

FLORA OF BANGLADESH

NO. 9

NYMPHAEACEAE

EDITOR

M. SALAR KHAN

July 1979

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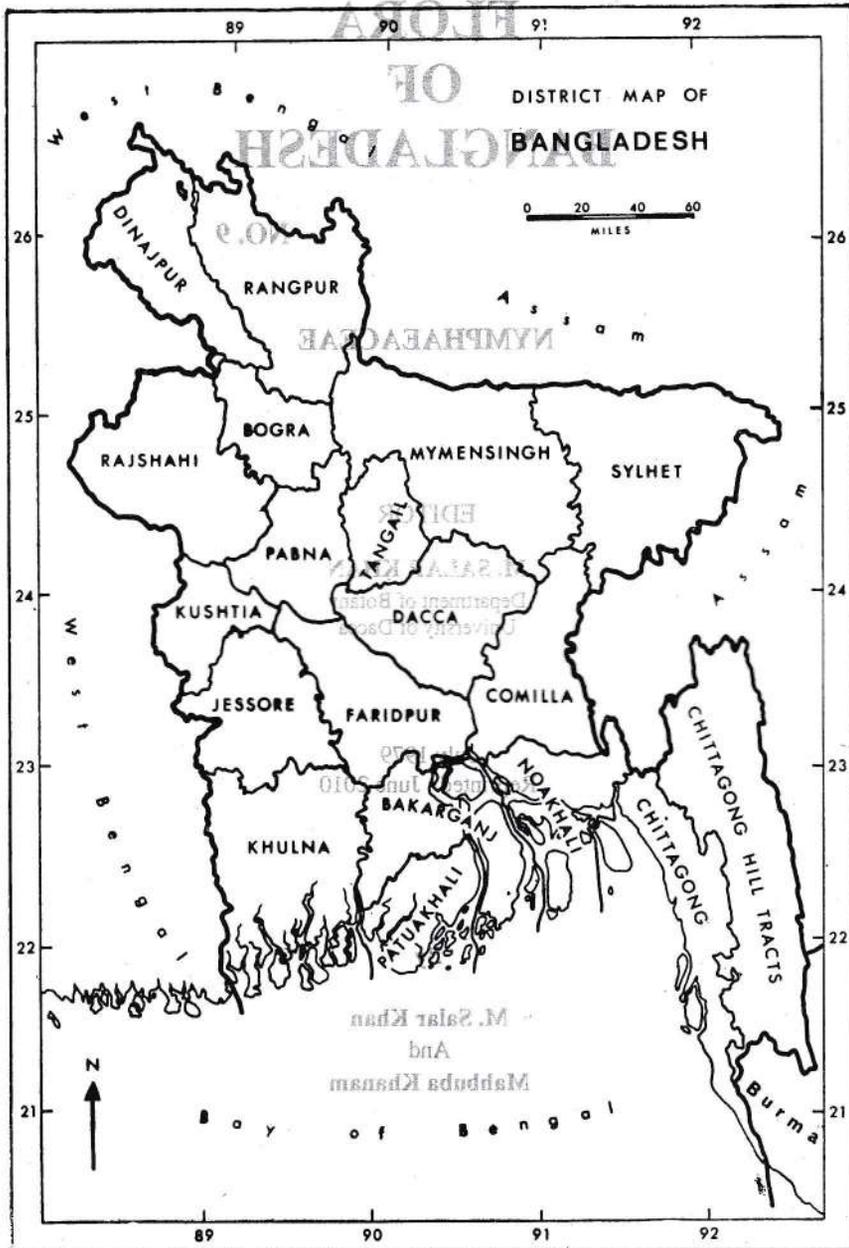
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Reprinted : June 2010

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M. S. Khan and Mahbuba Halim

