



# *Exacum paucisquamum* (Gentianaceae): A new record for Western Himalaya, India

J.K. Tiwari, Dinesh Singh Rawat\* and P. Tiwari

Systematics and Palynology Laboratory, Department of Botany & Microbiology

HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand-246 174, India

\*E-mail: dsrwt7@rediffmail.com

## Abstract

*Exacum paucisquamum* (C.B. Clarke) Klack., so far known in India only from the Eastern Himalaya, is reported for the first time from Western Himalaya. A detailed description, phenology, distribution and figures have been provided.

**Keywords:** *Cotylanthera*, *Exacum paucisquamum*, Gairsain, Mycoheterotroph, Western Himalaya

## Introduction

*Exacum paucisquamum* (C.B. Clarke) Klack. was known to occur in India in the state of Sikkim (Clarke, 1883) and Singalila range, Darjeeling district, West Bengal (Hara, 1975) in the moist Eastern Himalaya but the species was not reported from the drier Western Himalaya hitherto. During recent floristic explorations the authors spotted a population of *E. paucisquamum* of c. 500 individuals in Gairsain, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, that constitutes the first record of the species from Western Himalaya. Brief description, phenology, distribution and figures are provided for easy identification.

***Exacum paucisquamum*** (C.B. Clarke) Klack., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 126: 478. 2006. *Cotylanthera paucisquamum* C.B. Clarke in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 94. 1883; H. Hara, J. Jap. Bot. 50: 327. 1975; Ho & Pringle, Fl. China 16: 3. 1995. *Cotylanthera yunnanensis* W.W. Smith, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 13: 158. 1921.

**Fig. 1**

*Type:* Not traceable

Mycoheterotrophic herbs, 4–6 (–10) cm high. Stem white, erect, simple, fleshy. Leaves 3–6 pairs, scale like, opposite, sessile; blade c. 1.5–3 mm long, entire at margins, acute at apex. Flower solitary, terminal. Calyx 4-lobed, dull white, 3–5 mm long, triangular, obtuse at apex; mid-vein distinct. Corolla 4-lobed, dark blue–whitish, c. 1 cm long, narrowly oblong, entire at margins, obtuse at apex.

Stamens 4; filaments white, 3 mm long, linear; anthers yellow, 2.5–4 mm long, sagittate, slightly curved. Style linear, 6–9 mm long. Ovary ovoid-ellipsoid, 2-celled. Capsules subglobose. Seeds numerous.

*Flowering & fruiting:* August – September.

*Habitat:* Shady moist localities of evergreen forest on decomposed litter.

*Distribution:* N. India (Sikkim, Uttarakhand, West Bengal), Hong Kong (Mo Shan), SW. China (Sichuan, Tibet, Yunnan) and NW. Vietnam (Lao Cai).

*Notes:* Recent cladistic studies combined with morphological analyses show that *Cotylanthera* is nested within the genus *Exacum* (Yuan *et al.*, 2003, 2005). Hence, *E. paucisquamum* (C.B. Clarke) Klack. (Klackenberg, 2006) has been treated here as the accepted name.

*Specimen examined:* INDIA, Uttarakhand, Chamoli district: Gairsain, 1360 m, 16 August, 2014, Dinesh Singh Rawat 20734 (GUH).

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**Fig. 1: a, b.** Habit of *Exacum paucisquamum* (C.B. Clarke) Klack.

(Gairsain) during the field study and Dr. D.S. Rawat, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar for help in identification.

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