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***Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H. Hara (Onagraceae) – A new record for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India**

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ABSTRACT

We report *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H. Hara, an aquatic angiosperm species, belongs to family Onagraceae from Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is first distributional records to the flora of this archipelago.

Key words: Angiosperm, Great Nicobar Island, new distributional record, Onagraceae.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ludwigia* Linnaeus, is a cosmopolitan and distributed c. 90 species and 13 infraspecific taxa which belong to family Onagraceae and generally covers herbaceous perennial flowering plants commonly known as Willo-herb family, which comprise c. 832 species and 158 infraspecific taxa throughout the world under 45 genera (The Plant List 2013). In India the genus is represented by eight species and one infraspecific taxon (Barua 2010; Shina 1999; Rasingam 2010) such as *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H. Hara, *L. decurrens* Walt., *L. linifolia* (Vahl) R.S. Rao, *L. octovalvis* (Jacq.) P. H. Raven, *L. octovalvis* subsp. *sessiliflora* (Micheli) P. H. Raven, *L. perennis* L., *L. peruviana* (L.) H. Hara and *L. prostrata* Roxb and *L. hyssopifolia* (G. Don) Exell. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands this genus is represented by five species (Barua 2010; Shina 1999 and Rasingam 2010) such as *L. hyssopifolia* (G. Don) Exell, *L. octovalvis* (Jacq.) P. H. Raven, *L. perennis* L., *L. peruviana* (L.) H. Hara and *L. prostrata* Roxb.

During recent floristic survey at Great Nicobar Island, the authors collected a specimen from

Campbell Bay near to the swampy area of INS Baaz runway (Fig. 1) in its flowering and fruiting stage. After critical observation of the specimen and literature survey it's confirmed as *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H. Hara; commonly known as Water Primrose. Based on the available literature this species is not described from Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Pandey and Diwakar 2008; Shina 1999; Hajra *et al.* 1999; Lakshminarasimhan and Rao 1996; Prasad *et al.* 2009). This is a new addition to the flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A comprehensive taxonomic description with color photographs and distribution are illustrated for quick identification.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Ludwigia adscendens (L.) H. Hara J. Jap. Bot. 28: 291 1953. *Jussiaea adscendens* L. Mant. Pl. 69 1767. *Jussiaea repens* L. Sp. Pl. 388 1753. (Fig. 2)

Aquatic floating herb, with adventitious roots, stems terete, spongy, glabrous or villous. Leaves simple, alternate, oblong-elliptic, 1.5-4.2 × 0.5-1.2 cm, margin entire or ciliate, base cuneate, apex obtuse or

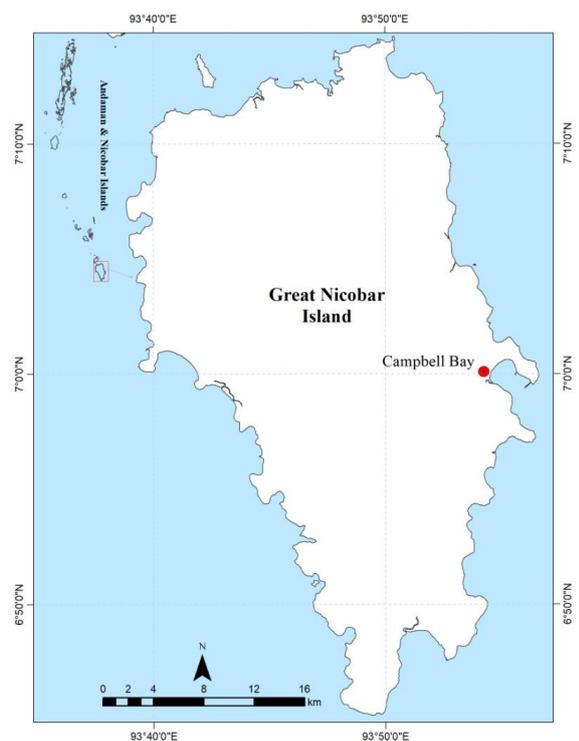


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H.Hara, in Great Nicobar Island.

broadly acute, leathery, glabrous and glossy above, pubescent and slightly glaucous below, lateral nerves 6-12 pairs, petioles 0.5-1.5 cm long. Flowers solitary, in upper leaf axils, c. 3 cm across, pedicels c. 2.5 cm long, bracteoles 2, minute, present at the base of calyx-tube which is 1 cm long. Sepals 5, deltoid, 6-7 mm long, glabrous above, long silky hairs beneath, 3-nerved. Petals 5, obovate, emarginated or rounded at apex, cream or white coloured with a yellowish blotch inside. Stamens 10, filaments subequal. Ovary 5-celled, ovules 2 per locule, style hairy, stigma globose. Capsule c. 2-2.5 cm long, terete, 10-ribbed, glabrous or villous. Seeds many, embedded in endocarp.

Flowering & Fruiting: Throughout the year.

Habitat: A common aquatic herb mainly growing in ponds, ditches and marshy places.

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia and Australia.

Specimen examined: India: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Great Nicobar Island, Campbell Bay (7°00'27.33"N & 93°55'2.86"E), 27th December, 2019, *Apurba Kumar Das* 005625 (PBL).



Fig. 2. *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) H. Hara (Onagraceae): A- Habit; B- Leaf blade; C- Roots at the nodes; D- Flower bud; E- Flower; F- Fruiting body.

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