Annual or perennial aquatic herbs. Stem leafy (*Cabomba*) or generally rhizomatous, erect (*Victoria*) or creeping (*Nymphaea*, *Nelumbo*). Leaves alternate, simple, usually floating or emersed (*Nelumbo*, *Nuphar*), peltate or with sagittate or cordate base (dimorphic in *Cabomba*), smooth or prickly beneath (*Victoria*, *Euryale*), mostly long-petioled (sessile in *Cabomba*), some times with milky latex (*Nelumbo*), margin involute in vernation. Flowers axillary, solitary, usually large and showy on a naked spongy pedicel, bisexual, actinomorphic, often fragrant. Torus fleshy and enveloping the carpels, some times also adnate to the tubular base of perianth or absent. Sepals 3 (*Cabomba*) or 4-5 (*Nymphaea*, *Nelumbo*), free, usually green, often as large as petals (larger than petals in *Nuphar*). Petals 3 (*Cabomba*) to indefinite, free, usually showy (small and scale-like in *Nuphar*), gradually passing to petaloid staminodes towards the centre in *Nymphaea* and *Nelumbo*. Stamens 3 to 6 and cyclic (*Cabomba*) or more commonly numerous and acyclic, hypogynous or the inner or all perigynous, less often epigynous (*Euryale*, *Victoria*), anthers erect with 2 adnate cells, dehiscence longitudinal, the connective often extending as a sterile appendage. Carpels 3 or more, apocarpous (*Cabomba*, *Nelumbo*) or syncarpous (*Nymphaea*), when apocarpous the carpels borne on or sunk separately in the top of fleshy torus (ovary superior), unilocular with one pendulous ovule (*Nelumbo*); when syncarpous the ovary usually superior (*Nuphar*) or inferior (*Euryale*, *Victoria*) or subinferior (*Nymphaea*), plurilocular, ovules anatropous, many per locule on parietal or superficial placentation; style 1 or absent,

Victoria

on both surfaces

Leaves with the margins flat; flowers 3-5 cm high, purplish; calyx densely prickly on outer surface

Euryale

surface

cm, ripening under water when still enclosed by persistent sepals. Seeds 1-2 mm, enclosed by fleshy saccate aril. *Fl. & Fr.* 1-12 but especially during the rains. *Common in fresh water tanks, beels and ditches.* $2n=28$ (Fedorov 1969).

Chittagong : Hinguli, 6 x 1970, *Khan et al.* K. 2004.

Comilla : Hajiganj, 10 ix 1906, *I. H. Burkill* 27516 (K).

Dacca : Dacca, near new international airport, 22 x 1977, *Khan et al.* K. 4726 ; Kurmitola, 13 xi 1963, *Abdul Ghani* 77A. & 77B ; Tungi, 1 x 1978, *M. Halim* 282 ; Narshingdi, Tarabo, 16 ix 1973, *Khan et al.* K. 3121.

Noakhali : Noakhali, date (?) *Hooker & Thomson* (K).

Rajshahi : Naogaon, Digli beel, 7 ix 1978, *M. Halim* 236 ; Nator, 3 iii 1967, *M. S. Khan* 1435.

Rangpur : Saidpur to Parbatipur, 16 x 1976, *Huq et al.* H. 2643.

The various colour forms of the two wild species of *Nymphaea* in Bangladesh, viz. *N. nouchali* and *N. stellata* freely interbreed in nature producing fertile hybrids with all possible combinations of leaf and floral characters.

Tropical Africa, throughout the warmer parts of the Indian subcontinent and south Andamans (type : tropics of Asia and Africa).

The flowers are used for ornamental purposes and as a cardiac tonic. The seeds are eaten raw.

VICTORIA Lindl.,

Monogr.: 3 (1837).

Ic. Macmillan, *Trop. Pl. & Gard.* ed. 5 : 168 (1954).

Leaves huge, often 180 cm or more in diameter, floating with the margin turned up at right angles to the water surface to a height of 3-20 cm, Flowers 30-40 cm across, nocturnal, sweet scented.

LIST OF FAMILIES PUBLISHED

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Phytolaccaceae	1
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Turneraceae	3

Published by: **Bangladesh National Herbarium**
 Ministry of Environment and Forest
 Chiriakhana Road, Mirpur-1
 Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.

Price : Taka 
 \$ 
 £ 

Printed at: **Bangladesh Government Press,**
 Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.