

***ARISTOLOCHIA ELEGANS* MAST. (ARISTOLOCHIACEAE) - A NEW  
ANGIOSPERMIC RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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*Aristolochia* L., a member of the family Aristolochiaceae consists of about 500 species, and is distributed in tropical and temperate Asia, Africa, Europe and America (Heywood 1993). In Bangladesh, *Aristolochia* is represented by only three species, namely *A. indica* L., *A. saccata* Wall. and *A. tagala* Cham. (Hooker 1886, Prain 1903, Heinig 1925). Recently, during the course of scrutiny of *Aristolochia* specimens deposited at the Bangladesh National Herbarium (DACB), the authors came across three interesting specimens. After critical examination, these specimens have been identified as *Aristolochia elegans* Mast. It should be noted here that seeds of this species were first collected by Prof. M. Salar Khan from the Chittagong Hill Tracts area in wild state in 1995. The seeds were then sown in the Botanic Garden of the University of Dhaka; plants grew and flowered. The specimens deposited at the DACB were collected from those plants in 1997.

*Aristolochia elegans* was not reported earlier from the territory of Bangladesh in the relevant literature of this region, viz. Hooker (1886), Prain (1903), Heinig (1925), Cowan (1928), Raizada (1941), Datta and Mitra (1953), Sinclair (1955), Khan and Afza (1968), Khan and Banu (1972), Huq and Khan (1984), Khan and Hassan (1984), Alam (1988), Khan *et al.* (1994), Mia and Khan (1995), Rahman and Hassan (1995), Rahman and Uddin (1997), Uddin *et al.* (1998), Uddin and Rahman (1999), Rashid *et al.* (2000), Khan and Huq (2001), Uddin *et al.* (2003), and Rahman (2004a, b). It is being reported here as a new record for the country and a new addition to the Flora of Bangladesh. The specimens have been preserved at the DACB.

The detailed description and illustrations of the taxon prepared from the examined specimens are appended below.

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***Aristolochia elegans*** Mast., Gard. Chron. 2: 301 (1885). Schmidt, Repert. Spec. Nov. Regn. Veg. 23: 299 (1927); Bor & Raizada, Some Beaut. Ind. Climb. Shrubs : 26 (1954); Parker, For. Fl. Punj. 5: 421 (1956); Qaiser, Fl. W. Pak. 110: 4 (1977); Phuphathana-phong, Fl. Thailand 5(1): 13 (1987). *Aristolochia littoralis* Parodi in Anal. Soc. Cient. Argent. 5: 155 (1878). **(Plate 1)**

*English name:* Calico flower.

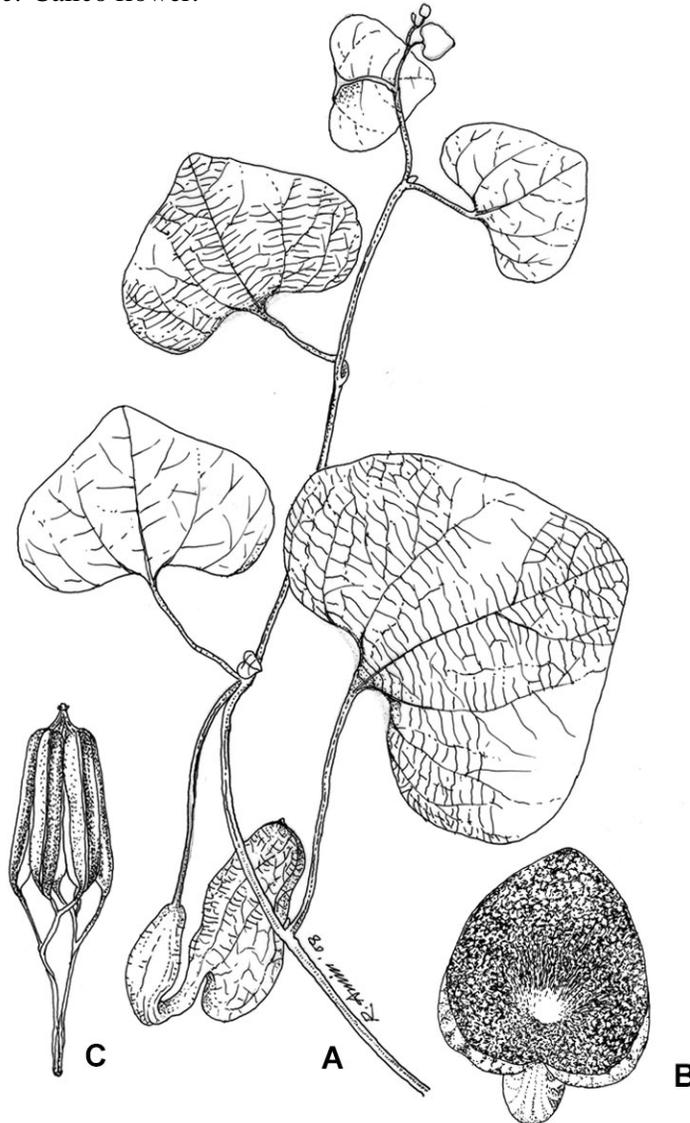


Plate 1. *Aristolochia elegans* Mast. A. Twining leafy shoot ( $\times 1$ ), B. A flower ( $\times 0.8$ ), C. A fruit ( $\times 0.9$ ).

A slender woody climber. Stem glabrous, branches pendulous. Leaves with pseudo-stipules, pseudo-stipules leaf-like, amplexicaul; petioles 2-6 cm long, slender, glabrous;

lamina 4-10 × 5-11 cm, triangular to broadly ovate, apex obtuse or rounded, base cordate, margin entire, glabrous on both surfaces, but young leaves pubescent, palmately finely 3-nerved, venation reticulate, obscure. Flowers solitary, axillary, on long pedicels, bent, more than 6 cm long. Perianth white or greenish with purple-black or purple-brown mottling; utricle obliquely ellipsoid, 2.2-2.8 × 1.2-1.6 cm, tube bent upwards, somewhat funnel-shaped at the top, 1.2-2.0 × 0.4-0.7 cm, expanding abruptly into a nearly circular shallow cup, limb orbicular, 5-7 cm in diameter. Stamens 6; anthers linear, c 4 × 1 mm. Gynostegium c 5.5 × 4.5 mm, cylindrical. Ovary 6-locular, ovules many in each locule; stylar column short, cylindrical; stigmatic lobes 6, flattened, apically pubescent outside, with margins recurved outwards. Fruit a capsule, c 4 cm long and 2 cm across, 6-valved. Seeds many, flat, 2-5 mm long. *Flowering and fruiting period*: June-October.

*Ecology*: Grows in the forests, also cultivated in gardens.

*Specimens examined*: **Dhaka**: Dhaka University Botanic Garden, 04.06.1997, M.S. Khan, K. 9924 (DACB); Dhaka University Botanic Garden, 10.08.1997, A. Hassan and O. Rahman (DACB); Dhaka University Botanic Garden, 23.09.1997, A. Hassan (DACB).

*Distribution*: A native of Brazil, but is now cultivated throughout the tropical and temperate regions of the world.

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