

nish with 3-13 flowers all fertile. Glumes 2 mm long 1.5 mm broad, ovate or broadly lanceolate, navicular, dark brown with central green portion, acute margins membranous. Stamens 3, filaments hyaline elongating later on, anthers exserted 1-1.1 mm long, acute, basifixed, dehiscent longitudinally, yellow. Ovary linearly obovoid 0.5-0.8 mm long, style double the size of ovary with swollen base; stigma trifid, branches linear, exserted. Bristles 2 rarely 3-4, shorter or equalling ovary, minutely retroserate. Nut 0.7-0.9 mm long obovoid nearly terete, rarely trigonous, whitish with a number of longitudinal ribs and minutely pitted. *Flowers and fruits.* July-August.

Common on the margins of rice fields, rarely on muddy banks and wet places.

Specimens examined. Verinag (Kashmir) rice fields AMK 710, Ugjan Dialgam (Kashmir) AMK 1157.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR,
SRINAGAR, 190 006,
September 4, 1975.

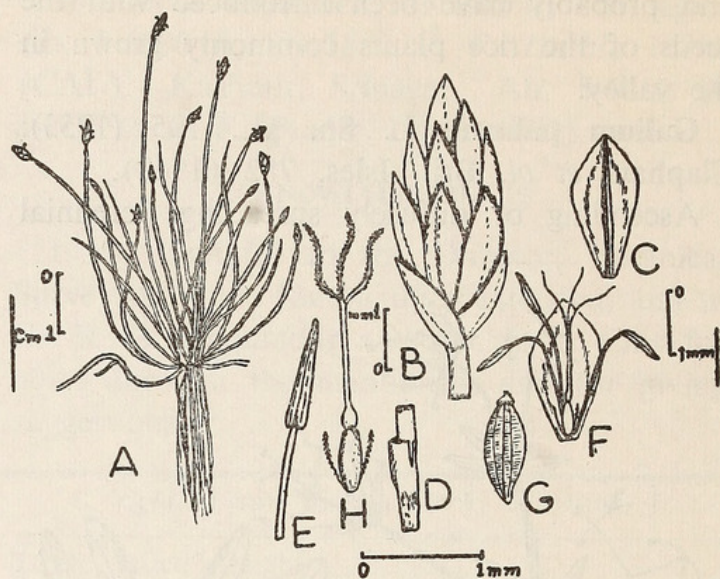


Fig. 2. *Eleocharis acicularis* (L.) Roem et Schult. A. Plant; B. Spike; C. Glume; D. Stem with basal sheath; E. Stamen; F. Flower; G. Nut; H. Carpel with two bristles.

A. MAJEED KAK
G. N. JAVEID

38. ON THE IDENTITY OF *ADIANTUM LYRATUM* BLANCO

The East Asiatic *Adiantum lyratum* was described by Blanco (Fl. Filip., 1837) based on specimens from Mandaloyon, near Manila. Christensen (Ind. Fil. 1:665; 1906) expressed the opinion that *A. lyratum* Blanco and *A. caudatum* Linn. are conspecific and this opinion seems to have been prevailing all along. In Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, Howrah, India (CAL) there is a topotype sheet of *A. lyratum* Blanco collected by Merrill (Species Blancoanae No. 284). Merrill also considered *A. lyratum* Blanco and *A. caudatum* Linn. to

be conspecific. This is clearly evident from the annotation on the printed label on the sheet which reads: "There is no doubt whatever as to the identity of Blanco's species with *Adiantum caudatum* Linn., which is very common in the country about Manila." The question arises as to whether the above two names are conspecific or not. On a critical examination of the specimens of *Adiantum* housed in CAL we have concluded that *A. lyratum* Blanco and *A. caudatum* Linn. are distinct species. The two species can be easily

separated on the basis of the following key.

Pinnae strongly laciniate, lower surface provided only with long, pluricellular ferruginous hairs

..... *A. lyratum*

Pinnae not strongly laciniate, lower surface provided with hamate and pluricellular ferruginous hairs

..... *A. caudatum*

As the description given by Blanco is very brief a full description of the taxon is provided below.

Adiantum lyratum Blanco, Fl. Filip. 832, 1837; (ed. 2), 575, 1845; (ed. 3) 3:250, 1879.

Rhizome short, erect, scaly; scale brown, lanceolate, margin of the scale entire and hyaline; stipe hirsute throughout, 4-6 cm long, dark brown, cylindrical. Frond simply pinnate, oblong linear, apex proliferous. Rachis hirsute throughout with ferruginous, pluricellular hairs, 12-25 cm in length, brown to deep

brown, glossy. Pinnae largest towards the middle, 0.4 to 0.5 cm broad and 1.4 to 1.5 cm long, subsessile, deeply laciniate, close, strongly striate, trapeziform, apex rounded, lower margin straight, 4-5 times lobed, sinus deep, each lobe again lobed slightly; both the surfaces provided with long, ferruginous, pluricellular hairs either scattered or densely, the fertile reflexed tips hairy; venation strictly dichotomous, veins keeled on the lower surface. Sori on each secondary lobe. Spores deep brown, tetrahedral.

Specimens examined. Mandaloyan (Manila), Rizal province Luzon, Philippense, *Merrill* species Blancoanae 284 (Acc. No. 6218), August 1910, (CAL); Luzon Central, Manila, Philippense, *A. Loher* 1226 (Acc. No. 6219), August 1910, (CAL).

CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM,
INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN,
SIBPUR, HOWRAH, 3.
September 23, 1975.

N. C. NAIR
S. R. GHOSH

39. *IPOMOEA LEARI* PAXT.—A NATURALISED PLANT OF INDIA

Ipomoea leari Paxt. is known as a beautiful introduced garden climber in India. The species was named after J. G. Lear who in 1839 sent the seeds of the plant from Sri Lanka to Knight's Nursery in England. It is not however a Sri Lanka species, but probably a native of Buenos Aires, S. America.

Recently we got an opportunity to observe this plant in a naturalised condition in Darjeeling on the open roadside towards Kurseong, while exploring that area in May, 1966. Our colleague Dr N. C. Mazumder had also collected the species from a wild area of Sikkim in 1968. We have come across some old herbarium material of the species in the

Central National Herbarium (CAL) which gives new light on its distributional record. On the basis of the collection data available so far in India, the species seems widely distributed in Darjeeling (W. Bengal), Gauhati (Assam), Monghyr (Bihar), Patiala (Punjab), Singtam (Sikkim) India and Singapore.

Regional floras of India list *I. leari* Paxt. as a tropical American plant often cultivated in this country. For its correct identity a short description is given below.

Ipomoea leari Paxt. Mag. Bot. 6:267. 1839; Trimen, Hand Book. Fl. Ceylon 3:213. 1895; Prain, Bengal Pls. 2:734. 1903; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa 4:594. 1922; Ridley, Fl. Malay



Nair, N C and Ghosh, S R. 1977. "On the Identity of *Adiantum lyratum*." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 74, 210–211.

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