

New addition of *Sida spinosa* L. (Malvaceae) to the flora of Nepal

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The genus *Sida* L. (Malvaceae) is comprised of approximately 200 species distributed from tropical to subtropical region of the world (Paul, 1993). Up to five species (*S. acuta*, *S. cordata*, *S. cordifolia*, *S. mysorensis* and *S. rhombifolia*) are reported from Nepal (Whitemore, 1979; Press *et al.*, 2000; Bista *et al.*, 2001). During the course of plant collection this herbarium specimen was collected by P. P. Kurmi from Udayapur VDC, Udayapur, Kapilbastu District, Central Nepal at 150 m asl. During the identification this specimen did not match with any species of *Sida* already reported from Nepal. After the detailed study of specimens and available literatures (Paul, 1993), it has been identified as *Sida spinosa* L., which is a new addition to the flora of Nepal (Fig 1). The species is distinguished from others by its “stems with 1-2 spiny emergences at the base of petioles; mericarps with two divergent apical awns”. The herbarium specimens are housed at National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories (KATH), Department of Plant Resources, Kathmandu, Nepal.

minute stellate and scattered simple hairs outside, glabrous inside except for apical margins. Schizocarps enclosed within calyx; mericarps 5, 2-3 mm long, trigonous with two divergent, 1-2 mm long awns, apex of mericarps and awns stellate-hairy, dorsal portion with prominent reticulation (Fig 2 and 3). Seeds 1-2 mm long, slightly trigonous, glabrous, brownish-black.

Distribution: India, Nepal.

Ecology: As a weed in Rahar / Arhar (*Cajanus cajan*) field. Generally growing on open and dry places.

Flowering and fruiting: December - May.

Local Name: Balu / Gulsakaari (बालु र गुल्सकारी).

Sanskrit Name: Mahabala (महाबला)

English Name: Prickly sida

Specimen examined: Central Nepal: Kapilbastu District, Udayapur VDC, Udayapur, 150 m asl. 2010.4.18, P. P. Kurmi 21(KATH).

Description of the species

Sida spinosa L. Sp. Pl. 638.1753; Masters in Fl. Brit. India 1: 323. 1874.

Annual or perennial, erect or diffuse herbs or under shrubs, up to 125 cm high; stems with 1-2 spiny emergences at the base of petioles; stems, petioles and pedicels cinereous with minute stellate hairs. Leaves 6-30 x 3-16 mm, ovate to oblong, acute rounded or truncate at base and apex, serrate, 3-5 nerved at base, stellate-pubescent on both surfaces, sometimes glabrescent above; petioles 2-15 mm long; stipules 1-2.5 mm long, linear, hairy. Flowers axillary, solitary or 2-3 clusters; pedicels 2-11 mm long, accrescent up to 5 mm, jointed above the middle. Calyx 3-5 mm across, campanulate, lobes free above the middle, 1-2 x 1.5-2 mm, triangular adnate to acuminate with a prominent midvein, cinereous with



Fig 1: *Sida spinosa* L.

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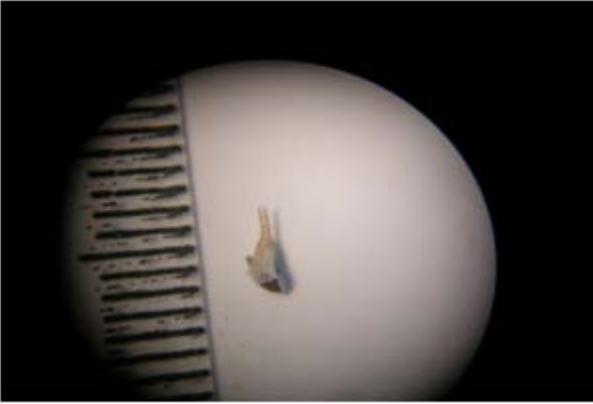


Fig 2: Ventral view of mericarp

Uses

The leaves are emollient and refrigerant and are useful in gonorrhoea, gleans and scalding of urine. The fruits are astringent and cooling. Roots are diaphoretic, antiperiodic, aphrodisiac and tonic. They are administered in debility, fever, malarial fever, hemorrhoids, swellings and in irritability of bladder (AVS, 1994).

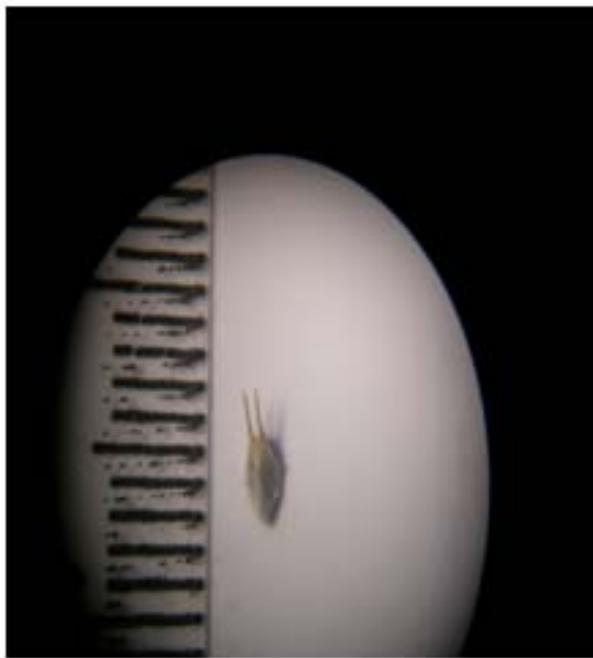


Fig 3: Dorsal view of mericarp

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