

**REDISCOVERY OF *OSBECKIA TRUNCATA* D. DON EX WIGHT & ARN.  
(MELASTOMACEAE) IN BANGLADESH**

**MOHAMMAD ZASHIM UDDIN\*, Md FAKHRUL ALAM AND MD ABUL HASSAN**

*Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh*

*Key words: Osbeckia truncata, Melastomaceae, Rediscovery, Bangladesh*

**Abstract**

*Osbeckia truncata* D. Don ex Wight & Arn., (Melastomaceae) rediscovered after more than one hundred years from Fashiakhali wildlife sanctuary of Chakaria Upazila of Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh.

In December 2010, while working in Fashiakhali Wildlife sanctuary of Chakaria Upazila of Cox's Bazar district, two woody herbs one growing on the bank of a stream and the other on a hilltop with purple to rose pink flowers were collected using standard herbarium technique (Hyland 1972 and Alexiades 1996). Later, the specimens were critically studied and identified as *Osbeckia truncata* D. Don ex Wight & Arn. (Fig. 1) (Hooker 1879, Prain 1903 and Ahmed *et al.* 2009). The species was first reported from Modhopoor (presently spelled as Madhupur), East Bengal (now Bangladesh) by Hooker (1879). Prain (1903) also mentioned its occurrence as East Bengal (without citing any specific locality). As this species was not reported from any part of Bangladesh (Ahmed *et al.* 2009, Rafiqul *et al.* 2009, Tutul *et al.* 2009, 2010, Barbhuiya and Gogoi 2010 and Uddin and Hassan 2004, 2010), it is now reported here as rediscovery in Bangladesh after more than one hundred years. This rediscovery has been confirmed with the consultation of the data base of Salar Khan Herbarium of Dhaka University, Bangladesh National Herbarium, Chittagong University Herbarium, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute Herbarium.

A short description of the species is given below based on the fresh materials and detailed studies in the laboratory.

***Osbeckia truncata*** D. Don ex Wight & Arn., Prodr. Fl. Ind. Or. : 322 (1834).

A branched woody herb, up to 35 cm tall. Stem tetra-angular, covered with hairs. Leaves simple, sessile, *ca* 2 × 1 cm to 6 × 2 cm, opposite, decussate, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, 3-nerved, hairy at both the surfaces. Inflorescence terminal cymes. Calyx tube with stalked stellate white hairs, lobes 4, free, ovate, acute. Petals 4, obcordate, *ca* 2 × 2 cm, purple to rose pink. Stamens 8, isomorphic, anther *ca* 7.15 mm long, tip long acuminate, yellow, filament 5.1 mm long, light violet. Carpel 1, style *ca* 2 cm long, stigma short, greenish, ovary 4-chambered. Fruit a capsule, occasionally 5-celled. Seeds minute, numerous, curved, pitted. Flowering and fruiting times: August to December.

*Specimen examined:* Cox's Bazar district, Chakaria Upazila, Fashiakhali Wildlife Sanctuary, 21. 11. 2010, Zashim Uddin 42 (Salar Khan Herbarium of Dhaka University).

The genus *Osbeckia* L. consists of *ca* 100 species, distributed in Tropical Africa to Australia (Airy-Shaw 1973). *Osbeckia truncata* D. Don ex Wight & Arn. is known to occur in India and Nepal (Prain 1903). In Bangladesh, the species was recorded from two spots in Fashiakhali wildlife sanctuary, Chakaria Upazila of Cox's Bazar district. One spot is on the bank of Lama chara (stream) and another one on the hilltop near Chakaria Sundarban. The occurrence of the species was found to be very low. Further exploration is needed to determine the population status of the species in the wild and in taking conservation measures *in situ*.

\*Corresponding author. <zashim07@yahoo.com>.



Fig. 1. A shoot of *Osbeckia truncata* D. Don ex Wight & Arn.

### Acknowledgement

The paper is the outcome of the project entitled “Biodiversity monitoring in selected forests of Bangladesh” funded by Arannayk Foundation Bangladesh implemented by the Wildlife Research Group, Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University. Cooperation of Forest Department during field trips is duly acknowledged.

