

Rashika KAFLE, Madhu Shudan THAPA MAGAR and Gaurav PARMAR: *Acalypha australis* (Euphorbiaceae) — A New Record for the Flora of Nepal

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(Accepted on 27 February 2025)

Summary: *Acalypha australis* (Euphorbiaceae), collected from Central Nepal, is reported as a new record for the flora of Nepal. A key to the species of *Acalypha* in Nepal is also provided.

An *Acalypha* species was collected in an open and undisturbed area along with grass species in Godawari, Lalitpur district, Central Nepal, in 2024. After careful examination, it was identified as *A. australis* L. This species is native to the south of Far East Russia to the North Philippines, including China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Laos, and Vietnam, but is introduced into a part of North America, Europe, West Siberia, Eastern Australia, West Himalaya, and India (POWO 2024). It seems to be a native species in Nepal based on its undisturbed natural habitat and distribution adjacent to China. Morphologically, *A. australis* is similar to *A. indica* L. but differs in having female bracts 1–2.5 cm long, and absence of allomorphic female flowers while female bracts are less than 5 mm long, and allomorphic female flowers usually present in *A. indica* (Qiu and Gilbert 2008, Susila Rani and Balakrishnan 2012). Since *A. australis* has not been previously recorded from Nepal (e.g., Short and Vickery 1982, Rajbhandari and Rai 2019, Shrestha et al. 2022), it is reported here as a new record for the flora of Nepal (Fig. 1).

Acalypha australis L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1004 (1753).

Distribution: Native to China, Japan, Korea,



Fig. 1. *Acalypha australis* collected from Lalitpur District, Central Nepal (R.Kafle & G.Parmar GR1, KATH).

Laos, Philippines, Primorye (Russia), Taiwan, Vietnam and Nepal (Lalitpur). Introduced into Australia (New South Wales, Queensland), Bulgaria, India, Italy, Russia (North Caucasus), Tajikistan, Transcaucasus, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America (New Jersey, New York), West Himalaya, and West Siberia.



Specimen examined: NEPAL. Lalitpur District, Godawari, 1490 m, 15 Aug. 2024, R.Kafle & G.Parmar GR1 (KATH168242 [Fig. 1]).

Keys to the Nepalese *Acalypha* species

- 1a. Dioecious shrubs *A. hispida* Burm.f.
- 1b. Monoecious herbs 2
- 2a. Pistillate bracts deeply 3–5 lobed; inflorescences up to 1 cm
..... *A. brachystachya* Hornem.
- 2b. Pistillate bracts with crenate or crenulate margins; inflorescences 2–10 cm long ... 3
- 3a. Pistillate bracts less than 5 mm; allomorphic female flower usually present
..... *A. indica* L.
- 3b. Pistillate bracts 1–2.5 cm; allomorphic female flower absent *A. australis* L.

The authors are grateful to the Research Officer Yagya Raj Paneru of the National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories (KATH) for providing the digitized image of *Acalypha australis*.

R.Kafle, M.S.Thapa Magar, G.Parmar : ネパール新産のエノキグサ (トウダイグサ科)

ネパール中部の Lalitpur 県で採集されたエノキグサ *Acalypha australis* (トウダイグサ科) を、ネパール新産として報告する。本種はインドと西ヒマラヤでは移入種とされているが、自生地である中国に隣接した攪乱されてない草地で採集されたことから在来種と考えられる。

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ネパール産 エノキグサ属の検索表を付記した。

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Japanese title and summary: Masashi NAKATA