

## Short Communication

### A NEW ANGIOSPERMIC PLANT RECORDED FROM BANGLADESH ——*MICROCOCCA MERCURIALIS* (LINN.) BENTH

*Micrococca mercurialis* (Linn.) Benth. (Euphorbiaceae) cited as *Caloxylon mercurialis* Thwaites by Hooker (1887) was reported by the same author as occurring at Mongir of Behar, the Deccan Peninsula, Burma and Ceylon. It is distributed in Arabia and tropical Africa. Prain (1903) reported it from Behar. This species has recently been collected from Chittagong district. In the various floristic works by Heining (1925), Raizada (1941), Datta and Mitra (1953), Sinclair (1955) and Khan and Banu (1972) the species has not been recorded from the region now under Bangladesh.

The specimen was identified and matched with the materials at the herbarium of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U. K.

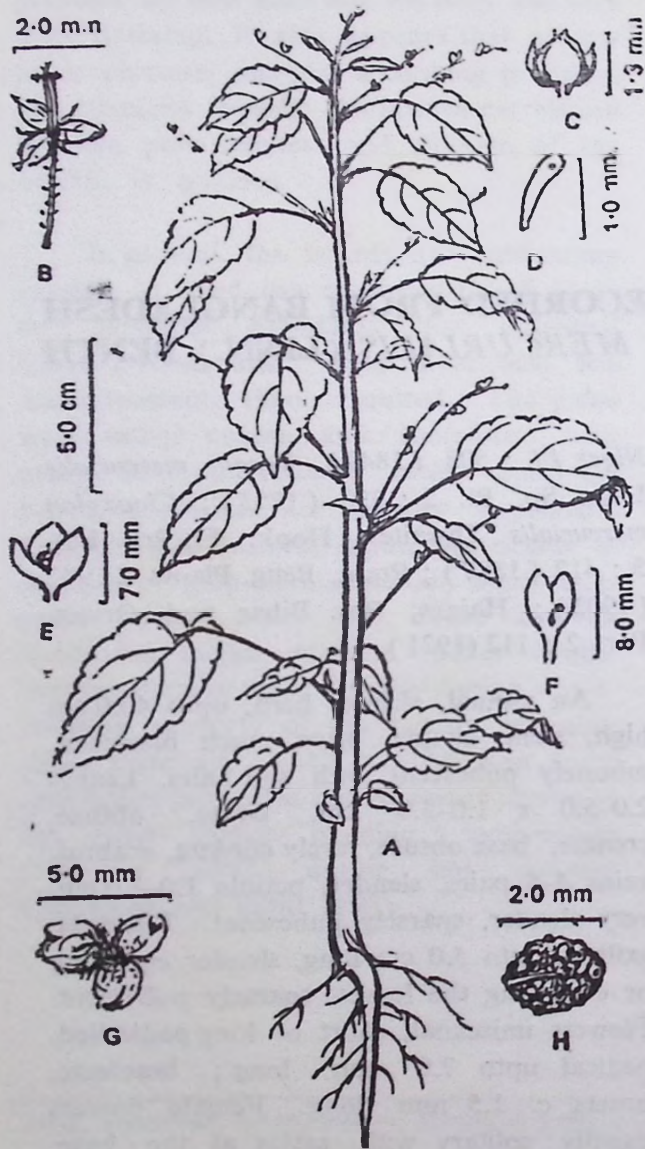
The following are the detailed taxonomic notes on the species based on the Bangladesh material.

*Micrococca mercurialis* (Linn.) Benth. in Hook.

*Niger Fl.* : 503 (1849). *Tragia mercurialis* Linn. Sp. Pl. 2 : 980 (1753); *Claoxylon mercurialis* Thwaites, Hook. Fl. Brit. Ind. 5 : 412 (1887); Prain, Beng. Plants 2 : 947 (1903); Haines, Bot. Bihar and Orissa, Part 2 : 112 (1921)

An annual, slender herb, upto 40.0 cm high, stem, simple, often much branched, minutely pubescent with soft hairs. Leaves 2.0–5.0 x 1.0–3.0 cm, ovate, obtuse, crenate, base obtuse, rarely cordate, scabrid, veins 4–5 pairs, slender, petiole 1.0–2.0 cm, very slender, sparsely pubescent. Racemes, axillary upto 5.0 cm long, slender, equalling or exceeding the leaves, sparsely pubescent. Flowers unisexual, short or long pedicelled, pedicel upto 7.0 mm long; bracteate, bracts c. 1.5 mm long. Female flowers usually solitary with males at the base. Male flowers green, perianths 3, elliptic, c. 15 mm long; stamens 3, c. 8.0 mm long, filaments free, anthers erect, cells connate, not confluent, staminodes 3, brush like. Female flowers c. 20 mm in diameter,

perianths 3, ovate, c. 1.0 mm long ; 3 petal like scales alternate with the perianth ; ovary hirsute with linear scale attached to the ovary, stigma 3-lobed, fimbriate. Capsule 4.0-6.0 mm in diameter, globose, glabrous



#### LEGEND

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|-------------------------------|------------------|
| A. Habit sketch               | B. Female flower |
| C. Young fruit                | D. Staminode     |
| E. Male flower                | F. Stamen        |
| G. Mature fruit ( dehisced ). |                  |
| H. Seed.                      |                  |

or sparsely hairy, tridymous, 2-valved cocci. Seeds c. 2.0 mm long, broad foveolate. Flowering time June-July. Weed of road side.

**Specimens examined :** Chittagong district, near Chittagong stadium, 12. 7. 1979, M. K. Alam 3308. The specimens are conserved at the herbarium of the Forest Research Institute, Chittagong.

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