

***SIDA SPINOSA* L. (MALVACEAE): A NEW ANGIOSPERM SPECIES  
RECORD FOR BANGLADESH**

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The genus *Sida* L. of Malvaceae consists of 100 to 150 species widely distributed in Africa, Asia, Australia, America and the Pacific islands (Tang *et al.*, 2007). Rahman (2009) reported five species of *Sida* L. occurring in Bangladesh. The species *Sida spinosa* L., native to tropical America is widely spread worldwide as an agricultural weed. Recently, the authors collected few specimens of this species from Mirpur under Dhaka district and Khulna University Campus under Khulna district. After a critical taxonomic study, the specimens have been identified as *Sida spinosa* L. The species *Sida spinosa* L. has never been mentioned in any publication on the flora covering the present territory of Bangladesh *viz.* Masters (1874); Kurz (1877); Prain (1903); Heinig (1925); Kanjilal *et al.* (1934); Datta and Mitra (1953); Mia and Khan (1995); Khan and Hossain (2003); Rahman (2004 a & b, 2009). Hence, it is being reported here as a new angiosperm record for Bangladesh. The specimens are presently deposited at Jahangirnagar University Herbarium (JUH) and Bangladesh National Herbarium (DACB).

The detailed description of the species based on herbarium material and photographs are given below.

1. ***Sida spinosa* L., Sp. Pl. 683. 1753. (Fig. 1)**

*Sida alba* L., Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 960. 1763.

Erect, annual or perennial, diffuse herbs or undershrubs, up to 1 m tall; stem densely stellate pubescent. Leaves lanceolate to orbicular-ovate, oblong or somewhat orbicular, 2-6 × 0.5-2.0 cm, rounded, truncate-cordate at base, acute, obtuse or rounded at apex, margins crenate, glabrous above, densely grey pubescent beneath, stipules filiform, 2-5 mm long, usually persistent; petiole 5-20 mm long, softly hispid, often with 1-3 glands at base. Flowers axillary, solitary or 2-5 in fascicles in terminal branches; pedicel 1.5-2.0 cm long, jointed just below the calyx. Epicalyx rotate, segments 5, shortly connate at the base, ovate, acute to acuminate. Calyx cup-shaped, 4-5 mm long, 10 ribbed, 5-cleft to about the middle, stellately hairy outside, inside glabrous; lobes triangular, acute to acuminate, 1-2 mm long. Corolla white or yellow, slightly exceeding the calyx, petals obovate, 9-12 × 7-9 mm, apex rounded, base ciliate, outside with few stellate hairs, inside glabrous. Staminal column ca. 5 mm long. Fruit depressed globose, pubescent above; mericarps 5, membranous, 4-5 mm long including awn, trigonous, dehiscent at apex but seed released from the disintegrated base, radially striately nerved, apically with 2, 0.5-0.8 mm long, awns 2, divergent, setaceous. Seeds ca. 1.5 mm long, glabrous, brown to black. Flowering and fruiting: September-January.

*Ecology:* Generally an agricultural weed of open and disturbed places, roadsides and fields.

*Distribution:* India, Pakistan, United States to South America.

*Specimens examined:* **Dhaka:** Near Kafrul Thana, Mirpur, 31 iii 2013, S.S. Shetu 692 (JUH); **Khulna:** Khulna University Campus, 11 viii 2006, S.N. Uddin N2750 (DACB).

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Note: From Bangladesh, Rahman (2009) described five species (*viz.* *Sida acuta* Burm.f., *Sida cordata* (Burm.f.) Borss., *Sida cordifolia* L., *Sida mysorensis* Wight & Arn. and *Sida rhombifolia* L.) under the genus.



Fig. 1. *Sida spinosa* L.

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