

***Hodgsonia macrocarpa* Cogn. (Cucurbitaceae): New Record for Flora of Nepal**

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Cucurbitaceae (Cucurbit family) includes about 268 genera in the world. Hara and Williams (1979) reported its altogether 21 genera, 30 species and 2 forma from Nepal, while Press *et al.* (2000) added 2 more varieties and 1 forma. The present paper communicates one more new genus for flora of Nepal, recorded in Churia and mid hills of eastern Nepal. The specimens were collected from Sindrang Village Development Committee (VDC) of Bhojpur district, at elevation of 700 m and Raja Rani Pond vicinity of Bhogateni VDC, Morang district, Koshi Zone (Churia Hills), at the elevation of 450 m. The specimens were identified with the help of literature (Grierson and Long, 1991). This additional species is *Hodgsonia macrocarpa* Cogn.

Hodgsonia macrocarpa Cogn.; *H. heteroclita* Hook. f. and Thomson. Sha: Tersha. [Fig. 1 and 2]. Large climber to 30 m with bulky prominent root. Leaves simple, 3-5 lobed; coriaceous, suborbicular in outline, 25-35×30-45 cm; lobes oblong, apiculate. Male inflorescence minutely brown tomentose; calyx 8-10 cm; corolla 5 cm, yellow outside, white within, fimbriate processes up to 10 cm. Female flower on peduncle 4-6 cm. Fruits 8-16×8-17 cm,

brown tomentose; seeds ellipsoid, white, 6-7×3×4×1.5 cm.

Exiccatus: Eastern Nepal, Koshi Zone, Bhojpur district, Sindrang VDC and Morang district, Bhogateni VDC, December 2007, KM-20071225 (KATH)

Altitude: 700 m

Status: Locally rare

Flowering: March-August, also November-December

Economic Importance: Edible oil is extracted from the seed, also used seed powder in indigestion and stomach pain.

Local Name: Ghyu phal or ban pharsi

Distribution: Nepal, India (Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya) and Bangladesh

Hodgsonia macrocarpa Cogn. has not been reported from Nepal Himalaya earlier. Hence it is an addition to the flora of Nepal.

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Figure 1. Flower of *Hodgsonia macrocarpa* Cogn.



Figure 2. Fruit of *Hodgsonia macrocarpa* Cogn.

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