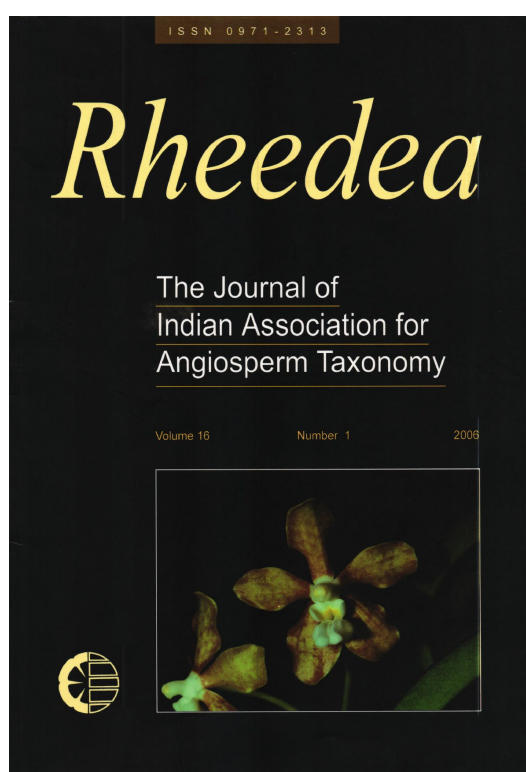




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Shih and *Lactuca decipiens* C.B. Clarke (Asteraceae):  
New Records for West Bengal

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## *Hippolytia gossypina* (Hook. f. & Thoms. ex C. B. Clarke) Shih and *Lactuca decipiens* C. B. Clarke (Asteraceae): New Records for West Bengal

### Abstract

*Hippolytia gossypina* (Hook. f. & Thoms. ex C. B. Clarke) Shih and *Lactuca decipiens* C. B. Clarke are reported for the first time from West Bengal.

Keywords: *Hippolytia gossypina*, *Lactuca decipiens*, *L. decipiens* var. *multifida*, Darjeeling District

### Introduction

We report *Hippolytia gossypina* (Hook. f. & Thoms. ex C. B. Clarke) Shih, *Lactuca decipiens* C. B. Clarke and *L. decipiens* var. *multifida* Hook. f. (Asteraceae) from Darjeeling district of West Bengal based on old collections housed at CAL. These taxa are new records for West Bengal.

*Hippolytia gossypina* was earlier reported from Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim, and *Lactuca decipiens* C. B. Clarke and *L. decipiens* var. *multifida* Hook. f. from the West Himalayas.

***Hippolytia gossypina*** (Hook. f. & Thoms. ex C. B. Clarke) C. Shih in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 17: 67. 1979; Grierson & Springate in Grierson & Long Fl. Bhutan 2 (3): 1550. 2001. *Tanacetum gossypinum* Hook. f. & Thoms. ex C. B. Clarke, Comp. Ind. 154. 1876; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 321. 1881; Naithani in Fl. India 12: 63. 1995. *Chrysanthemum gossypinum* (Hook. f. & Thomson ex C. B. Clarke) Kitam. in Acta Phyto. Geobot. 23: 74. 1968.

*Densely tufted cushion plants*, 4-10 cm tall; white to pale brown, softly woolly; stem short, densely clothed with short, silky, imbricating, c. 3 mm long leaves; flowering shoots 2.5-5 cm long, stout, simple, densely leafy; rootstock woody; leafy shoots short, densely compacted with short, quadrate silky, most densely imbricating leaves. *Leaves* inconspicuously petiolate, cuneiform, 6-8 mm long, 3-fid, appressed and more or less scarious below, lobes usually oblong and obtuse; leaf blade spatulate, white or grey-white, both surfaces densely long lanose, apex truncate or rounded, 3-6 divided; leaves of flowering stem stout, simple, dense, spreading from base. *Capitula* in rounded, terminal, dense woolly clusters, c. 10, 2.5-6 mm in diam. at apices of branches; involucre cuneate, c. 6 mm in diam; involucre bracts linear-oblong with scarious purple

margins, in 3 rows, hairy; receptacle hemispheric, naked; outer florets absent or fertile, female, 1-seriate; disc florets hermaphrodite, fertile, ca 4 mm long, including the achenes, tube cylindrical; limb 5-fid. *Achenes* 2 mm, narrowly obovoid; pappus absent.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: August-October.

*Habitat* : Deserts, alpine gravel heaps, exposed rocks at mountain summits; 4300-5400 m.

*Distribution*: India : (Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal), Nepal and Bhutan.

*Specimen Examined*: **West Bengal**, Darjeeling, Phaloot, 4340 m., S. Kurz s.n. (CAL).

***Lactuca decipiens*** C. B. Clarke, Comp. Ind. 266. 1876; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 407. 1881; Mangain & Rao in Fl. India 12: 288. 1995. *Cicerbita decipiens* (C. B. Clarke) Beauv. in Bull. Soc. Bot. Geneve, Ser. 2, 2: 127. 1910.

*Perennial herbs*; stem 30-80 cm high, erect, paniculately branched above. *Leaves* entire, pinnatifid or slightly lobed, 7-14 x 2.5-5 cm, glaucous, pubescent; lower leaves often with backward pointing lobes; upper middle with long, winged, dilated and auricled petiole at base; petiole 0.5-7 cm long; uppermost oblanceolate; margins serrate. *Inflorescence* terminal panicle; heads cylindrical, 1.2-1.8 x 0.3-0.4 cm; peduncle slender, glabrous, drooping; outer involucre bracts oblong-ovate, 4-6.5 x 1.5-2.5 mm, unequal; inner linear-oblong or linear-lanceolate, 12-14 x 2.5-3 mm; ligules whitish pink; corolla bilaterally symmetric, slender and flat, 5-toothed; style slender, purplish; stigmatic branches purplish. *Achenes* pale brown or dark brown, 5-6.6 mm long, much compressed, hairy towards margins, rugose, stoutly beaked with one strong median rib; pappus dirty white, 4-5 mm long, simple.

### Key to varieties

- 1a. Leaves entire or slightly lobed; petiole 0.5-2.4 cm long; achenes with brown and stout beak..... var. **decipiens**
- 1b. Leaves all pinnatifid; petiole 2.5-7 cm long; achenes with white beak ..... var. **multifida**

### var. **decipiens**

*Flowering & Fruiting*: July – November.

*Habitat*: Open moist shady slopes in temperate broad-leaved forests.

*Distribution*: India, (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal), Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal.

*Specimen Examined*: West Bengal, Darjeeling, between Sandakphu and Phallut, 3,860 m, 19 October 1904, *I.H. Burkill* 25227 (CAL).

var. **multifida** Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 407. 1881; Mangain & Rao in Fl. India 12: 288. 1995.

*Flowering & Fruiting*: July – November.

*Distribution*: India (Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal), endemic.

*Specimen Examined*: West Bengal, Darjeeling, East of Phallut, c. 3,330m., 2 October 1904, *I.H. Burkill* 25349 (CAL).

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