

Short Note

Carissa spinarum L. (Apocynaceae): A new addition to the flora of Nepal

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The genus *Carissa* L. consists about 30 species distributed in the tropics and subtropics of Africa, Asia and Australia (Shu, 1995). Five species are reported from India, four from China and two from Bhutan (Hooker, 1882; Shu, 1995 and Watson, 1999). In Nepal, *Carissa* represent one species namely *Carissa carandus* L. (Chater, 1982; Joshi, 1997; Press *et al.*, 2000 and Bista *et al.*, 2001). *Carissa spinarum* L. has been so far not reported from Nepal. This herbarium specimens was collected by Puran P. Kurmi from Udayapur at Udayapur Village Development Committee (VDC) of Kapilvastu district at an altitude of 150m. It has been identified as *Carissa spinarum* L. and therefore, it is found to be a new addition to the flora of Nepal. This species is distinguished from the others by its secondary veins conspicuous on adaxial leaf surface; branches and abaxial leaf surface puberulent.

Description of the species

Carissa spinarum L., Mant. Pl. 2:559.1771. (Fig. 1) Shrub with a zigzag branching pattern; spines simple or forked, 0.5-2.2cm. Leaf blade ovate to elliptic, 1.5-4.0x 0.6-2.0cm, leathery, finally puberulent abaxially, base acute, apex acute or short acuminate, mucronate; lateral veins 3-5 pairs, conspicuous. Cymes terminal or axillary, 2-9 flowered, finally puberulent. Sepals ca. 2 x 1 mm, without gland. Corolla white scented, tube ca. 1cm, lobes 3-7mm, overlapping to right; Ovules 1 in each locule.

Distribution: India, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

Ecology: Terai plains, near river bank.

Local name: Karauda

Flowering: March to May



Fig. 1: Herbarium Specimen of *Carissa spinarum* L.

Fruiting: September to December.

Specimen examined: Central Nepal: Kapilvastu District, Udayapur V. D. C., Udayapur, 150m, 2011.03.31, P. P. Kurmi 025 (KATH).

Uses: The roots are used to treat hepatitis and rheumatoid arthritis. (Shu, 1995).

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