

***PULICARIA VULGARIS* GAERTN. (ASTERACEAE) - A NEW SPECIES
RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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The genus *Pulicaria* Gaertn. belonging to the tribe Inuleae of the family Asteraceae consists of about 100 species with a distribution from Europe to north Africa and Asia, particularly around the Mediterranean (Liu *et al.*, 2010). *Pulicaria* are annual or perennial woolly or villous herbs distinguished from other species by the presence of outer pappus scales in the form of a short coronate cup. They are characterized by having unwinged stem without resin canals, usually sessile leaves, hemispheric to campanulate involucre, persistent phyllaries and ecalcarate anthers, with branched tails. Pappus are in two rows, inner row of barbellate bristles while outer row of short membranous scales. Clarke (1881) studied the British Indian *Pulicaria* documenting 10 species under 4 sections. Prain (1903) reported only two species of the genus namely, *P. foliolosa* and *P. angustifolia* from the then Bengal. In Bangladesh some works on the Asteraceae were carried out however, *Pulicaria* was not included in those taxonomic treatments (Hossain, 1967; Khan, 1992; Rahman *et al.*, 2008). Very recently Ahmed *et al.* (2008) reported the occurrence of *Pulicaria foliolosa* DC. from Bangladesh without citing any locality.

Recently two specimens belonging to the genus *Pulicaria* were collected from Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district which were not in line with the recorded species. After critical examination the specimens were identified as *Pulicaria vulgaris* Gaertn. Since *Pulicaria vulgaris* Gaertn. was not reported from any areas now falling under present Bangladesh territory in the relevant literatures (Clarke, 1882; Prain, 1903; Heinig, 1925; Raizada, 1941; Datta and Mitra, 1953; Sinclair, 1956; Mia and Khan, 1995; Uddin *et al.*, 2003; Rahman, 2004; Islam *et al.*, 2009; Uddin *et al.*, 1998; Rahman *et al.*, 2010; Tutul *et al.*, 2010; Uddin and Hassan, 2010), it is being reported here as a new species record for Bangladesh.

A key to *Pulicaria vulgaris* with the recorded species is given below:

1. Ligules present; ray florets ligulate, 4-5 toothed; achenes ellipsoid, 4-5 angled. *P. vulgaris*
- Ligules absent; ray florets tubular, 3-toothed; achenes oblong. *P. foliolosa*

A detailed taxonomic account along with illustration of the plant has been made based on the fresh materials. The voucher specimens have been deposited in Dhaka University Salar Khan Herbarium (DUSH).

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Pulicaria vulgaris Gaertn., Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 461 (1791); DC., Prodr. 5: 478 (1849); Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 298 (1881). *Pulicaria prostrata* (Gilib.) Ascher., Fl. Brandenburg 1: 304 (1864). *Inula prostrata* Gilib., Fl. Lithuan. 3: 205 (1787). *Aster pulicarius* (L.) Scop., Fl. Carn. ed. 2: 172 (1772). *Inula pulicaria* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 882 (1753). (Fig. 1).

Common name: Small Fleabane.

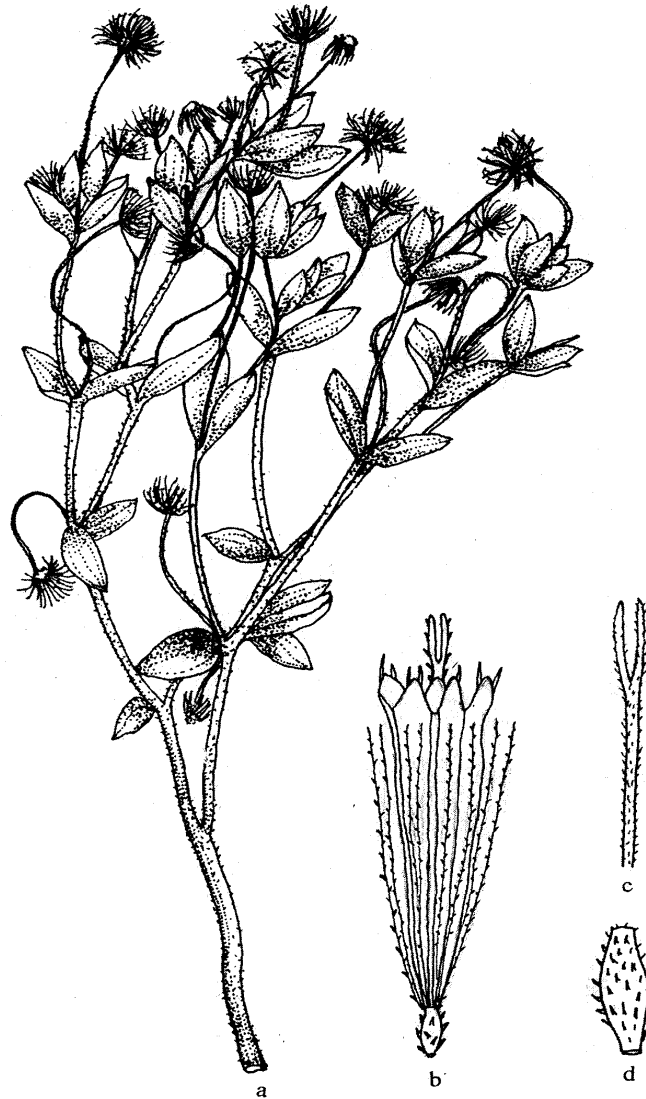


Fig. 1. *Pulicaria vulgaris* Gaertn: a, habit sketch ($\times 0.6$); b, hermaphrodite floret ($\times 8$); c, style (with stylar arms) of a hermaphrodite floret ($\times 6$); d, cypsel ($\times 17$).

An annual, erect pubescent herb, 15-45 cm tall. Stems softly pubescent, copiously dichotomously subcorymbosely branched above. Leaves 1-3 x 0.5-1.8 cm, lower leaves obovate, half-amplexicaul, shortly petiolate, upper ones oblong-lanceolate, sessile, acute or obtuse at apex, somewhat undulate at margin, entire or slightly finely distantly toothed. Heads 0.8-1.3 cm in diameter, on short stout peduncles, divaricate. Involucral bracts 4-5 seriate, subulate, erect or with subrecurved tips; outer bracts linear, oblanceolate, 2.5-3.0 mm long, acute; inner linear, longer than the outer, c. 3.5 mm long, acuminate. Ray florets uniseriate, ligulate, 4-5-toothed; ligules not exceeding the size of involucral bracts, c 1.0 x 0.4 mm. Disc florets numerous; corolla 2.0-3.5 mm long; lobes glandular. Achenes 4-5-angled, ellipsoid, c 1 mm long, silky, slightly compressed and longitudinally costate. Pappus dirty white, 1-3 mm long, hairy; inner pappus of 6-12 bristles, 1.0-1.5 mm long; outer scales lanceolate, serrate, free.

Flowering and fruiting period: March to August.

Habitat: Grasslands, riverbeds, shady areas and roadsides.

Specimens examined: Patuakhali district, Galachipa, 1.3.2005, M. Sultana, MS 617 (DUSH); Mirzaganj, 16.5.2005, M. Sultana, MS 791 (DUSH).

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