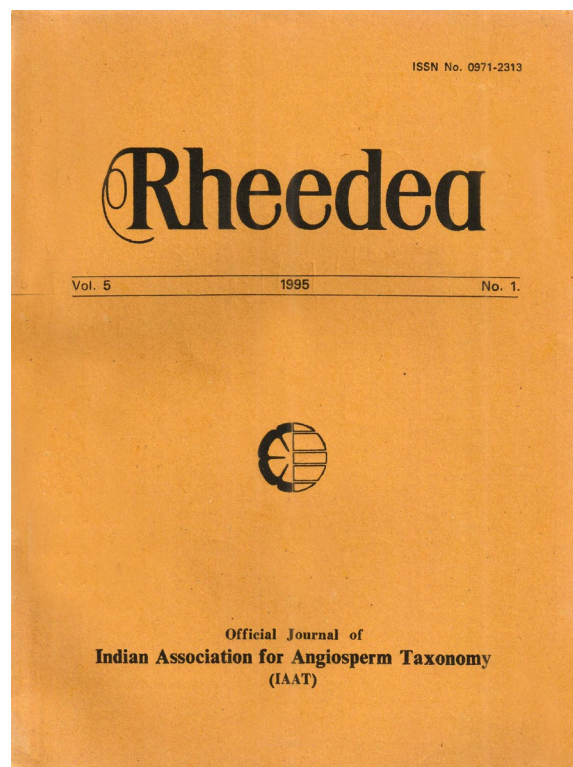




Bidens cynapiifolia H.B.K. (Asteraceae) - a new record for Peninsular India

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***Bidens cynapiifolia* H. B. K. (Asteraceae) - a new
record for Peninsular India**

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Abstract

Bidens cynapiifolia H. B. K., so far known only from central and South America, the Caribbean and the north western Himalayas, is reported for the first time from Peninsular India.

Bidens cynapiifolia H. B. K., a native of south and central America and the Caribbean was, reportedly, first collected from the Indian subcontinent by Thomson from the north western Himalayas. Unfortunately, Thomson has not mentioned the exact locality of his collection (Sherff, 1937) and hence, there is no way to determine whether the report pertains to present day India. In any case, there is no report of the species in India in any of the earlier Floras (Clarke, 1876, Hooker, 1881). Nor is it mentioned in the subsequent publications, including the most recent, check list of Indian Compositae (Rao et. al. 1988).

Interestingly, we collected this species from Manchippa forests of Nizamabad district during the course of our studies on Compositae of Andhra Pradesh, where it was found growing in sizeable populations. In the background mentioned above this forms probably, the first record of this species in India, or certainly at least Peninsular India. The species is described and illustrated here.

***Bidens cynapiifolia* H. B. K. Nov. Gen. et. Sp. pl. 4: 185. (235). pl. cxiii, 1820;**
Sherff, Field Mus. Nat. Hist. 468 (plate cxiii): xvi. 1937.

Bidens bipinnata var. *cynapiifolia* (H. B. & K.) Gomez, Ann. Hist. Nat. Marid 19:
275. 1890.

Erect herb, to 1 m. Stem branched, quadrangular, striated, glabrous; internodes to 17 cm long. Leaves uni- or bipinnately compound, opposite; petiole to 3 cm; pinnae opposite; leaflets 3—7, ovate deltoid, to lanceolate, acute or

