

FLORA OF BANGLADESH

No. 24

PONTEDERIACEAE

EDITOR
MD. SALAR KHAN

June 1984

By
MD. MATIUR RAHMAN
AND
MAHBUBA HALIM

BANGLADESH NATIONAL HERBARIUM
BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
COUNCIL

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DEPT. OF BOTANY
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PONTEDERIACEAE

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Annual or perennial, submerged, free-floating or erect marshy herbs rooting in the mud. Rootstocks thick, short or creeping, with fibrous roots. Stems rhizomatous or stoloniferous or erect and unbranched with numerous air chambers as are the petioles. Stems are enveloped by sheathing leaf bases in many cases. Leaves whorled or alternate, or solitary at the top of the stem with lanceolate to broadly ovate blades, the blades emersed or floating. Inflorescence a raceme or panicle, usually subtended by a spathe-like leaf sheath. Flowers bisexual, mostly regular or rarely irregular, with or without subtending bracts, often simultaneously or centrifugally expanding, blue, lilac, yellow or white. Perianth usually composed of six segments, all quite similar and petal like, polyphyllous or gamophyllous, sometimes twisted after anthesis and falling, or the base thickened, persistent and enclosing the fruit. Stamens 6 or 3, rarely 1, unequally adnate to perianth tube or base of perianth lobes, filaments slender, free, anthers 2-celled, introrse, dehiscing by vertical slits or rarely by pores. Ovary superior, trilocular with numerous ovules on axile placentas, or unilocular with 1 apical or with 3 parietal placentas. Style 1, long, stigma entire or minutely 3-lobed. Fruit perfectly or imperfectly 3-valved, 1-seeded utricle. Seed ribbed longitudinally. Embryo straight, linear, terete, central, the endosperm copious and mealy.

1. Flowers sessile; perianth strongly zygomorphic,
posterior tepals with a discoloured blotch **Eichhornia**
- Flowers distinctly pedicelled; perianth
actinomorphic, posterior tepals not with
a discoloured blotch **Monochoria**

LIST OF FAMILIES PUBLISHED

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Averrhoaceae | 19. Ochnaceae |
| 2. Basellaceae | 20. Onagraceae |
| 3. Buddlejaceae | 21. Orobanchaceae |
| 4. Butomaceae | 22. Oxalidaceae |
| 5. Cannabidaceae | 23. Pedaliaceae |
| 6. Caricaceae | 24. Phytolaccaceae |
| 7. Casuarinaceae | 25. Polemoniaceae |
| 8. Ceratophyllaceae | 26. Punicaceae |
| 9. Commelinaceae | 27. Rhizophoraceae |
| 10. Dichapetalaceae | 28. Ruppiceae |
| 11. Flagellariaceae | 29. Salicaceae |
| 12. Fumariaceae | 30. Sonneratiaceae |
| 13. Haloragaceae | 31. Sphenocleaceae |
| 14. Hydrophyllaceae | 32. Tropaeolaceae |
| 15. Martyniaceae | 33. Turneraceae |
| 16. Molluginaceae | 34. Zannichelliaceae |
| 17. Moringaceae | 35. Zygophyllaceae |
| 18. Nymphaeaceae | |

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