

***CUCUMIS HYSTRIX* CHAKRAV. (CUCURBITACEAE) - A NEW
ANGIOSPERMIC RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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Cucumis L. (Cucurbitaceae) consists of about 35 species occurring mainly in Africa and extending with few species into South-east Asia and Australia (Kirkbride, 1993). In Bangladesh, Rahman (2008) listed three species of the genus, viz. *Cucumis callosus* (Rottb.) Cogn., *Cucumis melo* L. and *Cucumis sativus* L. Recently, we have collected one wild specimen of *Cucumis* from Pharua reserve forest under Rangamati district and identified as *Cucumis hystrix* Chakrav. The species was not reported earlier from the territory of Bangladesh in the relevant literatures of this region, viz. Clarke (1883), Prain (1903), Heinig (1925), Sinclair (1956), Mia and Khan (1995), Rahman and Hassan (1995), Rahman (1996, 2004a,b), Uddin *et al.* (1998), Uddin and Rahman (1999), Khan and Huq (2001), Uddin *et al.* (2003), Tutul *et al.* (2010) and Arefin *et al.* (2011). Hence, it is herewith reported as a new record for Bangladesh. The voucher specimen of the species has been deposited at Bangladesh National Herbarium (DACB).

The detailed description and illustration of the species based on fresh material are given below.

***Cucumis hystrix* Chakrav.**, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 50: 869, pl. 7 (1952); Chakrav., Rec. Bot. Surv. India 17(1): 110 (1959); Jeffrey, Cucur. E. Asia: 22 (1980); Kirkbride, Biosys. Mono. Genus *Cucumis* (Cucurbitaceae): 86 (1993). *Cucumis muriculatus* Chakrav., J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 50: 869, pl. 4 (1952). **(Fig. 1)**

Annual, monoecious climber. Stem angular-sulcate, setose hairy, tendril simple, unbranched. Leaves petiolate; petioles 2-8 cm long, dense greenish hairy; lamina ovate, 5-15 × 4-14 cm, shallowly (3-) 5-angular or lobed, base cordate, apex acute, margin serrate-dentate, densely brown-red setose-hairy on both surfaces. Male flowers: 2-7-fascicled; pedicels 2-5 mm long, hairy; receptacle-tube turbinate-urceolate, 5 × 2 mm; sepals 2-3 mm long; corolla yellow, 8-10 mm long, tube 3-4 mm long, lobes 5-6 mm long, veins hairy; stamens inserted about halfway in the receptacle tube; filaments 1 mm long, glabrous; anthers 2.0-2.5 mm long, connective extension up to 1 mm long; disc subglobose, c. 2 mm in diam. Female flowers: solitary, pedicels 1-5 mm long, hairy; ovary narrowly ellipsoid-ovoid, 8-10 × 2-3 mm, antrorse-strigose; perianths as in male flowers, but sepals somewhat broader; styles 2-3 mm long, stigma 2.5 mm long, consisting of 3 sessile carnoselobes, connate at base, lobes papillose; staminodes c. 1 mm long, inserted about halfway the receptacle tube. Fruits pendent, green or yellowish-green, 5-10 × 2-4 cm, ellipsoid, tapering at both ends, shortly beaked at apex, aculeate tubercled by dense, soft, spine like 2-5 mm long protuberances, fruiting pedicels 2-10 mm long. Seeds numerous, obovate, 3.5-5.0 × 2.0-2.5 mm, smooth, pale-yellow. *Flowering and fruiting period*: September-December.

Ecology: Grows in scrub jungles, edges of forests, and along roadsides, over granite bedrock as well as on limestone, up to 1800 m altitude.

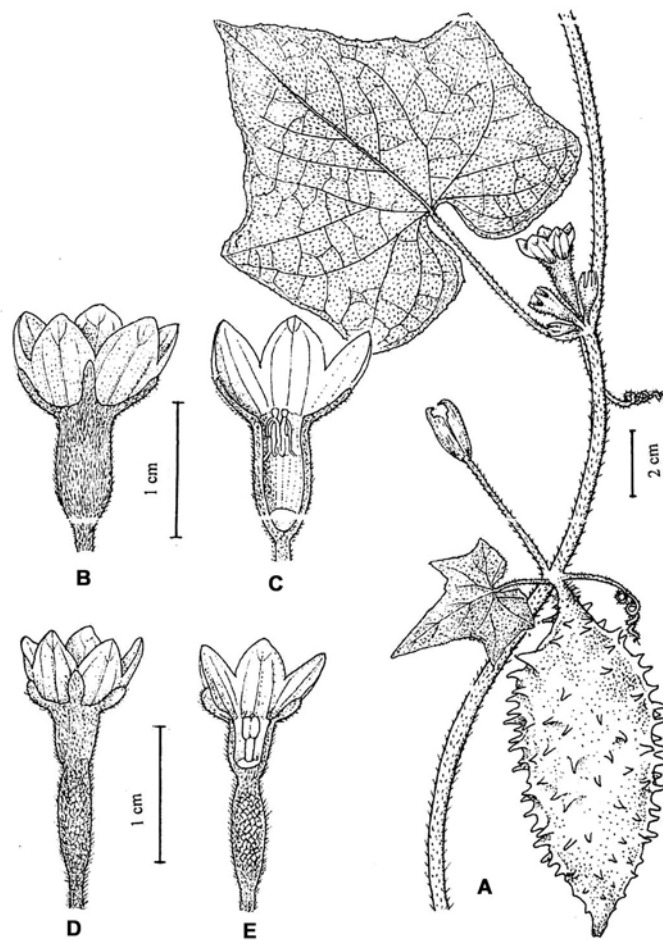


Fig. 1. *Cucumis hystrix* Chakrav.: A. twig with fruit, B. male flower, C. L.S. of male flower, D. female flower, E. L.S. female flower.

Specimen examined: **Rangamati:** Bilaichari, Pharuwa Reserve Forest, Monlovi chara, 19.10.2008, S.N. Uddin, B. Khan and M. M. Mirza, N-2998 (DACB).

Distribution: North-east India (Assam), Myanmar, Thailand, and South-west China (Yunnan).

Uses: Local people eat unripe fruit as a cooked vegetable.

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