

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *MICROMERIA BIFLORA* (BUCH.-HAM. EX D. DON) BENTH. VAR. *HISPIDA* KITAMURA & MURATA (*LAMIACEAE*)  
IN WESTERN HIMALAYA

In the course of the exploration tours undertaken during 1971-1973 in Baspa valley, Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh, the author came across a few plants of *Micromeria biflora* (Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don) Benth. var. *hispida* from Shoang and near Tangling khud nala at Shongtong. The variety was first described by Kitamura and Murata in "Fauna and Flora of Nepal Himalaya" Vol. I (1955) based on a collection from Kagbeni (2900 m) in Nepal Himalaya. Subsequent to that, there appears to be no record of it from the Himalaya or from anywhere else in India. A proper scrutiny of plants in the herbaria of Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun (DD) and Botanical Survey of India, Northern Circle, Dehra Dun (BSD) and the author's recent collections from Kinnaur district have shown that this variety is not restricted to Nepal Himalaya alone and that it occurs also in Western Himalaya in Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh. The present report, besides giving additional information on distribution, is significant in that it forms the first record of this variety from India in general and Western Himalaya in particular. A careful search in the field and in herbaria elsewhere may provide more data on its distribution in other places also.

***Micromeria biflora*** (Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don)

Benth. var. ***hispida*** Kitamura & Murata in Faun. & Fl. Nepal Himal. 1: 212. 1955.

The plant has been observed mostly in dry hillslopes. Corolla is pink or pale purple with the throat nearly whitish. Leaves are densely hispid hairy on both surfaces

and in this character this variety differs from the species proper which has leaves ranging from entirely glabrous and shining to puberulous on both surfaces. The plant in general has a glaucescent look due to the hispidly hairy nature all over and this enables one to distinguish it at once from the species proper both in field and in herbarium.

*Herbarium specimens examined:* UTTAR PRADESH: Tehri Garhwal, below Deota, J. F. Duthie s.n. 19.5.1893 (DD). HIMACHAL PRADESH: Runai, 7000 ft, Sept. 1864, Herb. D. Brandis no. 3211 (DD). Urni, Kinnaur district, 2300 m, May 31, 1962, N. C. Nair 22214; Between Pangi and Jangi, Kinnaur district, 2575 m, June 6, 1962, N. C. Nair 22483; Jeori, 1475 m, June 14, 1962, N. C. Nair 22644; Shoang, hillslope near the village, Baspa valley, c. 2150 m, October 11, 1971, K. P. Janardhanan 46623; Near 14th km point, on way from Sangla to Karchham, Baspa valley, c. 1899 m, May 30, 1972, K. P. Janardhanan 47495; Shongtong, near Tangling khud nala, Kinnaur district, c. 1957 m, June 11, 1972, K. P. Janardhanan 48364 (BSD).

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