

Short Note

## *Nymphaea tetragona* (Nymphaeaceae) a new record for flora of Nepal

B. B. Raskoti<sup>1</sup>, G. D. Bhatt<sup>2</sup> and R. Ale<sup>2</sup>

The genus *Nymphaea* comprises 50 species around the world and distributed in south East Asia (Dezhi *et al.*, 2001). *Nymphaea tetragona* Georgi is also known as pygmae water lily and distributed in China, India, Japan, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Korea, Russia, Vietnam; North America, Europe (Dezhi *et al.*, 2001).

There are three species of *Nymphaea* in Nepal, namely *N. nouchali* N. L. Burm., *N. rubra* Roxb. ex Andrews and *N. lotus* var. *pubescens* (Wild.) Hook. f. and Thoms. distributed in the tropical region (Press *et al.*, 2000; Rajbhandari and Bhatt, 2011; Raskoti *et al.*, 2011). *N. tetragona* is not previously reported so far from Nepal (Hara *et al.*, 1978; Press *et al.*, 2000; Bista *et al.*, 2001). There is no record of herbarium specimen in the National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories (KATH) and Tribhuvan University Central Herbarium (TUCH). In this study, *N. tetragona* have been collected by B. B. Raskoti and Rita Ale from the Banke District, of Mid-western Nepal and the specimen is deposited at KATH.



1(A)



1(B)

Fig. 1(A)- Flowering plant *N. tetragona*. B- Herbarium specimen of *N. tetragona*.

*N. tetragona* Georgi, Bemerk. Reise Russ. Reiche 1: 220. 1775. (Figure 1 A,B).

Rhizomes not branched, erect. Leaves cordate-ovate, 5–12 × 3–8 cm, dorsal side glabrous, weekly peltate, base deeply cordate, margin entire. Flower floating, white, 3–5 cm in diam. Sepals persistent, inserted on receptacle, tetragonous, broadly lanceolate, 2–4 cm, apex subacute. Petals 10, white, obovate, 2–3 cm, alternate to stamens, apex acute. Filament of inner stamens wider than anther, connecting apically without appendages. Carpels united ovary inilocular. Stigma rays

<sup>1</sup> Pokharathok 9, Arghakhanchi, Nepal, Email: bbraskoti@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories Department of Plant Resources, Godawari, Lalitpur, Nepal

several; carpel appendages ovate. Fruit globose, 2–3 cm in diam. Seeds smooth, ellipsoid, 2–4 mm long.

**Flowering:** October–November.

#### **Habit and habitat**

Open shallow ponds near roadsides, at an altitude of 160–300 m. Population of the *N. tetragona* is decreasing due to its habitat destruction, overexploitation for ornamental and religious use.

#### **Distribution**

Nepal (Mid-western Nepal), China, India, Japan, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Korea, Russia, Vietnam; North America, Europe.

#### **Specimen examined**

Mid-western Nepal, Banke District, Nepalgunj at altitude of about 160 m, Oct 22, 2010, B. B. Raskoti and R. Ale 210 (KATH).

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