

# FLORA OF BANGLADESH

NO. 5

SPHENOCLEACEAE

EDITOR

M. SALAR KHAN

March 1977

By

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And

A. M. HUQ

BANGLADESH NATIONAL HERBARIUM  
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GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

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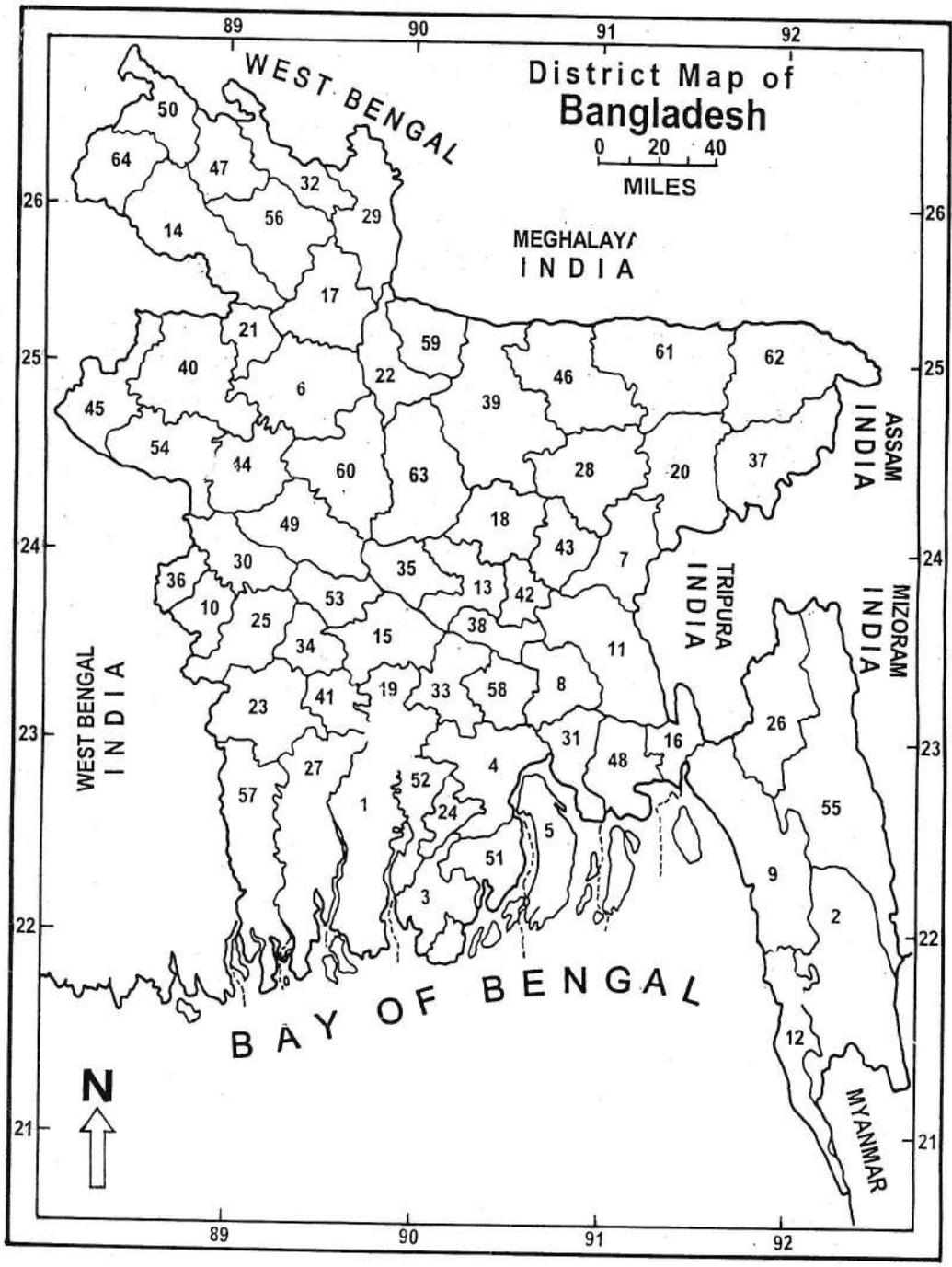
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## SPHENOCLEACEAE

**M. S. Khan and A. M. Huq**

Marsh or semi-aquatic glabrous annuals. Stem erect or suberect, more or less succulent. Leaves spiral, simple, exstipulate, subsessile to petiolate. Inflorescence terminal, dense, cylindrical spicate. Flowers small, sessile, complete, regular, bracteate, bracteoles 2. Calyx of 5 ovate, imbricate lobes, persistent, tube short, adnate nearly up to the middle of ovary. Corolla of 5 ovate, imbricate lobes, campanulate to urceolate, often caducous. Androecium of 5 epipetalous stamens, alternating with petals; filaments short; anthers with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary inferior to sub-inferior, 2-locular, ovules many in each locule on axile placentae; style terminal, short; stigma capitate or subobscurely bilobed. Fruit a short capsule (pyxidium), 2-locular, circumscissile. Seeds numerous, minute, narrowly oblong, almost exalbuminous, embryo straight, subterete.

A monotypic family distributed in the tropics of Asia, Africa, and America. Modern authors recognize this family as distinct from Campanulaceae, in which it was formerly placed, by the imbricate corolla and circumscissile capsule.

### Reference cited in the text

Federov, A. A. 1969. *Chromosome numbers of flowering plants*. Acadèmy of Sciences of U.S.S.R., Moscow.

### SPHENOCLEA Gaertn.,

Fruct. 1: 113, t. 24, f. 5 (1788), *nom. conserv.*

A genus with only 2 species, represented in Bangladesh by *S. zeylanica* while the other, *S. dalzielii* is endemic to west Africa.

**S. zeylanica** Gaertn., Fruct., 1 : 113, t. 24, f. 5 (1788). C.B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. Ind. 3 : 438 (1881). Prain, Beng. Pl. : 467 (1903). Pl. I.

Bengali: *Jhil Marich*

A robust herb up to 1 m or more tall. Roots numerous, threadlike at the base of stem. Stem branched, soft with succulent spongy tissue. Leaves up to 10.5 × 2.7 cm, entire, lanceolate or lanceolate-elliptic, acute, glabrous. Petiole, when present, up to 2 cm. Inflorescence long peduncled, spikes up to 4 cm long, with conical apex. Flowers lateral or terminal, up to 2 mm long, sessile or subsessile. Bract c. 2.2 mm, more or less spatulate, upcurved hyaline, greenish-white. Bracteoles linear or spatulate, equal to

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