nov. (Polygonaceae), récoltée au voisinage de Gangotri, Uttarkashi, Uttar Pradesh, Inde, est décrite et illustrée.

ABSTRACT

ASWAL, B. S. & S. K. SRIVASTAVA (1987). *Rumex gangotrianus* — a new species of Polygonaceae from India. *Candollea* 42: 389-391. In English, French abstract.

A new species *Rumex gangotrianus* Aswal & Srivastava spec. nov. (Polygonaceae) collected from the vicinity of Gangotri, Uttarkashi, Uttar Pradesh, India, is described with illustration.

During a recent plant collection tour to the upper Bhagirathi valley in Uttarkashi district, Uttar Pradesh, India, one of the authors (BSA) collected an interesting specimen of *Rumex* growing near the population of *Rumex nepalensis* on moist shady slopes. A critical study of the literature and comparison with the herbarium specimens of the known species of *Rumex* at the Indian herbaria (BSD, CAL, CDRI, DD, LWG) and at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England (K) proved it to be a hitherto unrecognized species. Hence, it is described here as a new species.

Rumex Linn. is represented by ca. 200 species in the world, distributed specially in all the temperate and some tropical countries. About 15 species are known from India, mostly from the Himalayan region.

***Rumex gangotrianus* Aswal & Srivastava spec. nov.** (Figs. 1-6).

Typus: India: Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkashi district, between Lanka and Gangotri, 2800 m, 5.6.1986, *B. S. Aswal 11370A* (holo, CDRI); *B. S. Aswal 11370B, C* (iso, CDRI).

R. nepalensis Spreng. proxime affinis, sed differt foliis basalibus permajoribus, basibus late cordatis, floribus bisexualibus, confertim dispositis in paniculis densis; tepalorum segmentis interioribus orbiculari-ovatis, reticulatim venosis; staminibus cum filamentis brevibus, antheris apicibus acutis.

This species is closely allied to *R. nepalensis* Spreng., but differs in having much larger basal leaves with broad cordate base; flowers bisexual, compactly arranged in dense panicle; tepals — inner segments orbicular-ovate, reticulately veined; stamens with short filament, anthers with acute apex.

Erect, annual herbs, ca. 65-110 cm tall. Stems stout, fistular, branched, ribbed, minutely puberulous often swollen at nodes. Leaves simple, alternate, 6-15(-32) × 2-8(-15) cm, ovate, ovate-

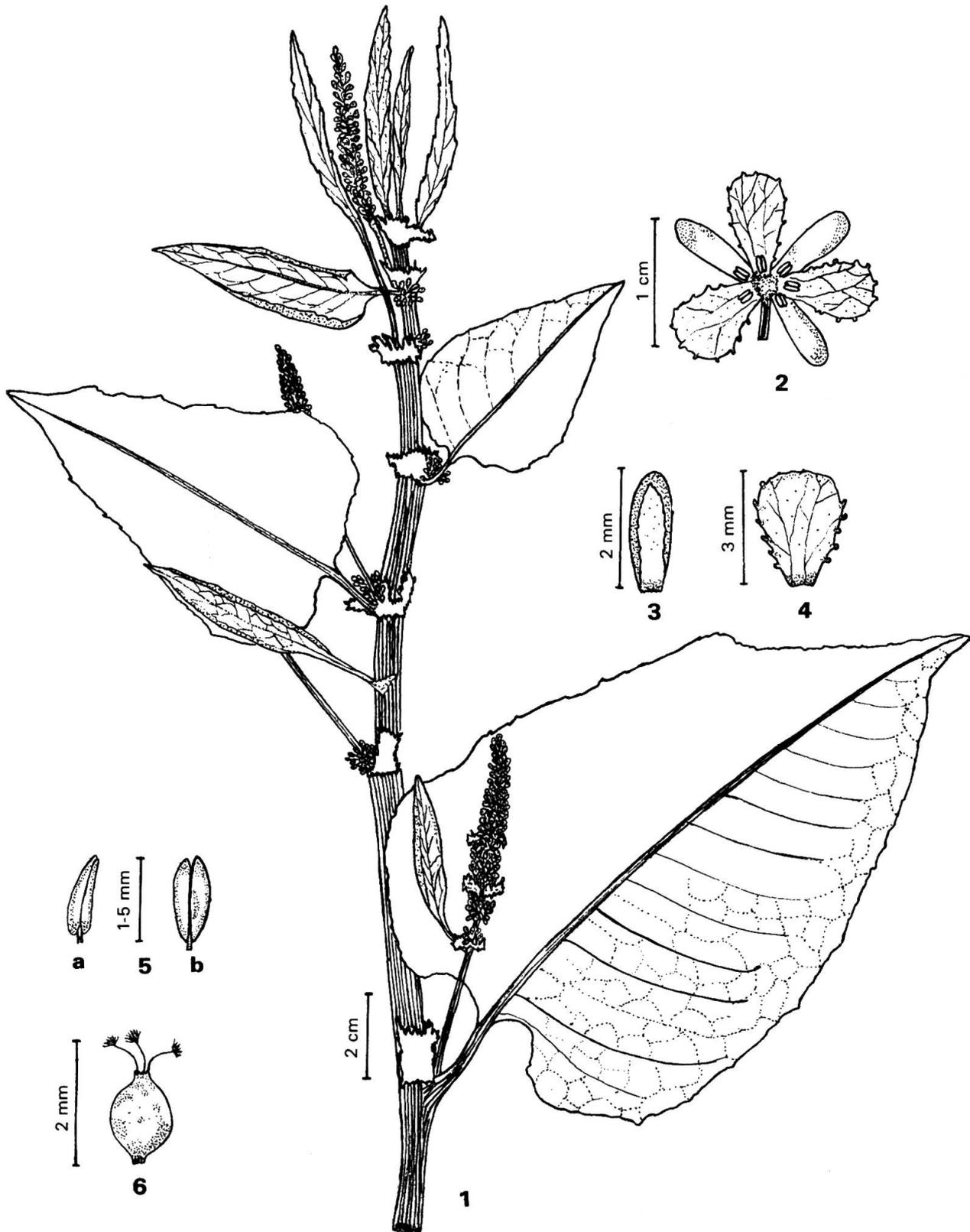


Fig. 1. — *Rumex gangotrianus* Aswal & Srivastava.

1, habit. 2, flower (cut open). 3, tepal (outer). 4, tepal (inner). 5a, stamen (lateral view). 5b, stamen (dorsal view). 6, pistil.

oblong or triangular, glabrous, apex acute to acuminate, margin entire or somewhat undulate, midrib distinct on both the surfaces, lateral veins 10-12 pairs, basal leaves long petioled much larger with broad cordate base, upper leaves short petioled; petioles 0.6-1.8 cm long, minutely puberulous; stipules membranous, fringed. Flowers 1.5 cm across, purplish green, bisexual, whorled, compactly arranged in dense panicles; pedicels 5 mm long, filiform. Perianth 6 cleft, biseriate, tepals distinct (2 whorls of 3 tepals), inner segments 3×2 mm, orbicular-ovate, reticulately veined, outer segments 2×1 mm, oblong-ovate, margin incurved. Stamens 6, each enclosed in front of each tepal, anthers oblong, 1 mm long, filament short. Pistil 2 mm long; ovary ovoid, triangular ca. 1 mm in diam.; styles 3, filiform, 0.5 mm long, stigma fimbriate.

Flowering: May-July.

Etymology: The specific epithet has been derived from the locality "Gangotri", the source of the holy river Ganga.

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