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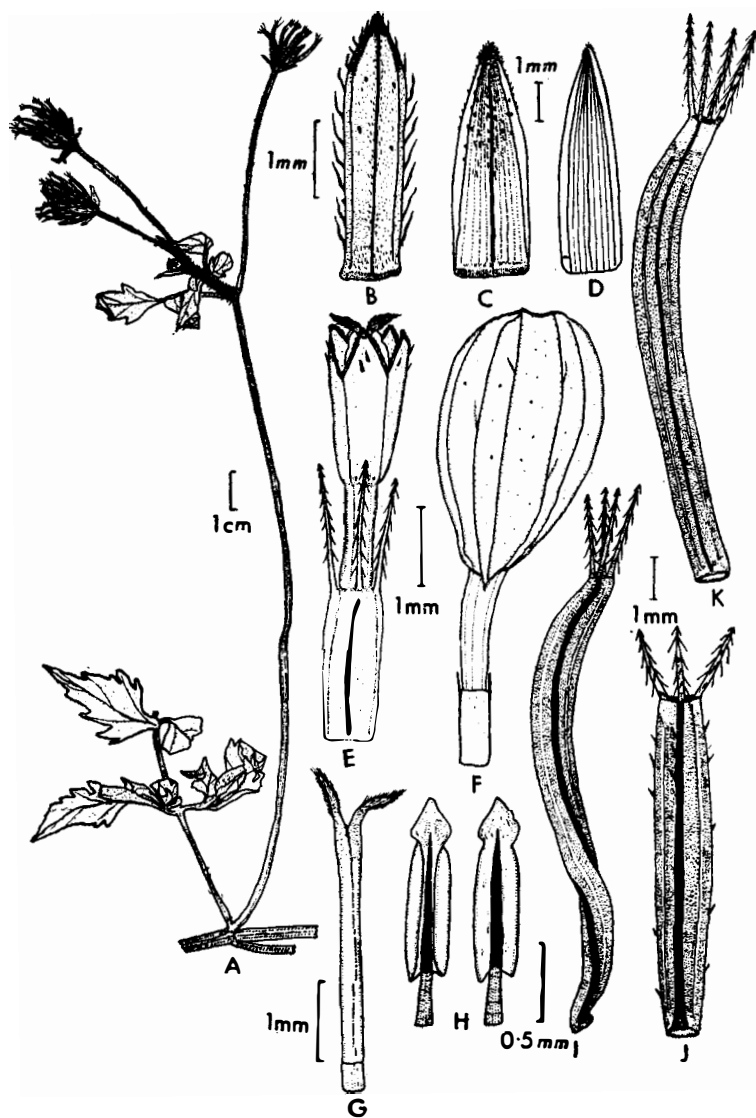


Fig. 1. *Bidens cynapiifolia* H. B. K. A. Twig, B. Outer involucre bract, C. Inner involucre bract, D. Palea, E. Bisexual floret, F. Ray floret, G. Style, H. Anthers, I. J. & K. Achenes with pappus.

Bidens cynapiifolia H. B. K. (Asteraceae)

subacuminate, 1.5—3 × 1—2 cm coarsely dentate. Heads 1—3, terminal, heterochronous, heterogamous, rayed; peduncle to 8 cm in fruits, glabrous. Phyllaries 2 seriate, outer shorter than inner, outer ones linear to linear-lanceolate, 3—4 mm, 3-veined, sparsely glandular and puberulous on dorsal side, margins ciliate with long multicellular hairs, acute; inner ovate-lanceolate, obtuse at tip, 6 mm long one-veined with many parallel brown striations, glandular and puberulous on dorsal side, margins broadly scarious, ciliate towards apex. Receptacle 3—4 mm across, paleaceous. Palea oblong-elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, acute, 6 mm, sparsely glandular on dorsal side, margins scarious, entire. Ray florets usually 3, white, 5 mm, tube 1.5 mm, glabrous; ligule obovate-elliptic, 3.5 mm, 5-veined sparsely hairy on dorsal side, 2-dentate at apex. Bisexual florets 3.5 mm, tube 1.5 mm, glabrous; limb 2 mm, sparsely glandular hairy, 5-lobed; lobes ovate-triangular, subacute. Stamens 5, slightly exerted; anthers linear-oblongs 1.5 mm; hood, ovate, subacute, base sagittately auricled; auricles blunt. Style 3.5 mm, exerted; branches slender, hairy, acute. Ovary oblong, 2 mm, 4-ribbed glabrous. Pappus of 3—4 retrorsely barbellate awns, 1.5—2.5 mm. Ray achenes sterile. Disk achenes fertile, 9—13 mm long, curved or twisted, a few marginal ones hispidulous, 4 ribbed glabrous.

Ecology: Near and around streams, and forest edges. Not common.

Flowering: October - January.

Note: Sherff (l.c) has recognised three varieties in this species, of which our material, with its bypinnate leaves and curved, falcate achenes belong to var. *Cynapiifolia*.

Specimens examined: Manchippa RF, CPR 14499, TP & BR 6033.

Acknowledgements

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