

***Cardiospermum corindum* L. (Sapindaceae): A New Record for the Flora of Nepal**

Pratikshya Chalise*, Sajita Dhakal & Yagya Raj Paneru
National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories (KATH), Godawari, Lalitpur, Nepal
*Email: pratikshya71@gmail.com

Abstract

Cardiospermum corindum L. (Sapindaceae), is reported as a new addition to the Flora of Nepal. A brief description, keys, photograph of a herbarium specimen and distribution of the species are provided.

Keywords: *Cardiospermum*, Flora of Nepal, New record, Sapindaceae

Introduction

Cardiospermum L. is a member of the family *Sapindaceae* and majority of the species in this genus are climbers. According to Christenhusz et al. (2017), the genus comprises of 15 species distributed in different parts of the world. However, only 9 species that are distributed in Tropical and Sub-tropical region is reported in Plants of the World Online (POWO, 2023a). In Nepal there is only one species of *Cardiospermum*, namely *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L. (Hara et al., 1979; Press et al., 2000; Rajbhandari & Rai, 2017; Shrestha et al., 2022).

During taxonomic revision of the family *Sapindaceae* in Nepal, there was one unique specimens of *Cardiospermum*, viz., *P. P. Kurmi*, KB873 (KATH102080, KATH032808) which was sorted for further study, that was later identified as *Cardiospermum corindum* L. This species is a climbing shrub, native to South U.S.A. to North Argentina, Tropical & South Africa, Uttarakhand to South Central China and Sri Lanka, Marianas (POWO, 2023b; World Flora Online [WFO], 2023) but it has not been previously reported from Nepal (Hara et al., 1979; Press et al., 2000; Rajbhandari & Rai, 2017; Shrestha et al., 2022). Therefore, *C. corindum* reported here is a new record for the Flora of Nepal. *C. corindum* differs from its allied species *C. halicacabum* in terms of its fruits as well as stamens.

Key to Nepalese *Cardiospermum* species

1. Stamens with filaments up to 2 mm long.
Capsules obtetrahedral, inflated angled in out-

line, winged. Seeds with large, heart- shaped hilum..... *C. halicacabum*

2. Stamens with filaments up to 3- 4 mm long.
Capsules elliptic to sub-globose, rounded in out-line, neither lobed nor winged. Seeds with small, orbicular hilum *C. corindum*

Cardiospermum corindum L. in Species Plantarum, ed. 2: 526 (1762) - *Cardiospermum corundum* L., Sp. Pl., ed. 2: 526 (1762); *Cardiospermum canescens* Wall., in Pl., Asiat. Rar. 1: 14 (1829).

Specimens examined

Central Nepal, Parasi District, Parasi, (Kurmi, P.P., Collection No. KB873, 2nd July 1993, KATH102080, KATH032808).

Habitat

In open areas, roadsides.

Distribution

Nepal, W Himalaya, E Himalaya, Assam- Burma, S Asia, E Asia, SW Asia, Africa, N America, S America (based on POWO, 2023).

Flowering

February-June (- September).

Fruiting

May-September.

Thus, *Cardiospermum corindum* L. (Sapindaceae), is reported as a new addition to the Flora of Nepal.



Figure 1: Herbarium specimen of *Cardiospermum corindum* L. (P. P. Kurmi KB873, KATH)

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