

**DIANELLA ENSIFOLIA (L.) DC. (LILIACEAE) - A NEW ANGIOSPERMIC
RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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The family Liliaceae with 280 genera and about 4000 species (Cronquist, 1981) is distributed all over the world, especially in the temperate regions of Asia, Australia and Africa. A recent publication suggests that this family is represented in the flora of Bangladesh by 26 species under 13 genera (Hassan, 2007).

A specimen of *Dianella* was collected from Ram Pahar of Kaptai upazila, Rangamati district in 2006 and after a critical study the specimen has been identified as *Dianella ensifolia* (L.) DC. This species was not previously recorded from the Bangladesh territory by Hooker f. (1892), Prain (1903), Heinig (1925), Raizada (1941), Sinclair (1955), Mia and Khan (1995), Uddin *et al.* (1998), and Rahman (2004a,b). Therefore, it is reported here for the first time as a new record for Bangladesh.

A detail taxonomic description and illustration has been provided based on the herbarium specimens stored at Bangladesh National Herbarium (DACB).

Dianella ensifolia (L.) DC. in Redouté, Liliac. 1, t.1 (1802). *Dracaena ensifolia* L., Mant. 63 (1767). *Dianella nemorosa* Lamk., Encycl. 2: 276 (1786). *Dracaena ensata* Thunb., Diss. Bot. Drac. 4 (1808). *Dianella montana* Blume, En. Pl. Jav. 1: 12 (1827). *Dianella odorata* (Rump.) Blume, En. Pl. Jav. 1: 13 (1827). *Dianella revoluta* (non R. Br.) Schauer, Nov. Act. Ac. Nat. 19 (1843). *Dianella bancana* Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat. Suppl. 610 (1861). *Dianella caerulea* Merr., Philip. J. Sc. (Bot.) 2: 266 (1907). *Dianella robusta* Elmer, Leaflet. Philip. Bot. 5: 806 (1913). *Dianella bambusifolia* Hall.f., Nova Guinea 8: 995, t. 182 (1914). *Dianella parviflora* Ridl., J. Fed. Mal. St. Mus. 6: 186 (1915). *Dianella pullei* Krause, Nova Guinea 14: 175 (1924). *Dianella ledermannii* Krause, Bot. Jahrb. 59: 553 (1925). *Dianella levis* C. T. White, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. 51: 298 (1926). *Dianella sparsiflora* Schlittler, Mitt. Bot. Mus. Un. Zürich 163: 262 (1940). *Dianella ensata* (Thunb.) Henderson, Taxon 26: 136 (1977). (Plate 1)

A perennial erect or decumbent herb, stem up to 1.5 m high, rigid, usually unbranched, rarely with a few branches, rhizome horizontal, moderately branched.

