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40. *SCHOENUS CALOSTACHYUS* (R. BR.) POIR., CYPERACEAE, FROM NICOBAR ISLANDS: A NEW SEDGE RECORD FOR INDIA

(*With one text-figure*)

While exploring the grasslands of the Nancowry group of islands, the author encountered an interesting sedge growing along open, damp, grassy slopes of Teressa Island, which turned out to be *Schoenus calostachyus* (R. Br.) Poir., a species hitherto unknown in India. As this is the first record for India, a detailed description, along with illustrations, is provided.

The genus *Schoenus* L. holds over 80 species (Kern 1974) distributed mainly from southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Micronesia, Europe, South America and Malesia. Karthikeyan *et al.* (1989) refers to one species, *S. nigricans* L., as occurring in Northwest India. *S. calostachyus* (R.Br.) Poir, is so far known only from Australia, Micronesia to Indo-China, Thailand, Ryu Kyu Is., Sumatra, Malay Peninsula, Borneo and New Guinea.

Schoenus calostachyus (R.Br.) Poir. Encyc. Suppl. 2:251.1811; Kern, Fl. Males. 7:675.1974. *Chaetospora calostachya* R. Br. Prod. 233.1810. (Fig. 1).

Perennials with woody rhizomes. Culms tufted, erect, sub-terete, 50-100 cm high. Basal leaves tough, acuminate, 3-ribbed beneath, 2-3 mm wide, with purplish sheaths.

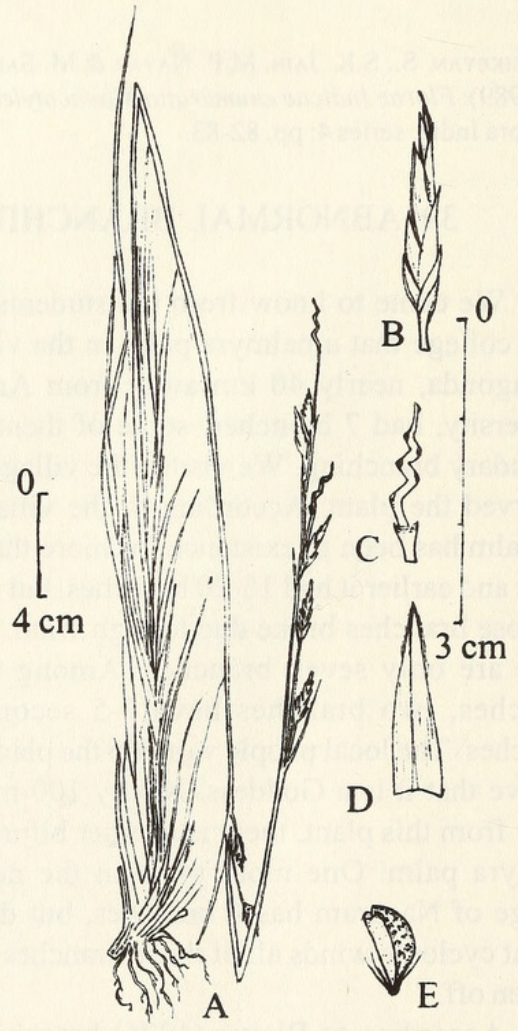


Fig.1: *Schoenus calostachyus* (R. Br.) Poir.
A. Habit; B. Spikelet; C. Rachilla; D. Glume; E. Grain

Inflorescences narrow, racemose, up to 60 cm long with 2-6 distant fascicles of branches. Branches compressed, scaberulous on the angles, each holding 1-3 spikelets. Spikelets oblong-lanceolate or lanceolate, greyish-brown or chestnut brown, 20-25 mm long, 3-6 mm wide. Glumes lanceolate, brownish yellow to chestnut brown, shining, 8-15 mm long (fertile ones up to 20 mm long), coriaceous, ciliate on the upper margins. Nuts trigonous, oblique, 2 angles convex and the other straight, 2.5-3.5 x 1.5-2.0 mm, brown, rugose.

Ecology: Occasional in open grassland, heaths; usually in wet places, growing in clumps in association with *Sorghum nitidum* (Vahl) Pers., *Pachystoma senile* (Lindl.) Reichb. f., *Rhynchospora* sp. etc.

Specimen examined: Nicobar islands: Teressa Is., way to Enam from Minyuk, at ±2 km, 26.ii.1997, P.V. Sreekumar 16739 (PBL).

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41. ADDITIONS TO THE GRASSES OF GOA

The family Poaceae has attracted considerable attention due to its economic importance and diversity. However, the flora of Goa state has not been studied well due to its historical isolation, till 1961. The FLORAS published on Goa (Dalgado 1898, Vartak 1966, Rao 1985, 1986) are not complete. Many species reported by them were collected outside the state of Goa. Recently Kulkarni and Janarthanam (1995) added 10 species of Scrophulariaceae to the existing published accounts. We report 24 additional grass species from Goa.

The identity of specimens was confirmed at BLAT, BSI and MH. The specimens are deposited at the Department of Botany Herbarium, Goa University.

1. ***Arthraxon lanceolatus*** (Roxb.) Hochst. var. *meeboldii* (Stapf) Welzen in Blumea 27: 285. 1981; Lakshminarasimhan in Sharma *et al.* Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 401. 1996. Found in open areas of forests. Exsiccata: Surla, Alt. 460 m, 8.xi.1996, 309.

2. ***Chrysopogon lancearius*** (Hook.f.) Haines, Bot. Bih. Orissa 1036. 1924; Lakshminarasimhan in Sharma *et al.* Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 431. 1996. On open laterite plateaus. Exsiccata: Goa University campus, 23.x.1996, 348.

3. ***Dicanthium filiculme*** (Hook.f.) Jain and Deshpande in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 20: 134. (1978) 1979; Lakshminarasimhan in Sharma *et al.* Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 454. 1996. Found on cut surfaces of rocks and hillocks. Exsiccata: Molem, 22.xi.1996, 413.

4. ***Dimeria blatteri*** Bor in Kew Bull. 1949: 70. 1949; Lakshminarasimhan in Sharma *et al.*, Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 467. 1996. Found along streams. Exsiccata: Surla, Alt. 460 m. 8.xi.1996, 339.

5. ***Dimeria ornithopoda*** Trin., Fund. Agrost. 167, t. 14. 1820; Lakshminarasimhan in Sharma *et al.* Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 468. 1996. Found in marshy areas. Exsiccata: Keri, 16.x.1996, 231.



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