

# *Pedalium murex* Linn. hitherto unrecorded medicinal plant from Uttar Pradesh

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*PEDALIUM murex* Linn. is an important medicinal plant hitherto not reported from Uttar Pradesh (Duthie 1929, Raizada 1974). It is being reported for the first time from Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The geographical limit of the district is 25° 38' to 26° 27' north latitude and 82° 40' to 83° 52' east longitude.

The genus *Pedalium* of the family Pedaliaceae is represented by only one species in India. There is no previous record from Upper Gangetic region (Maheshwari, 1963).

*Pedalium murex* Linn. Syst. 1123, 1759; Hook.f. in FBI.4:386.1884; Haines, Bot.Bih. & Or. Vol.II 692, Maheshwari, Flora of Delhi, 262, 1963.

It is an erect, much-branched, sub-fleshy herb. Leaves opposite or the upper alternate, ovate, margin distantly crenate, 1.0 - 3.5 cm long, two dark violet coloured or else golden brown glistening glands are present at the base of petiole and pedicel. Flowers solitary-axillary yellow. Calyx 5-partite, lobes lanceolate. Corolla broad, funnel shaped, broadly tubular beyond the calyx; lobes unequal, oblique, about 2.5 cm in diameter. Stamens 5, only 4 fertile, didynamous, fifth stamen is reduced to staminode. Carpels 2, syncarpous. Ovary superior, bicarpellary bilocular, ovules 2 in each locule. Fruits drupaceous with four sharp horizontal spines.

The occurrence of this plant species in the area is rare. It has been found growing along the road-side in damp sandy soil in association with *Sida acuta* Burm. *Polygonum plebium* R. Br., *Acalypha indica* Linn., *Boerhavia diffusa* Linn. and *Ammania baccifera* Linn.

Fls. & Frts. : September-October  
Local Name : Bada Gokhru  
Locality : Azamatgarh (Azamgarh).

It is a native of India. The plants are distributed in Gujarat, Punjab, Deccan Peninsula, Ceylon, Delhi and Tropical Africa.



Fig. 1 *Pedalium murex* Linn.

The four angled spiny fruit contains a mucilaginous alkaloid, fat, resin and gum. An infusion or extract thus prepared from the fresh leaves and stems in cold water is demulscent and diuretic, useful in disorder of the urinary system, gonorrhoea, dysuria and spermatorrhea.

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