

**CHIMONOCALAMUS LONGIUSCULUS HSUEH & T.P. YI (POACEAE:
BAMBUSOIDEAE) A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA**

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During Plant exploration tour to Apatani Plateau, Lower Subansiri district in Arunachal Pradesh in October 2008, an aromatic bamboo was collected by the first author. The plant sample was collected from the hills of 'Luro Poliyang' near Ziro town, the head quarter of Lower Subansiri district. A clump of yellowish green bamboo with long internodes, was spotted, growing inside the subtropical forest at an altitude of c.1715m. On approaching the bamboo clump, the local guide told that the bamboo's internodes contain clear water which is aromatic and nice for drinking. On cutting one of the bamboo culms, to the surprise it was found as told by the local guide. A single internode contains about 25 – 50 ml of the sweet aromatic liquid. It was also observed that the freshly cut and split bamboo when kept in room gives a strong sweet aroma for about a week. The plants appear to be rare as there were only a few clumps found in the whole hill during the survey. On close examination along with literature studies confirmed that the plant was reported as endemic to China (Dezhu & Stapleton 2006; Hsueh & Yi 1979). This is the first report from India and hence it is a new distributional record.

The description and illustrations of the plant is given here to enable easy identification of the bamboo.

Chimonocalamus longiusculus Hsueh & T.P. Yi Acta Bot. Yunnan. 1(2): 80. 1979.

Clump forming; each clump have 5 – 10 mature individuals. Culm 5 – 10 m tall, 1.5 – 2.2 cm diameter, thin walled, wall c. 4 mm thick, greenish, shining. Internodes 20 – 46 cm long, circumference of mature culm 7.5 – 8 cm, diameter 2 – 2.5 cm, smooth, containing liquids inside; nodes parallel, raised, sometimes asymmetrically raised, thorn 20 – 25 in each node, 0.5 – 2.3 cm long. Culmsheaths oblong, 19 – 22 x 6.5 – 8.2 cm, narrowed into rounded apex, yellowish, glabrous, shining, scattered brownish hairs towards apex, upper part margin brownish weavy. Culmsheath blade linear, 8.8 – 9.5 x 0.3 – 0.6 cm, brownish, narrowed in acuminate apex. Ligule rounded, 0.3 – 0.5 mm, membranous, truncate, hairy at apex and margin. Leaves narrowly lanceolate, 6 – 11 x 0.6 – 1.3 cm, finely acuminate, twisted at apex, gradually narrowed into petiole like bases, margin finely scabrous, primary nerves 3 – 5 pairs, cross veinlet distinct. Leaf sheath 2 – 2.5 mm long, nerves raised; leaf sheath auricle oblong, 2 – 5, c. 1 – 6 mm long, deciduous at maturity. Inflorescence not seen.

Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh: Luro Poliang near Zero, Subansiri; China.

Local Name: Tapiyu (Apatani).

Specimen examined: Luro Poliang near Zero, Subansiri, alt. 1715 – 1750m., 31.10.2008, A. A. Mao 19209(ARUN).

Note: About 11 species in the world distributed mainly in Eastern Himalayas, Myanmar and South West China (Mabberley 2008), 2 species viz. *Chimonocalamus griffithianus* (Munro) Hsueh & T.P. Yi and *Chimonocalamus longiusculus* Hsueh & T.P. Yi found in India. Most of the species under this genus are fragrant. This nodal thorny bamboo differentiated from its closest genus *Chimonobambusa* Makino by clump forming habit, thin walled and fragrant culms.

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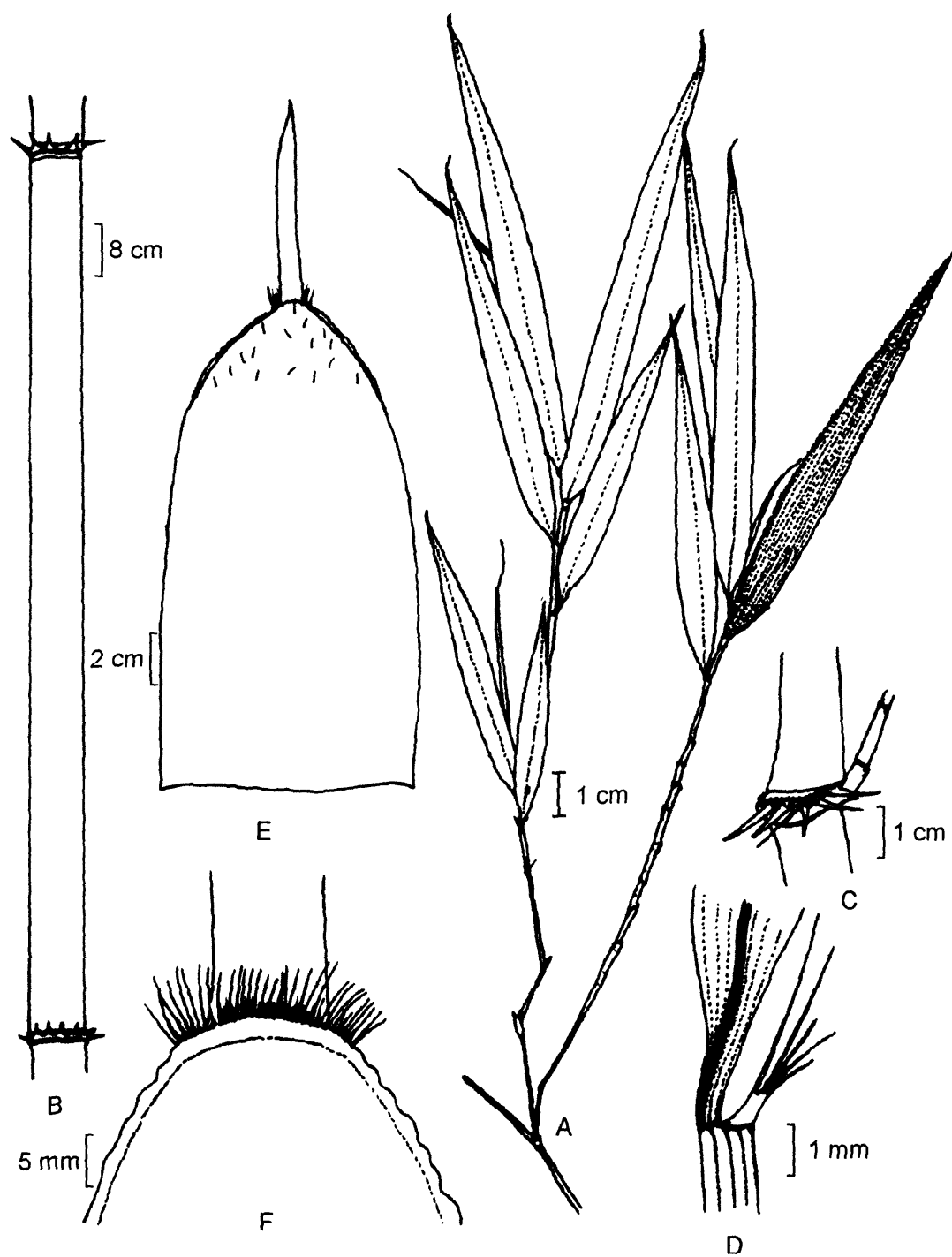


Fig. 1. *Chimonocalamus longiusculus* Hsueh & T.P. Yi. A. Leafy branch B. Culm showing internode C. Node with nodal thorn D. Leaf sheath auricle E. Culm sheath (dorsal side) F. Culm sheath (ventral side) showing ligule with hairs.