

**Short Communication**

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**ILLUSTRATING THREE MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM BANGLADESH**

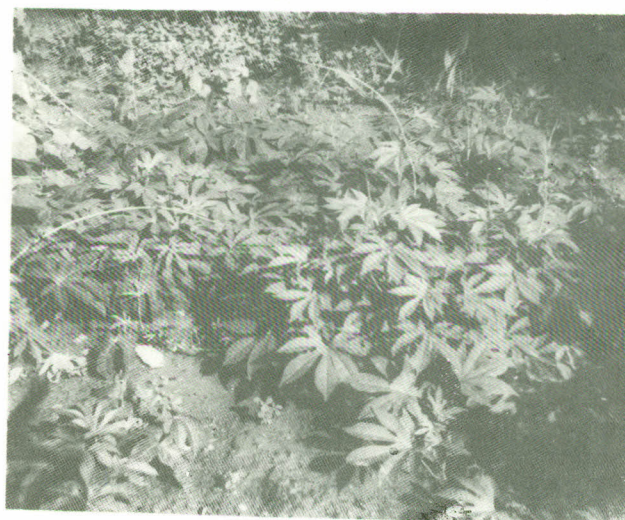
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For some six years I was at Pabna now in Bangladesh. One of my elderly neighbours interested in medicinal plants kindly informed me that the common household remedy against ague fever or malaria was a decoction of Kalmegh, *Andrographis paniculata*. It is called Kalomegh, meaning "dark-cloud". Its leaves are specially dark, thereby distinguishing the plant from others. When tried to survey my neighbourhood I found several plants growing together and

their leaves were dark enough to enable easy identification. I tried to grow it in the small garden attached to my residence. I was thus able to make an accurate drawing, specially of the flower, and of the seed pods which grow erect on the stem. Figure 1 represents the result of what was observed. Another plant, not well illustrated in the literature would be *Bari-ilaichi*, the "larger cardomon", *Amonum subulatum*. I found it best to photograph the

Fig. 1. *Andrographis paniculata* (Kalmegh).Fig. 3. *Amonum subulatum* (Bari-ilaichi).Fig. 2. *Amonum subulatum* (Bari-ilaichi).Fig. 4. *Bacopa monnieri*.

plant which had just started flowering, shown in Figure 2, and a close-up picture showing the flower at its best, seen in Figure 3.

Brahmi is a well known plant scientifically identified as *Bacopa monorieri*. It was called Jain Brahmi Jal=water,

since it grew best near a pound or where water was always present. This plant was one which was not well illustrated before hence it was photographed and is offered as Figure 4.

**Key words:** Medicinal plants, Bangladesh.