

103 ELATINACEAE

Annual herbs or low undershrubs, erect or spreading, branched, glabrous or pubescent. Leaves opposite, serrate or entire. Flowers small, axillary, solitary or fascicled, pedicelled; sepals 5, free, imbricate; petals 5, free, imbricate, stamens 5-10, hypogynous, free, ovaries superior, free, ovoid, 3- to 5-celled; styles 5, short or stigmas sessile; ovules numerous on inner angles of cells. Fruits septicidal capsules, small, 5-celled 5-valved.

Genera 2, species 30; in temperate and tropical zones of both hemispheres; 1 genus and 1 species in the Philippines

1. BERGIA Linnaeus

Herbs (in ours) or small shrubs in wet or dry places. Leaves finely serrate, pinnately nerved. Flowers solitary, fascicled or clustered, 3- to 5-merous, mostly bracteate, sepals mostly free, acute with distinct midrib, margins pellucid; stamens as many or twice as many as 5 petals; ovaries 3- to 5-celled; styles short with subglobose stigma. Capsules septicidal, globose; seeds smooth or ribbed

Species 20, tropical and subtropical

1. *Bergia ammannioides* Roxb., Hort. Beng. 34, 1814, *nom. nud.*; Roxb., Nov. Pl. Sp. 219, 1821; Backer, Fl. Mal. I, 4, 205, 1951. – *B. serrata* Blco., Fl. Filip. 387, 1837

Figure 132

Herbs erect or ascending, 10-30 cm high, often decumbent below. Stems and branches reddish, glandular-pubescent. Leaves oblong-elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, 1-2 cm long, acute, base narrowed, shortly petioled; pedicels and sepals glandular-pubescent. Sepals green, lanceolate, acuminate, 3 mm long; petals pink, as long as sepals; stamens slender, 10 or sometimes less. Capsules ovoid, 2-2.5 mm long.

Tropical Africa, Asia to southern China, Malesia and tropical Australia. Philippines: northern to southern Luzon; a characteristic rice paddy weed

Com. name – Bergia (Engl.).

Exsicc. – *Bardenas CA 10575**; *Lugod CA 5031*; *Teodoro CA 1903* (CAHP).

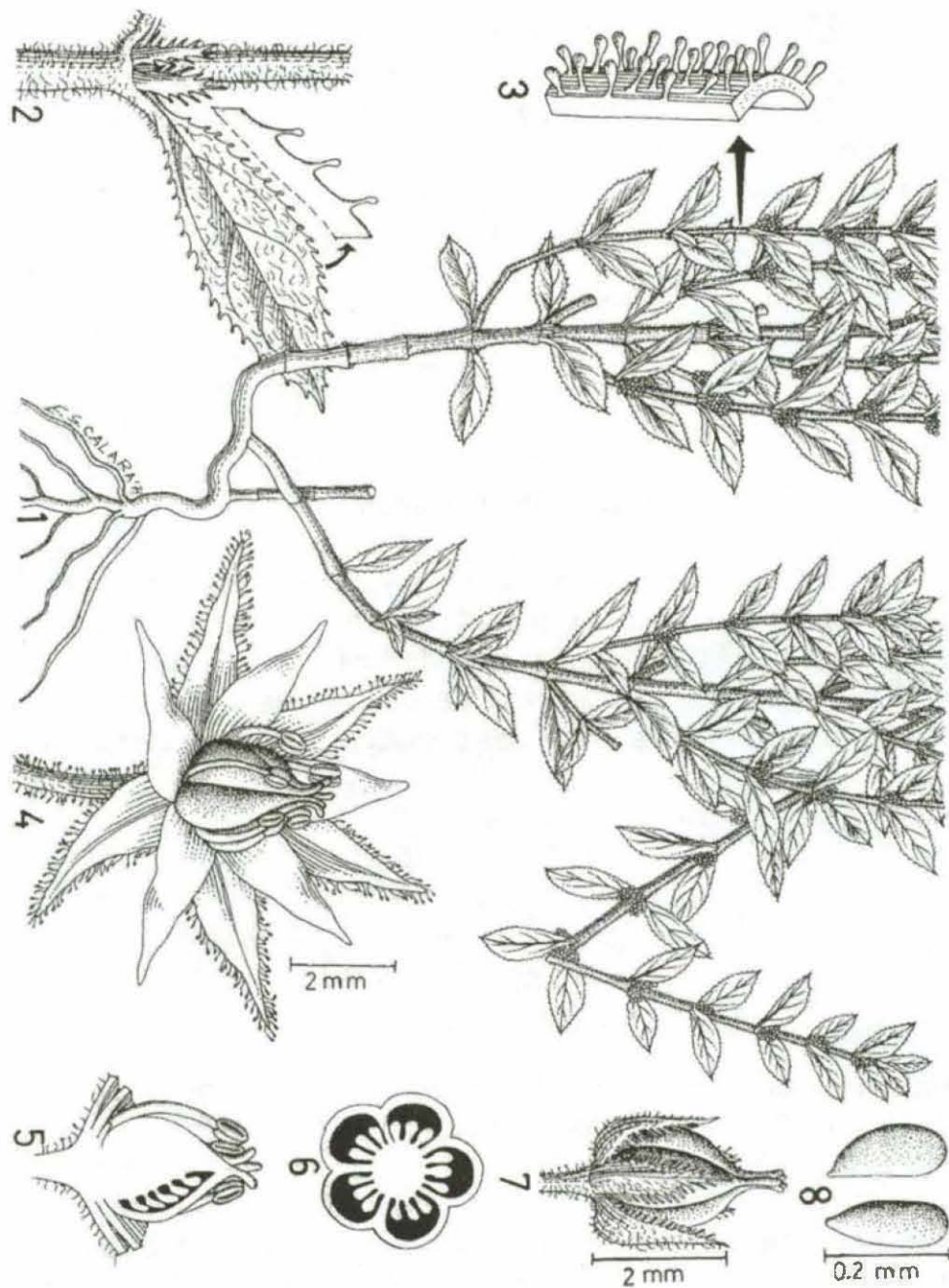


Figure 132. *Bergia ammannioides*: 1. habit; 2. portion of stem with stipules and leaf; 3. portion of epidermis; 4. flower; 5. ovary, vertical section; 6. ovary, cross section; 7. fruit; 8. seed, 2 views.