

Prostrate to decumbent annual or perennial herbs. Basal leaves petiolate. Flowers bracteate or not, blue or shades of purple-brown. Calyx 5-partite, enlarged in fruit. Corolla cylindrical to funnel-form or ± campanulate. Throat appendage present. Anthers generally included. Gynobase ± pyramidal. Nutlets 4, dorsal surface glabrous or with protuberances; margins with inflexed wings, entire or not glochidiate. Hilger *et al.* (l.c.) have recently described a new genus *Microparacaryum* (M. Pop. ex Riedl) Hilger & Podlech (*Paracaryum* sect. *Microparacaryum* M. Popol in Fl. URSS. 19:602.1953), to include the annual species of *Paracaryum* and *Mattiastrum* with small flowers and fruits. In Pakistan these include *Paracaryum intermedium* and *Mattiastrum bungei*.

I do not propose following them and merging *Paracaryum intermedium* and *bungei* under *Microparacaryum*. The generic distinction (at least in the Pakistan taxa) between *Paracaryum* and *Mattiastrum* is quite clear cut. In the former, the margin of the nutlets are distinctly inrolled to form an aperture; whereas in *Mattiastrum* the margin of nutlet or wing is flat or slightly inrolled and the aperture is not evident. As regards the annual *Paracaryum intermedium*, this is a very variable species throughout its geographical range. Some specimens from Baluchistan with small fruit, and flowers are tall and much branched and suggest they may even be biennials (*R. Akhtar* 12712; *Dick Peddie* 317; *Khairuddin* 117; *R.R. Stewart* 28309).