

***KOBRESIA GANDAKIENSIS* – A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA**BIKASH JANA¹ AND R.C. SRIVASTAVA²*Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata - 700064**E-mail: ¹bikash.janadp@rediffmail.com, ²rcs_bsi@yahoo.co.in*

During the course of studies on genus *Kobresia* Willd. (Cyperaceae) in India under the Flora of India project of Botanical Survey of India, the authors came across an unidentified specimen at BSHC, Gangtok, which was referred as a Poaceae specimen. On a critical study, this specimen was identified as *K. gandakiensis* Rajbh. & H. Ohba by the authors. A scrutiny of literature (Chowdhery & al., 2009; Clarke, 1894; Govaerts & Simpson, 2007; Karthikeyan & al., 1989; Koyama, 1978. Kükenthal, 1909; Noltie, 1994; Noltie & Zhang, 2010 and Srivastava, 1996) revealed that this species is not yet reported from India, but known from Nepal only. Therefore, this is the first report of *K. gandakiensis* from India.

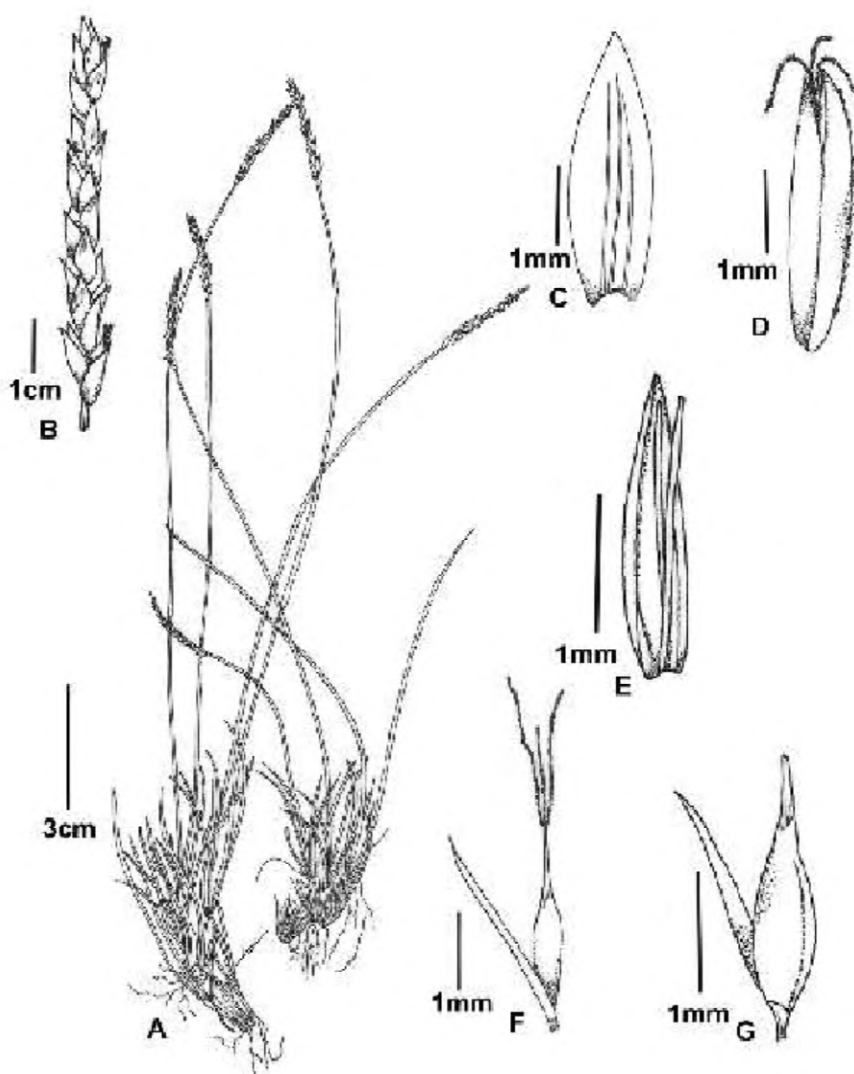


Fig.1. *Kobresia gandakiensis* Rajbh. & Ohba: **A.** Habit, **B.** Spike, **C.** Female glume, **D.** Prophyll, **E.** Male spikelet, **F.** Gynoecium with rachiola, **G.** Nut with rachiola

Kobresia gandakiensis Rajbh. & H. Obha, Bull. Univ. Mus. Univ. Tokyo 34: 132. 1991.

Tufted perennials with rhizomes covered with blackish brown scales. Culms slender, 6.5 -17.5cm long, erect, smooth, covered with brown outer sheaths at base. Leaves linear, 1.5 - 5cm long, c 0.5mm wide, glabrous; sheath membranous, brown. Inflorescence erect, consisting of a single spike; axis sometimes bent. Spikes linear, c 2.7 × 0.3 cm, consisting of many spikelets; terminal spikelets male and lateral spikelets female. Lower glume oblong, c 5 × 2 mm, acute at apex, glabrous, light greenish yellow, 1-nerved, membranous. Upper glume obovate, c 3.5 × 0.5 mm, obtuse at apex. Prophylls linear, c 4.5 × 1mm, scabrid at the margin, brown, margins open from above down to base, membranous. Male glumes elliptic-lanceolate, c 3 × 1 mm, acute to obtuse at apex, glabrous, brown. Stamens 3, sometimes 2, slender, c 2.5 mm long, yellow. Gynoecium c 4.5mm long; style slender; stigma 3-fid. Nuts oblong, beaked at apex, c 3 × 1 mm including the beak, trigonous, yellowish brown, smooth.

Fl. & Fr. : June - September

Distrib.: India (Kupup, Sikkim) and Nepal.

Specimens examined: Sikkim, East Sikkim, Kupup, Singu Lake, 4050m, 17.9.1998, *G.P. Sinha & B.K. Shukla* 20453 (BSHC!).

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