

MISCELLANEOUS NOTE

22. *VALERIANELLA LOCUSTA* (LINN.) LATERRADE— A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

The unspectacular genus *Valerianella* can easily be missed in the field. *Valerianella locusta* is, therefore, presented as a new record for India, in the Kashmir valley.

The authors owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. I. A. Linczevski of the Komarov Botanical Institute, Leningrad, U.S.S.R., for confirming the identity of the species and for sending the literature on the subject. The authors are also grateful to Mr. B. L. Burt, F.L.S., Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for his help in making the literature available for the present study.

Valerianella locusta (Linn.) Laterrade, Fl. Bordelaise (ed. 2) 93, 1821 ; Betcke, Animadv. bot. Valer. 10, 1826 ; Linczevski in Fl. U.S.S.R. 23 ; 663, t. 34, f. 1, 1958 ; Coode in Notes Royal bot. Gdn. Edin. 27(3) : 235, f. 4(1-4), 1967.

V. olitoria Pollich, Hist. Pl. Palat. 1 : 30, 1776 ; DC. Prodr. 4 : 625, 1830 ; Krok in Vet.-Akad. Handl. Stockh. 5(1) : 88, 1864 ; Boiss. Fl. Or. 3 : 104, 1875.

Valeriana locusta Linn. Sp. Pl. 33, 1753, cum var. *olitoria*.

Valerianella locusta Linn. Fl. Suecica (ed. 2) 12, 1755.

V. olitoria Willd. Sp. pl. 1 : 184, 1798.

Fedia olitoria Vahl, Enum. 2 : 19, 1806.

F. striata Stev. in Mém. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 2 : 177, 1809.

Description : Erect annual herb up to 40 cm tall ; stem dichotomously branched, almost glabrous to slightly puberulous, more prominently at the nodes, slightly ridged. Basal leaves spatulate to nearly oblanceolate, prominently narrowed towards base, almost entire, 3-6 cm long, up to 15 mm broad ; stem leaves opposite, lanceolate-oblong, entire with few distant teeth near base, sessile, upto 4 cm long, apex acute or subobtuse. Flowers on long peduncles forming 6-12 mm broad flat topped cymes, 1.5-2 mm across, pale lilac. Bracts oblong, 3-5 mm long, ciliate especially on margins. Calyx indistinct, single toothed. Corolla tube nearly 2 mm long, lobes 5, ovate-oblong. Stamens 3, shortly

exserted. Style equalling the stamens in length, stigma capitate and trifold. Fruit somewhat orbicular to ovoid with short apical tooth, 2.1-2.5 mm long, 4.8-2 mm broad, three celled, two cells barren and as large as the third fertile one ; fertile cell single seeded with a corky mass on the back, sterile cells separated by a membranous, partition, externally by a shallow groove ; fruit pubescent more prominently over the fertile side.

Distribution in Jammu and Kashmir State, India :

Orchards near Kashmir University Campus, Srinagar (*Gurcharan Singh* 665b, dated 15-v-1970, alt. 1590 m) ; Emporium Garden, Srinagar (*Gurucharan Singh* 4212, dated 5-vi-1972, alt. 1590 m). Sheets deposited in the herbarium of Botany Department, Kashmir University, Srinagar.

Geographical distribution :

INDEX KEWENSIS gives Europe, Oriens as the home of this plant. Europe, U.S.S.R., Turkey, Iran.

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April 10, 1973.

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