

**FLORA
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BANGLADESH**

No. 74

BROMELIACEAE

EDITORS

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And

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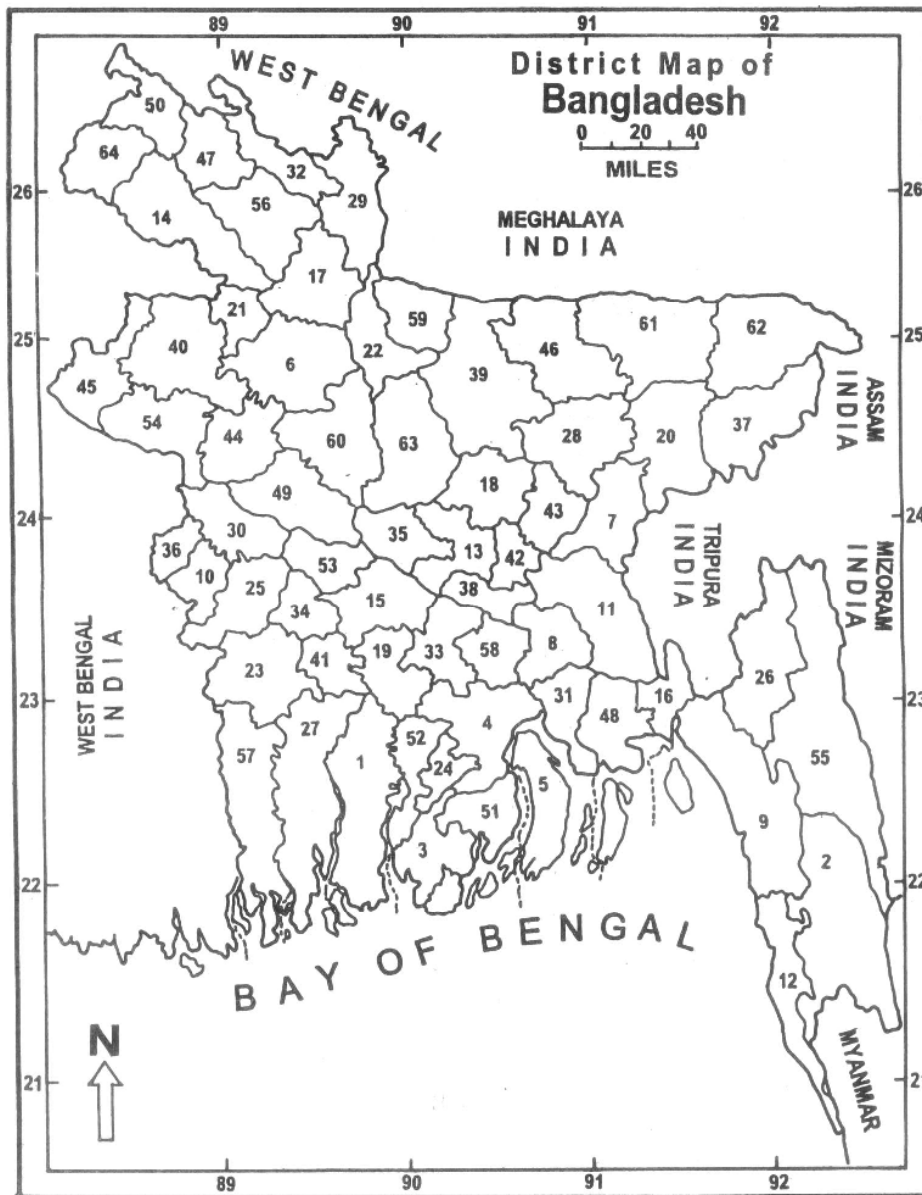
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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH



List of Districts

The serial numbers correspond to those given in the map.

1.	Bagerhat	33.	Madaripur
2.	Bandarban	34.	Magura
3.	Barguna	35.	Manikganj
4.	Barishal	36.	Meherpur
5.	Bhola	37.	Maulvibazar
6.	Bogura	38.	Munshiganj
7.	Brahamanbaria	39.	Mymensingh
8.	Chandpur	40.	Naogaon
9.	Chattogram	41.	Narail
10.	Chuadanga	42.	Narayanganj
11.	Cumilla	43.	Narsingdi
12.	Cox's Bazar	44.	Natore
13.	Dhaka	45.	Nawabganj
14.	Dinajpur	46.	Netrakona
15.	Faridpur	47.	Nilphamari
16.	Feni	48.	Noakhali
17.	Gaibandha	49.	Pabna
18.	Gazipur	50.	Panchagarh
19.	Gopalganj	51.	Patuakhali
20.	Habiganj	52.	Pirojpur
21.	Jaipurhat	53.	Rajbari
22.	Jamalpur	54.	Rajshahi
23.	Jashore	55.	Rangamati
24.	Jhalakati	56.	Rangpur
25.	Jhenaidaha	57.	Satkhira
26.	Khagrachhari	58.	Shariatpur
27.	Khulna	59.	Sherpur
28.	Kishoreganj	60.	Sirajganj
29.	Kurigram	61.	Sunamganj
30.	Kushtia	62.	Sylhet
31.	Lakshmipur	63.	Tangail
32.	Lalmonirhat	64.	Thakurgaon

