

***ALEURITOPTERIS GRISEA* (BLANFORD) PANIGRAHI :
A NEW PTERIDOPHYTIC RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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While collecting plants from Bandarban District, for the taxonomic study of the Flora of Bangladesh, a pteridophytic specimen was collected from the shady hill slope. The specimen was critically examined and tried to match with herbarium specimens housed at the Bangladesh National Herbarium, but could not be matched with any of them. After consulting various literature, the specimen was identified as *Aleuritopteris grisea* (Blanford) Panigrahi of the family Sinopteridaceae. It was further confirmed by the revisionary work of this genus done by Ghosh *et al.* (2004) from India. *Aleuritopteris grisea* was not recorded from Bangladesh by earlier workers *viz.*, Prain (1903), Sinclair (1956), Mirza and Rahman (1997) and Dixit (1984). It was not found in Kew collections made from Bangladesh by Wallich (Mirza 1999), Hooker and Thomson (Mirza *et al.* 2000), and Clarke (Mirza 2000). Previously another species of the genus *Aleuritopteris albo-marginata* (Clarke) Ching was recorded by Pasha and Chakraborty (1984) from Chittagong.

The differences between *A. grisea* and *A. albomarginata* are: (1) *A. albomarginata* is a spreading herb, whereas *A. grisea* is a tufted herb with dimorphic frond; (2) Sterile stipe is hairy in *A. albomarginata*, but in *A. grisea* hairy only on the adaxial side of the stipe; (3) Fertile stipe of *A. albomarginata* is hairy, but fertile stipe of *A. grisea* is smooth and black; and (4) Sori are continuous and not powdery mass in *A. albomarginata*, whereas sori are discontinuous and powdery mass in *A. grisea*. The dissimilarities reveals that *A. albomarginata* and *A. grisea* are two different species.

The genus *Aleuritopteris* is widely distributed in the Eastern and Western Himalayas: Sikkim, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar Thailand, China, Taiwan and Japan with about 25 species (Copeland 1985, Ghosh *et al.* 2004), and only two species are so far known to occur in Bangladesh. *Aleuritopteris albo-marginata* and *A. grisea*, both the species are popularly known as silver ferns: the former grows on moist shaded rocks, but the latter grows terrestrially on clay or humus soil in ravines or on stream banks, and damp walls.

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A detailed taxonomic study of *A. grisea* based upon the specimen collected from Bandarban, is appended below. The material is preserved at the Bangladesh National Herbarium (DACB).

Aleuritopteris grisea (Blanford) Panigrahi in Bull. Bot. Surv. Ind. 2 (2&4): 321 (1960).
Pichi-Sermolli, Ind. Fil. 4 : 8(1965) **(Plate 1)**

Synonyms: *Cheilanthes grisea* Blanford, Simla Nat. Hist. Soc. (1886); Hope, J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. 13: 251 (1900); *Cheilanthes farinosa* var. *grisea* Blanford, J. Asiat. Soc. 57: Part 2(4): 302 (1888).

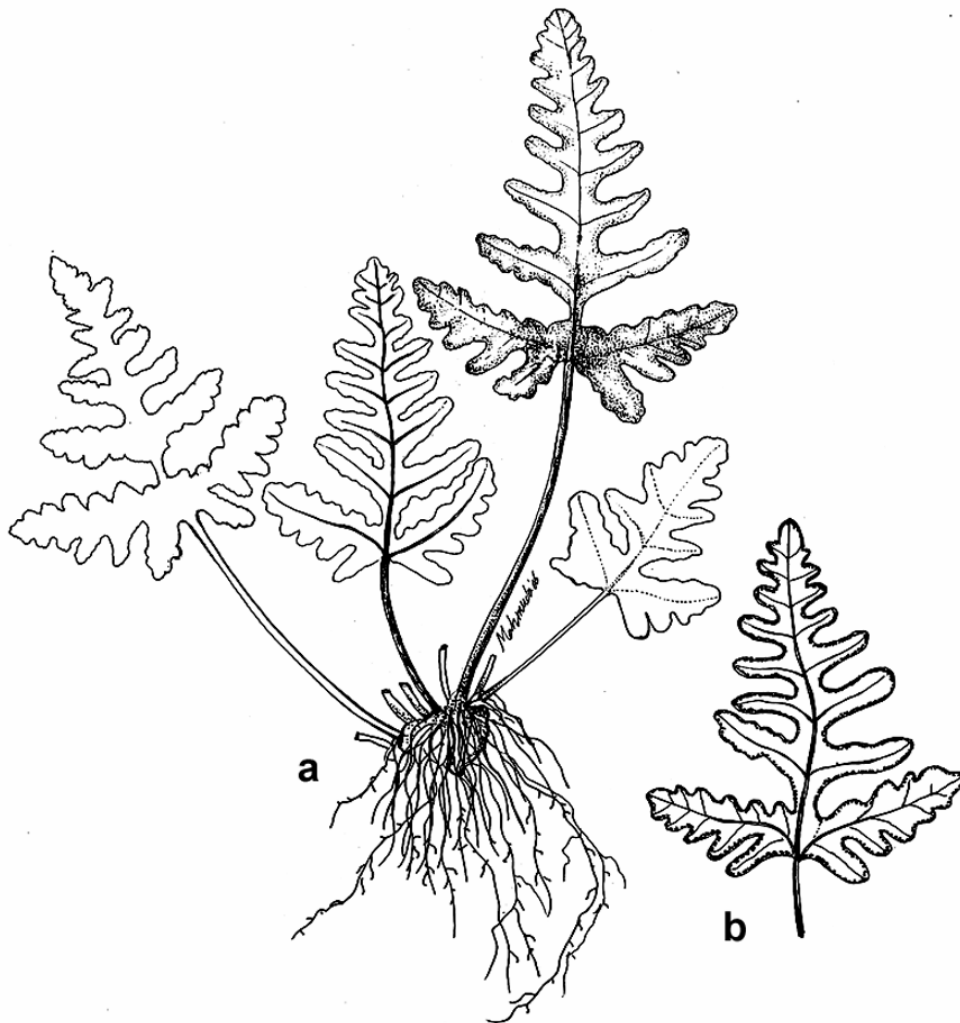


Plate 1. *Aleuritopteris grisea* (Blanford) Panigrahi (a) habit ($\times 0.75$), (b) fertile frond showing the arrangement of the sori ($\times 1.125$).

A small tufted herb. Rhizome erect, up to 2.5 cm thick, short, densely scaly, scales 4 cm long and 0.5 mm broad, lanceolate, dark at the centre, pale brown at the periphery. Stipe tufted, up to 14 cm long, purplish brown, round, scaly at the very base, densely hairy on the adaxial side throughout. Fronds slightly dimorphic; sterile fronds slightly longer than fertile ones. Lamina bipinnatifid, up to 10 cm long, pinnae deltoid-lanceolate, 5-8 pairs, upper part pinnatifid, subcoriaceous, under surface covered with white powder. Fertile fronds smaller than sterile fronds. Stipe smooth, black. Venation free, completely hidden. Sori linear, borne on the edge of the margin, which are discontinuous.

Specimen examined: **Bandarban** : Roangchari, 15.11.2005, Muhammad Nur-E-Alam and Rezina Ahmed (DACB).

Ecology: A terrestrial fern grows on the hill slope.

Distribution: India and China.

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