

## 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.

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*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 trifid. 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 (*Gurcharan 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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