



A new distributional record of *Aeginetia indica* L. in Sikkim Himalaya

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[Received 3 August, 2022; Revised 5 November, 2022; Accepted 31 December, 2022; Published 31 December, 2022]

Abstract

A new distribution record of growing *Aeginetia indica* L., one of the parasitic plants of Sikkim Himalaya is presented in this paper.

Keywords: *Aeginetia indica*, parasitic plant, Sikkim Himalaya

Introduction

Aeginetia indica L. (Orobanchaceae) is a parasitic plant on the roots and is rare in occurrence. Recently, its population is also found in the hills of Upper Dzongu, Timbung, Sikkim. In addition, the deposited herbarium of *Aeginetia indica* L. was studied in Sikkim State Forest Herbarium (SSFH) that was deposited by S.K. Mukherjee in 1935 collecting from Geysing, West Sikkim. Moreover, this species is reported from Maharashtra, Assam, Kerala in India and distributed worldwide around Taiwan, Thailand, Japan and China (Philcox, 1997; Parnell, 2001). Further, it is declared as critically endangered plant in Sri Lanka (Ekanayake et al., 2015) and completely extinct in Pakistan (MOE, 2012; powo.science.kew.org).

Material and Methods

Literature surveys were conducted comparing with the representative specimens of *Aeginetia indica* L. (Hooker, J. D. 1872-1897; Philcox, 1997; Parnell, 2001).

Results and Discussion

Aeginetia indica L. Sp. Pl. 632. 1753; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 320. 1884

DISTRIBUTION: INDIA: Maharashtra, Assam, Kerala Sikkim: Geying, Timbung, Upper Dzongu; CHINA, THAILAND, NEPAL; JAPAN; SRI LANKA.

Specimen examined: SSFH SK0002985, **Locality:** Geysing, West Sikkim., **Coll.:** S.K. Mukherjee, **Date of Collection:** 16.08.1935.

Aeginetia indica L. grows in the Sikkim Himalaya and usually find in the vegetation matrix of *Dioscorea alata* L., *Axonopus compressus* (Sw.)P.Beauv., *Eragrostis uniolooides* (Retz.) Nees ex Steud., *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott. etc. The habitat of this species is preferentially at the slopy area but not in shady areas. The height of the plant is ca. 12.5 cm, flower light red to light pinkish, calyx ca. 1 cm, corolla purple ca. 2.7 cm with fimbriate. Fruit capsule ca. 1.2 cm.

Hooker (1884) described its occurrence throughout India from the Western Himalaya in Kumaon, ascending to 3500 ft., to Nepal, Assam and the Khasia Mts. However, the recording of the collection of *Aeginetia indica* L., at the elevation of 5000 ft, is the new distribution record in the flora of Sikkim (Fig 1). Thus, the new distribution record of *Aeginetia indica* L. is presented for the taxonomic as well as documentation purposes.

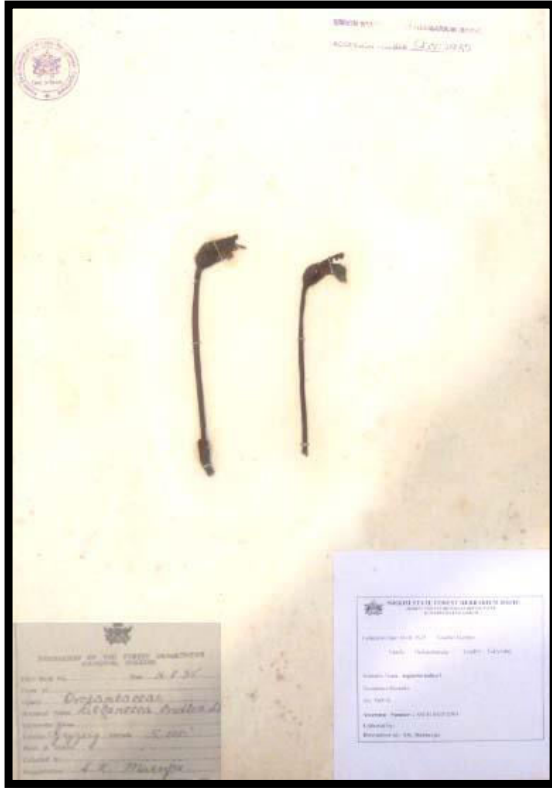


Fig 1: *Aeginetia indica* L

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