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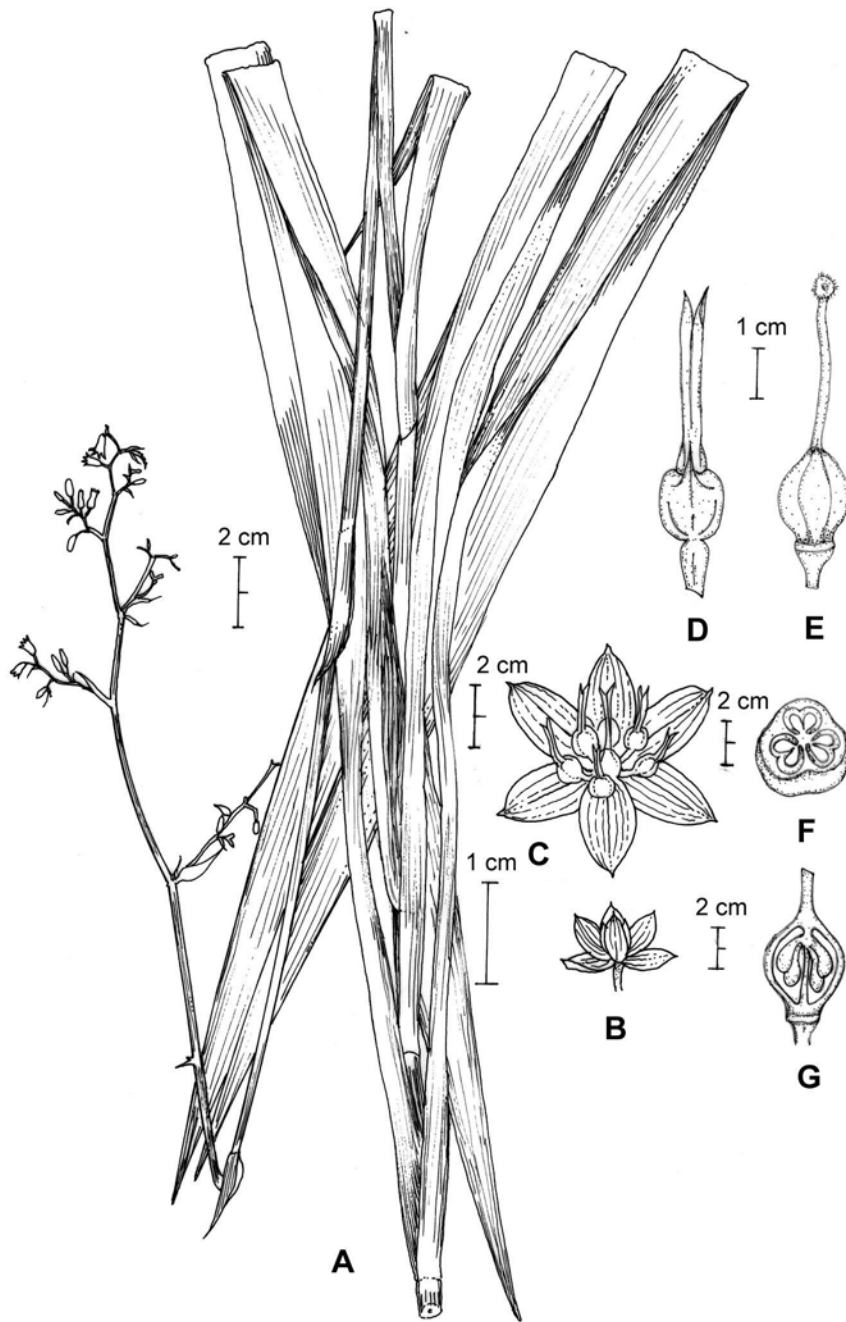


Plate 1. *Dianella ensifolia* (L.) DC. A. habit ($\times 0.7$); B. lateral view of a flower ($\times 2$); C. front view of a flower ($\times 6$); D. stamen ($\times 10$); E. gynoecium ($\times 10$); F. T.S. of ovary ($\times 4$); G. L.S. of ovary ($\times 4$).

Leaves basal, scattered along the stem or in a terminal rosette, distichous, with a sheathing lower part, lamina linear or linear-lanceolate (sometimes absent in lower leaves), 30-90 × 1-3 cm, above the base keeled, margins smooth or scabrid, firmly appressed to one another and fused to form an isobilateral portion, midrib on the lower surface with minute serrations or prickles, veinlets conspicuous and numerous. Inflorescence a terminal panicle, 30-70 cm long, cuneiform, usually exceeding the leaves, lax or with short terminal branches often 1-2 cm long, bearing up to 30 flowers. Lower bracts usually narrowly lanceolate and bilaterally compressed above the basal sheath like the leaves, bracts subtending pedicels 1-4(-7) mm long or rarely absent. Pedicels 4-15(-22) mm long. Flowers inodorous, perianth segments 6, blue, yellow, lilac or white, spreading, 4-9 mm long, inner three reflexed. Filaments often more than half as long as the perianth segments, filiform or narrowly linear, white or yellow with a yellow or orange, glabrous swelling below the anther, anthers linear, 2-porse. Ovary green, three locular, 1.5-2.0 mm long, ovules 4 in each locule, style green, white or blue. Fruit shiny blue or dark purple, 6-10 mm in diameter, each cell 1-3- or more seeded. Seeds ovoid, subacute, 3-4 mm long. *Flowering and fruiting time*: Throughout the year.

Ecology: A highly adaptable species, occurring in habitats ranging from open grasslands to primary forests, from sea level to over 3000 m altitude (Jessop, 1979).

Distribution: Continental Africa, Madagascar, Continental Asia to southern China, Japan and Formosa, through Malesia to Australia (Jessop, 1979).

Specimens examined: **Dhaka**: Ramna park, 19.02.1981, M. Halim 928 (DACB); Dhanmondi, 06.08.1991, Rezia Khatun 694 (DACB); **Habiganj**: Satchari forest, 19.04.1985, Huq and Mia H 7003 (DACB); **Moulvi Bazar**: Lawachara, Srimangal, 02.02.2009, Sarder Nasir Uddin N-3282 (DACB); **Rangamati**: Ram Pahar, Kaptai, 20.04.2006, Sarder Nasir Uddin N-2825 (DACB).

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