

Range extension of *Salvia misella* (Lamiaceae): A taxon naturalized in West Bengal

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सैल्विया मिसेला (लैमिएसी) का व्याप्ति विस्तार : पश्चिम बंगाल में प्रकृतीकृत वर्गक

शुभदीप मजूमदार, अनंत कुमार व रितु राई

सारांश

इस शोधपत्र में पश्चिम बंगाल में सैल्विया मिसेला कुंथ (लैमिएसी) की प्राप्ति और प्रकृतीकरण संबंधी पहली रिपोर्ट पर प्रकाश डाला गया है। सहज अभिनिर्धारण के लिए यहां पारिस्थितिकीय टिप्पणियों के साथ संक्षिप्त विवरण और तस्वीरें दी गई हैं।

ABSTRACT

Present paper elucidates the first report on the occurrence and naturalization of *Salvia misella* Kunth (Lamiaceae) in West Bengal. A brief description, photographs along with ecological notes are provided here for easy identification.

Keywords: Eastern India, Lamiaceae, *Salvia misella*, West Bengal.

INTRODUCTION

Salvia L. (1753) is the largest genus in the family Lamiaceae comprising 1012 species and it is cosmopolitan in distribution (POWO, 2023). The genus is represented by 27 taxa in India and four in West Bengal (Kumar & al., 2020). The genus *Salvia* is easily identified by the presence of two stamens with anther cells separated by staminal connectives (connective bearing a fertile cell at the upper end and a smaller cell or sterile appendage at lower end). During the collection and survey of Dooars area (Mal, Jalpaiguri), the first author collected an interesting herb of the family Lamiaceae bearing sticky glandular hairs with beautiful small bluish flowers. After the review of pertinent literature (Prain, 1903; Mukerjee, 1940; Sunojkumar & Pradeep, 2015; Kottaimuthu & al., 2016; Sunojkumar & Rinshy, 2017; Kumar & al., 2020; Das & al., 2022) and the consultation of herbaria [CAL, K (K000266705 image!, K000479224 image!)], the specimens are identified as *S. misella* Kunth (1818).

The taxon is native to tropical America, which was introduced & naturalized in many other countries of the world including India. Sunojkumar and Pradeep (2015) first

reported *S. misella* from Asia from Idukki district, Southern Western Ghats of Kerala, India. Subsequently, Kottaimuthu & al. (2016) reported from Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, and Das & al. (2022) from Eastern Ghats of Odisha. Presently, the authors reporting the species for the first time from West Bengal. The distributional range of the taxon is extended from Western and Eastern Ghats to Eastern India (Bengal Dooars in present study) of the country.

A brief description, phenology, ecology and colour photographs are provided here for easy identification of the taxon.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Salvia misella Kunth, Nov. Gen. Sp. [H.B.K.] 2: 290. 1818; Sunojk. & Pradeep, Phytotaxa 230(3): 281. 2015; Kottaimuthu & al., J. Biol. Rec. 1(3): 124. 2016; Kumar & al. in Dash & Mao, Flow. Pl. India Annot. Checkl. Dicot. 2: 372. 2020; Das & al., J. Threat. Taxa 14(7): 21476. 2022. (**Fig. 1**)

Erect herb, up to 60 cm high; stem quadrangular, sulcate, swollen above node, minutely gland dotted, pilose. Leaves opposite, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 4–5.5 × 1–3.5 cm,