LIST OF FAMILIES PUBLISHED

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BROMELIACEAE A.L. de Jussieu

Hosne Ara¹ and Sudhir Kumar Dutta²

Mostly short-stemmed epiphytic herbs, sometimes terrestrial xerophytes. Leaves alternate, most commonly rosulate on the short stem, narrow, parallel-veined, simple, entire or more often spinose-serrate, base red or otherwise brightly coloured. Flowers perfect or sometimes functionally unisexual, regular or slightly irregular, trimerous, hypogynous to epigynous, borne in simple or compound spikes or racemes or heads with brightly coloured bracts. Sepals 3, green and herbaceous, distinct or connate below. Petals 3, distinct or connate below, often brightly coloured, basal margins with a pair of scale-like appendages that sometimes function as nectaries. Stamens 6, in 2 sets, each with 3 stamens, all free or often connate or collectively or individually adnate to the separate tepals, anthers tetrasporangiate and dithecal, opening by the longitudinal slits, pollen grains binucleate. Carpels 3, united to form a compound, trilocular ovary with a terminal often trifid style, stigma papillate, ovules few to numerous on the axile placentas. Fruit a berry or less often usually a septicidal capsule, or seldom multiple and fleshy. Seeds in capsular fruits winged or plumose.

The family Bromeliaceae consists of about 50 genera and 2000-2600 species, native to tropical and warm temperate America (Weiliang and Bartholomew, 2000). There is only one species in Bangladesh under this family.

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²Former Professor of Botany, Bhola Govt. College, Bhola.

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Abbreviations used for the herbaria (other than the recognized acronyms)

DUSH= Dhaka University Salar Khan Herbarium

BFRIH=Herbarium, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute

Ananas Mill., Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4: 28 (1754)

Type species: *Bromelia ananas* L.

Perennial or biennial herbs. Stem short and leafy, terrestrial, bearing a terminal inflorescence which after fertilization, forms a common pale to golden-yellow fleshy fruit and bract on a robust axis, the main axis grows beyond and forms a tuft of leaves, the ‘crown’ of the pineapple. Slips and suckers formed at the base serve in vegetative propagation.

Ananas comosus (L.) Merrill, Interpr. Herb. Amboin.: 133 (1917). Datta & Mitra, Bull. Bot. Soc. Beng. 7 (1&2): 103 (1953); Noltie, Fl. Bhutan 3(1): 172-173 (1994); Weiliang & Bartholomew (eds.), Fl. China 24: 18 (2000); Dutta in Siddiqui *et al.* (eds.), *Encycl. Fl. Fauna Bangladesh* 11: 138-140 (2007); *Bromelia comosa* L., Herb. Amb. 21 (1754); *B. ananas* L., Sp. Pl.: 285 (1743); *Ananas sativus* Schult., Syst. Veg. 7: 1283 (1830); Fischer in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 3: 1046 (1935-reprint 1967); Kirtikar *et al.*, Indian

Medicinal Pl. 4: 2478 (1918); *Ananassa sativa* L., Fam. Bromel. 219: t. 1068 (1856); Prain, Beng. Pl. 2: 1052 (1903-reprint 2004); Heinig, List Chittagong: 71 (1925); *Ananas sativus* Lindl., Fl. Bras. 3 (3): 293 (1892); Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa 6: 1115 (1924).

Fig. 1.

Bengali: *Anarash*

English: *Pineapple*

A perennial herb, stem short, unbranched, thick and fleshy. Leaves long, 50-75 × 3-6 cm, narrow, lanceolate, spiny, fibrous, parallel-veined, acuminate, closely spaced in a rosette on the stem. Inflorescence a terminal condensed spike having a cone-like bunch of bluish flowers, each in the axil of a bract. Flowers bisexual, regular. Sepals 3, wide-acuminate, closely imbricate, free above the ovary. Petals 3, erect, slightly adnate below the filament, often with 2 minute basal scales. Stamens 6, 3 alternate with the petals, filaments free, 3 opposite and adnate below to the petal, anthers linear. Carpels 3, connate in an inferior 3-celled, fleshy ovary, embedded in the thick rachis, ovules in each cell several. Style filiform. Stigma linear. Fruit fleshy, embedded in the fleshy receptacle, the whole fruit with the bracts, rachis and receptacles form a cone-like fleshy syncarp known as sorosis. Fruits c 20 × 14 cm, weight 1-2 kg. Seeds few, ovoid or oblong. Embryo minute. A number of varieties grow in the different parts of Bangladesh of which Honey Queen, Giant Kew and *Ghorasal* are popular (Begum, 1987). *Fl.* and *Fr.*: 2-7. *The plant naturally grows in a dry climate in sheltered situations but can also grow in moist and hot areas with high rainfall, provided the land is naturally well drained.* 2n=50, 75, 100 (Fedorov, 1969).

