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CICERBITA FILICINA (DUTHIE EX STEBBINS) MAMGAIN & RAO (ASTERACEAE) REDISCOVERED AFTER TYPE COLLECTION FROM KUMAON, UTTARANCHAL

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While carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment studies on floristic diversity of Dhauliganga, Hydroelectric project in Dharchula Tehsil of district Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal, a perennial herb growing on grassy slopes along roadside on the left flank of river Dhauliganga between Chirkila and Sobla was collected and later identified as *Cicerbita filicina* (Duthie ex Stebbins) Mamgain & Rao (= *Lactuca filicina* Duthie ex Stebbins). *Lactuca filicina* Duthie ex Stebbins was described in 1939 based on collection from Kali valley, Kumaon, Uttar Pradesh (now in Uttaranchal). The scrutiny of the literature and herbarium studies revealed that this taxon has not been collected after type. Mamgain & Rao (1987) included *Lactuca filicina* Duthie ex Stebbins, as endangered and endemic species of Asteraceae in Red Data Book Vol. 1. Subsequently, Mamgain & Rao (1989) have transferred *Lactuca filicina* Duthie ex Stebbins to *Cicerbita* and made a new combination *Cicerbita filicina* (Duthie ex Stebbins) Mamgain & Rao. *Cicerbita filicina* (Duthie ex Stebbins) Mamgain & Rao, is an endemic and endangered species of botanical interest with peculiar habit of fern like foliages. This species is recollected from the similar habitat in adjascent areas of the type locality after the lapse of more than sixty years, inspite of the frequent intensive and extenisve surveys made to these areas during last four decades. The present locality of this species is away from all the sites of developmental activities like Dam and Power house construction. It is further mentioned here that this species does not face any threat due to any constructional activity as it is located in the civil forest adjoining the fringes of Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary.

The nomenclatural citation along with the description, exsiccata and line drawings have been provided for this endangered species to facilitate easy identification in the field.

Cicerbita filicina (Duthie ex Stebbins) Mamgain & Rao in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 86(2): 273. 1989; Mamgain & Rao in Hajra & *al.* Fl. India 12: 270. fig. 63. 1995. *Lactuca filicina* Duthie ex Stebbins in Ind. Fr. Rec. Bot. 1(6): 241. 1939; Mamgain & Rao in Nayar & Sastry, Red Data Book 1: 84. 1987. (Fig. 1)

Perennial herbs; stem 60-100 cm tall, branched, suberect or drooping, glabrous. Leaves, 15-27 cm long, pinnatifid, segments lanceolate or linear, entire or rarely toothed, 3-5 cm long. Inflorescence cymose paniculate. Heads narrowly cylindric *ca* 1.5 × 0.3 cm, erect; peduncle slender, with minute bracts. Involucral bracts in many series, imbricate; outer ovate or linear lanceolate, 1.2-1.5 × 1-1.5 mm; inner linear oblong or oblong-lanceolate, 1.1-1.4 × 1-2.5 mm. Achene blackish, oblanceolate, 5.5-6.5 × 1 mm, prominently ribbed, beaked. Pappus bristly, milky white, *ca* 5-5.5 mm long.

Ecol. : Growing on grassy slopes in moist condition at an alt. of 1950 m. Scarce.

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Fl. & Fr. : July - Aug.

Distrib. : India : Uttaranchal (Kumaon), Pithoragarh. Endemic.

Exsicc. : India : Uttaranchal, Pithoragarh, Dhauliganga valley, Chirkila - Sobla, along roadside on grassy slopes, 08.08.2004, *S.K. Srivastava* 105902 (BSD).

Notes : This is a endangered and endemic species rediscovered after its type collection from similar habitats in adjacent areas of type locality.

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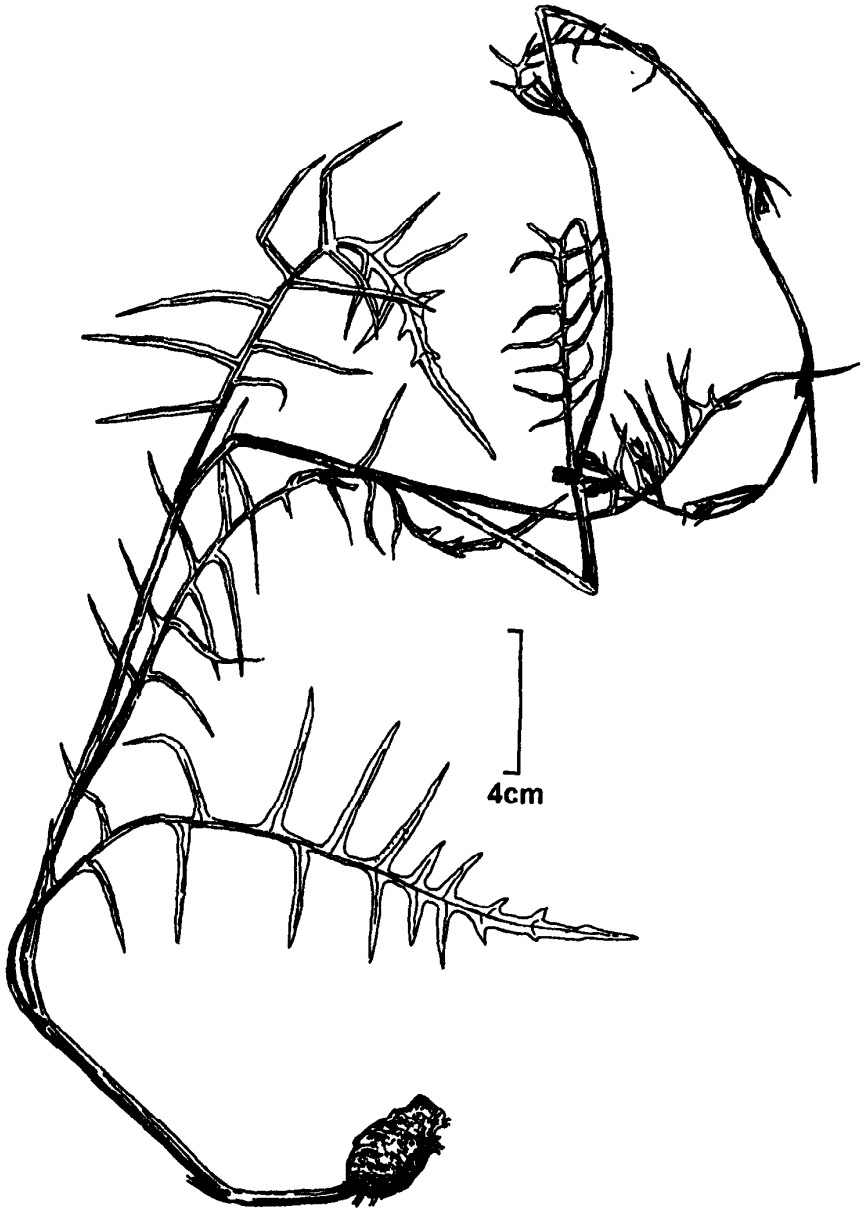


Fig. 1 : *Cicerbita filicina* (Duthie ex Stebbins) Mamgain & Rao

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