### References

- Airy-Shaw HK 1973. Willis dictionary of flowering plants and ferns. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge. 832 pp.
- Ahmed ZU, MA Hassan, ZNT Begum, M Khondker, SMH Kabir, M Ahmad, ATA Ahmed (Eds) 2009. *Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh*. 9. Angiosperms; Dicotyledons (Magnoliaceae - Punicaceae). Asiat. Soc. Bangladesh, Dhaka. 448 pp.
- Alexiades MN (Ed.) 1996. Selected guidelines for ethno botanical research: a field manual. New York Botanical Garden, New York. 99-133 pp.
- Barbhuiya HA and Gogoi R 2010. Plant collections from Bangladesh in the herbarium at Shillong (Assam), India. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* 17(2): 141-165.
- Hooker JD 1879. *The Flora of British India*. Vol. 2. p. 514. L. Reeve & Co., Ashford, Kent.
- Hyland BPM 1972. A technique for collecting botanical specimens in rain forests. *Flora Malesiana Bulletin* 26: 2038-2040.
- Khan MS and AM Huq 2001. The vascular flora of Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary in south Chittagong, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* 8(1): 47-64.
- Khan MS, MM Rahman, AM Huq, MMK Mia and MA Hassan 1994. Assessment of biodiversity of Teknaf game reserve in Bangladesh focusing on economically and ecologically important plant species. *Bangladesh J. Plant. Taxon.* 1(1): 21-33.

- Mia MK and Khan B 1995. First list of angiospermic taxa of Bangladesh not included in Hooker's Flora of British India and Prain's Bengal Plants. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **2** (1&2): 77-82.
- Prain D 1903. *Bengal Plants.* **1**: p. 359. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.
- Rafiqul MI, MZ Uddin and MZ Hassan 2009. An assessment of the angiospermic flora of Ramgarh Upazila in Khagrachhari district, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **16**(2): 115-140.
- Rahman MO 2004. Second list of angiospermic taxa of Bangladesh not included in Hooker's Flora of British India and Prain's Bengal Plants: Series 1. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **11**(1): 25-45.
- Rahman, MO and MA Hassan 1995. Angiospermic flora of Bhawal National Park, Gazipur (Bangladesh). *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **2**(1&2): 47-79.
- Tutul E, MZ Uddin, MO Rahman and MA Hassan 2010. Angiospermic flora of Runctia Sal forest, Bangladesh. II. Magnoliopsida (Dicots). *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **17**(1): 33-53.
- Tutul E, MZ Uddin, MO Rahman and MA Hassan 2009. Angiospermic flora of Runctia Sal forest, Bangladesh. I. Liliopsida (Monocots). *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **16**(1): 83-90.
- Uddin MZ and MA Hassan 2004. *Flora of Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary.* IUCN Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 120 pp.
- Uddin MZ and MA Hassan 2010. Angiosperm diversity of Lawachara National Park (Bangladesh): a preliminary assessment. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **17**(1): 9-22.
- Uddin MZ, MA Hassan and MM Hosen 2005. A checklist of angiospermic flora of Lalmai Hills, Comilla, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **12**(2): 85-96.
- Uddin MZ, MA Hassan and MS Khan 2002. An annotated checklist of angiospermic flora of Rema-Kalenga wildlife sanctuary (Habiganj) in Bangladesh-1. Liliopsida (Monocots). *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **9**(2): 57-66.
- Uddin MZ, MA Hassan and MS Khan 2003. An annotated checklist of angiospermic flora of Rema-Kalenga wildlife sanctuary (Habiganj) in Bangladesh-11a. Magnoliopsida (Dicots). *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **10**(1): 79-94.
- Uddin MZ, MS Alam and MA Hassan 2006. A preliminary checklist of the angiospermic flora of Ghagotia Union under Kapasia Upazila in Gazipur district, Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **13**(2): 155-170.
- Uddin SB and MA Rahman 1999. Angiospermic flora of Himchari National Park, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. *J. Plant Taxon.* **6**(1): 31-68.
- Uddin SN, MS Khan, MA Hassan and MK Alam 1998. An annotated checklist of angiospermic flora of Sita Pahar at Kaptai in Bangladesh. *Bangladesh J. Plant Taxon.* **5**(1): 13-46.

*(Manuscript received on 24 April, 2011; revised on 31 May, 2011)*