Dhaka: Kalampur, 19 iii 1981, *Huq, Rahman & Mia* H. 5025 (DACB). **Kishoreganj:** Karimganj jungle bari, 13 iii 1988, *Mia & Mahfuz* M. 1629 (DACB). **Moulvibazar:** Lawachara, viii 1988, *D.K. Das* 6084 (BFRIH). **Mymensingh:** Modupur, 8 iv 1976, *Huq & Mia* H. 2344 (DACB). **Patuakhali:** Galachipa, Gobba, 27 xii 2011, *M. Sultana* 1930 (DUSH).

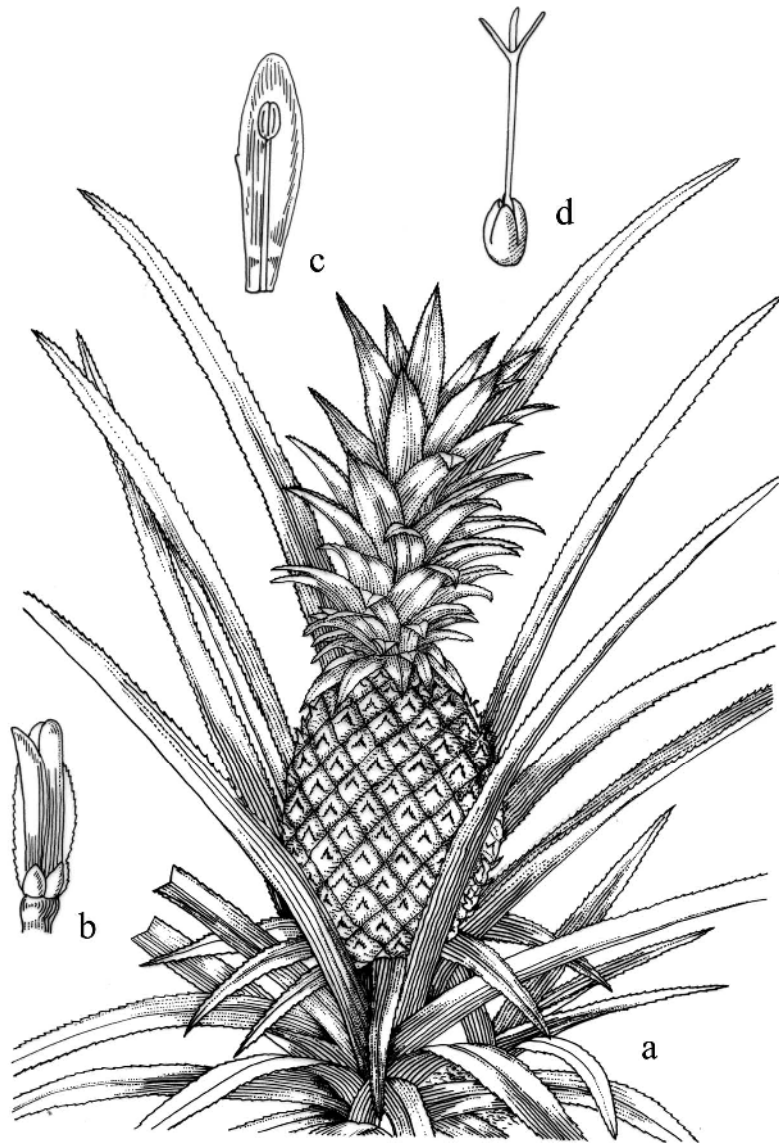


Figure 1. *Ananas comosus* (L.) Merrill, a) habit sketch; b) flower; c) petal and stamen; d) calyx and pistil.

A native of tropical and sub-tropical America. It is now also introduced in other tropical countries, and is extensively cultivated in Hawaii, Mexico, Cuba, the West Indies, Formosa, Sri Lanka, India, China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore, Queensland (Australia), etc (Macmillan, 1962). In Bangladesh, it is widely cultivated in greater Sylhet and the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Madhupur forests in Tangail and Mymensingh districts.

Ripe fruit is eaten fresh as a dessert and used in making juice, squash, jam and jellies. In the West Indies, it is also used for wine making. Leaves of the pineapple yield strong, fine, white and flexible fibre unaffected by water, which is used in making fine cloth and rope (Dutta, 2007).

The juice extracted from the base of pineapple leaves is drunk in India and Bangladesh in order to expel intestinal worms. The juice from immature fruits is sometimes used as an abortifacient. There is a local belief that one should not take milk immediately after eating pineapple (Dutta, 2007).

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