

## *Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell. (Commelinaceae), A New Record For Nepal

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### Abstract

*Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell. (Comelinaceae) is reported as a new record for Nepal.

**Keywords:** Actinomorphic, flowers, Lectotype, Ornamental, Wild

### Introduction

*Tradescantia* L. is a genus belonging to the family Commelinaceae. It is represented by 70 species distributed mostly in tropical America and is characterized by annual or perennial herbs with actinomorphic flowers, 6 fertile stamens, free petals, spathe-like involucre bracts and capsular fruits (Hong & DeFilipps, 2000). *Tradescantia* species has not been reported occurring as wild from Nepal by Hara et al. (1978), Press et al. (2000), Bista et al., (2001), Rajbhandari & Manandhar (2010), Rajbhandari & Rai (2017) and Shrestha et al. (2018). One species, *Tradescantia zebrina*, has been reported as cultivated plant (Rajbhandari & Manandhar, 2010, Shrestha et al., 2018). Recently, a specimen of *Tradescantia* occurring as wild by the side of road at Lalitpur District of central Nepal has been collected and identified as *Tradescantia fluminensis*. This species is a new addition to the flora of Nepal.

*Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell., Fl. Flumin. 3:140, t. 152 (1829). [Figure 1].

**Nepali name:** Seto Kaane Phool.

**English name:** Wandering Jew, Small-leaf Spiderwort, Wandering Trad, Inch Plant.

Perennial, evergreen herb. Stems branched, prostrate and forming dense mats or colonies, rooting from lower nodes. Leaves sessile, alternate, clasping the stems, shiny, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, ciliate along margins, 1.5-4 x 1-1.5 cm, margin entire, apex acute, base rounded, dark green and purplish below; sheath glabrous, 4-8 mm, ciliate along margins and mouth. Inflorescence terminal with clusters of flowers

subtended by 2 leaf-like bracts. Flowers pedicelled, pedicel hairy, 0.5-1.3 cm, slender. Sepals 3, lanceolate, 5-6 x 2-3 mm, green, hairy on back along keels, persistent and enclosing the floral parts. Petals 3, white, ovate-lanceolate, 5-6 x 2-3 mm, apex acute. Stamens 6, fertile, sub-equal; filaments with white beards from base; anthers yellow. Ovary 3-loculed; style white.



Figure 1: *Tradescantia fluminensis* Vell

***Tradescantia* Lectotype:** [illustration] Original parchment plate of *Flora fluminensis* in the Manuscript Section of the Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro [cat. no.: mss1198652\_156] and later published in Vellozo, Fl. Flumin. Icones 3: t. 152 (1831).

***Distribution:*** Native to South America (Brazil to northern Argentina); naturalized in Nepal.

***Ecology:*** Occurs as a weed in open places along roadside.

***Flowering:*** Apr.-June.

***Use:*** This species is used as an ornamental plant. It is easily grown indoors in pots or hanging baskets.

***Specimen examined:*** Central Nepal, Lalitpur District, Sanepa, 1340 m, 2018.4.10, K. R. Rajbhandari 20180001(KATH).

***Notes:*** *Tradescantia fluminensis* is a cultivated ornamental species and has been found wild as an escape and alien naturalized plant in Nepal. This species is considered an invasive plant or noxious weed covering the roadside open places.

The plant of *Tradescantia fluminensis* is sometimes confused with *Commelina diffusa* Burm.f., but the latter has blue flowers with rounded petals.

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