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***Persicaria limbata* (Meisn.) H. Hara (Polygonaceae): An addition to flora of Allahabad District, Uttar Pradesh**

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Abstract- *Persicaria limbata* (Meisn.) H. Hara of Family Polygonaceae is a new addition to the flora of Allahabad, Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. The present paper deals with its detailed description, updated citation, phenology, habit, distribution and photographs.

Key words: *Persicaria limbata* (Meisn.) H. Hara, Polygonaceae, Flora, Allahabad district, Uttar Pradesh.

INTRODUCTION

Family polygonaceae have been explored extensively in Uttar Pradesh. This family commonly known as knotweed family or smartweed-buckwheat family. The family comprises about 1200 species of 56 genera distributed globally. Flora of British India¹ published with 96 species of 7 genera. The flora of upper gangetic plain includes 19 species of 2 genera² and supplement to Duthie's flora of upper gangatic plane³ has been published 9 species of single genera. In Family Polygonaceae in India⁴ have revealed the occurrence of 121 species and 29 varieties belonging to 12 genera. Flora of Uttar Pradesh⁵ is represented by 25 species of 6 genera and flora of Allahabad⁶ by 6 species of 3 genera. The specimen has been collected from Iradatganj Ghurpur Prayagraj (U.P.). Prayagraj district is located between 24°47'2" & 25°47'2" N latitude and 81°09' & 82°21'2" E longitude. It is identified as *Persicaria limbata* (Meisn.) H. Hara and found to be new record of Flora of Allahabad (Prayagraj) district U.P.

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MATERIALS & METHODS

Several field trips were organised for the study of family Polygonaceae in district Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh. The specimens were identified with the help of various Flora⁷ and the e-Flora of India. Localities and other necessary field information were recorded in field diary. Specimens are recorded with their name, place, date and made herbarium by standard methodology.⁸ These Herbarium specimens were deposited at Duthie Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj.

Persicaria limbata (Meisn.) H. Hara, Fl. E. Himalaya: 71. 1966. *Polygonum limbatum* Meisn. in DC., Prodr. 14(1): 123. 1856; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5:30.1886; Duthie, Fl. Upper Gangetic plain 3(1): 34. 1915.

An erect or procumbent annual herb, stems reddish-brown and green in young stage, up to 2 m or more long, sometimes rooting at the lower nodes, longitudinally striate, hollow in the lower part. Leaves 8–16 × 0.2–1.7 (3.5) cm, linear-lanceolate, acute and apiculate at the apex, narrowed to the base. Ochrea brownish, 1–1.5 cm long, glabrous, membranous, with a spreading or recurved, herbaceous, 1–7 mm long limb, ciliate at the apex and hairy outside. Flowers pedicellate, in fascicles of 2–3. Peduncles up to

8-12 cm long, hairy; bracts hairy or glabrous, with or without a ciliate margin. Perianth white-pink, pink or white, 4-5 mm long, 5-lobed, lobes 2.5-3 mm long. Stamens 7; filaments 2–2.5 mm long, filiform; anthers pink, 0.4 × 0.2 mm. Ovary 1.5 × 1.5 mm, compressed; styles 2, 1–2 mm long, united for half their length. Stigma bifid. Nut dark red-brown to black, shiny, smooth, 2.5–3 × 2.5–3 mm, convex, the persistent style base forming a beak.

Ecology: Growing in moist places, often in pond.

Flowering and fruiting: May to November Ghurpur, Prayagraj, Deepak Khare: 33204 (DUTHIE)

Type: Syntype from Senegal and Nile Delta

Distribution: Tropical Africa, South Africa, Egypt and India.

In India: Bihar, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh.

Specimen examined: Jaunpur, N.P.Singh & C.L. Malhotra: 19504 (BSD); Kannauj, B.K. Sinha: 52145 (BSA); Lucknow, J.G. Srivastava: 46981(LWG); Saharanpur, Som Dev: 3048(BSD)

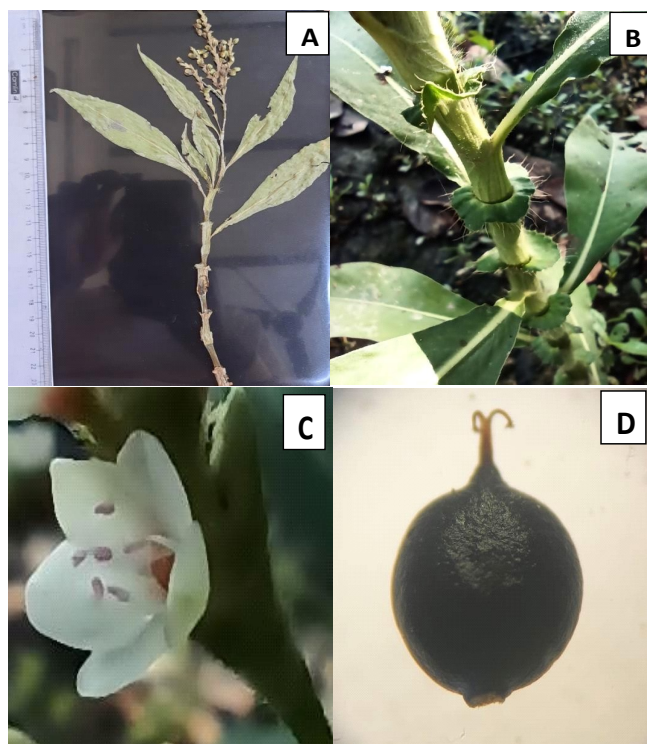


Plate: *Persicaria limbata* (Meisn.) H. Hara: A-Whole plant, B- Ochrea, C- Stamens, D-Nut with style and stigma

RESULT & DISCUSSION

During identification process recured scabrid ciliated limb are found which is characteristic feature of *Persicaria limbata*. Biconvex nuts are found. This character is mentioned in Flora of Uttar Pradesh and Flora of Madhya Pradesh.

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