

New addition of *Barleria prionites* L. (Acanthaceae) to the flora of Nepal

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While carrying out identification of *Barleria* L. (family Acanthaceae) collected from various places of Nepal and preserved in National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories, Department of Plant Resources, Godawari, Lalitpur, Nepal (KATH), we came across some specimens belonging to one interesting species. During the identification, this species did not match with any species of *Barleria* already reported from Nepal (Hara and Shakya, 1982; Press *et al.*, 2000; Bista *et al.*, 2001). It has been identified as *Barleria prionites* L. which is new addition to the flora of Nepal. This species was collected from Nepalganj, Banke district, West Nepal at 181m.

Description of the species

Barleria prionites L., Sp. Pl. 636 (1753).

Under shrub to 1.5m, bearing prominent, greyish, 3-forked, interpetiolar spines. Stem much branched. Leaves elliptic-obovate, 3.5-13.5 x 1- 5.1cm, acute, base attenuate, rugulose, glabrous above and beneath; petiole 0-1.8cm. Flowers solitary in axils of upper leaves, becoming denser upwards and forming short terminal spikes. Bracts oblong-ovate, 10-25mm, acute, spine tipped; bracteoles linear, 7-14mm spinescent. Outer calyx lobes ovate, 12-15mm, spine tripped, glabrous; inner calyx lobes ovate- lanceolate, 10-13mm, spine- tipped. Corolla orange yellow, 1.5-3.9cm, pubescent, 2- lipped, upper lip formed of 4 equal elliptic lobes 1-1.5cm, lower lip formed of 1 lobe 1.8-2.4cm; tube 1-1.5cm, slightly widened only. Stamens 2, filaments, 2-2.5cm. Stigma entire, cylindric, open, pitted.



Distribution: Nepal, India, Bhutan, Sri-Lanka, SE Asia, Tropical Africa.

Ecology: Occurs in Forest area.

Flowering: November.

Local Name: Kalabansa / kalpanath -sfnfjG;f / sNkgfy_

Specimens examined: West Nepal: Nepalganj, Banke District, 181m, 1972.11.18, N. P. Manandbar 9472.

Uses: The plant has medicinal value. Its leaf and root is used against neurological disorders such as paraplegia, sciatica, etc. Leaf juice is applied to purify blood and semen. It also helps heal ulcers, glandular swellings and skin diseases (Sivaranjan and Balachandran, 1999).

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