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CHIMONOBAMBUSA QUADRANGULARIS (FRANCESCHI) MAKINO : A NEW BAMBOO RECORD FOR INDIA

PUSHPA KUMARI[1] AND PARAMJIT SINGH[2]

[1]*Botanical Survey of India, Central National Herbarium, Howrah 711 103*

[2]*Botanical Survey of India, CGO Complex, 3rd MSO Building, Block F (5th & 6th Floor), Sector I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 064*

E-mail : pchanna@gmail.com

During study on Bamboos of Meghalaya under the All India Coordinated Project on Taxonomy (AICOPTAX) one interesting and beautiful species with characteristic quadrangular, much distant, spiny culms, branched above was found growing over a large area in Mawklot and upper Shillong, Khasi hills. On critical examination of the specimen deposited in different Indian herbaria, and the scrutiny of the literature, it was identified as *Chimonobambusa quadrangularis* (Fenzi) Makino and found to be a new record for Indian flora as it has not been reported from India in any of the publications like Majumdar (1989), Tewari (1992), Shukla (1996), Seethalakshmi & Kumar (1998). Current nomenclature along with detailed description, notes, illustration and photograph from natural habitat are given below to facilitate identification.

Chimonobambusa quadrangularis (Franceschi) Makino in Bot. Mag. Tokyo 28: 153. 1914. *Bambusa quadrangularis* Franceschi in Bull. Soc. Tosc. Ort. 5: 401. 1880. *Arundinaria quadrangularis* (Franceschi) Makino in Bot. Mag. Tokyo 9: 71. 1895. *Tetragonocalamus quadrangularis* (Franceschi) Nakai in J. Jap. Bot. 9: 90. 1933.

Vern.: U-sparbah (Khasi).

Much spreading, shrubby, erect bamboo. Rhizome monopodial. Culms 6-8 m high, 2-4 cm in diameter, dark green when young turning purplish and yellowish green with age. Nodes raised, with whorl of downwards curved spines, lower nodes rooting. Internodes quadrangular, 12-17 cm long, 2-3 cm across, with spiny warts all over, ca 1 cm thick walled, semisolid near base. Branch bud onion shaped. Branches three, equal, on upper nodes. Culm sheath not seen. Leaves 2-3 per twig, leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 3-16 cm long, 0.5-1.6 cm broad, subequally attenuate at base, attaining gradually into 1.5-2 cm long, incurved, straight or sometimes twisted scabrous apex; glabrous on both surfaces, except 1-2 minute hairy nerves near midrib and 1-2 scabrid nerves near margins on upper surface; serrate at margin; midrib thin, prominent, glabrous, secondary veins 5 pairs, tertiary 5-7, cross veins regular, numerous. Leaf sheaths: lowest ca 4 cm long, loose, striate, thin keeled, glabrous, ending above into narrow somewhat rounded callus, ciliate at mouth; ciliate at margin; ligule short, slightly oblique, hairy; auricles obscure, mouth end having 14-15, ca 6 mm long bristles.

Fl. & Frt.: Not known.

Ecology: Found between 1800-1900 m in subtropical zone.

New Shoots: December January.

Distribution: India: Meghalaya: Khasi Hills – Mawklot, Upper Shillong. China, Japan.

Uses: Used by Khasi people for making pipes as its node is easily pierced.

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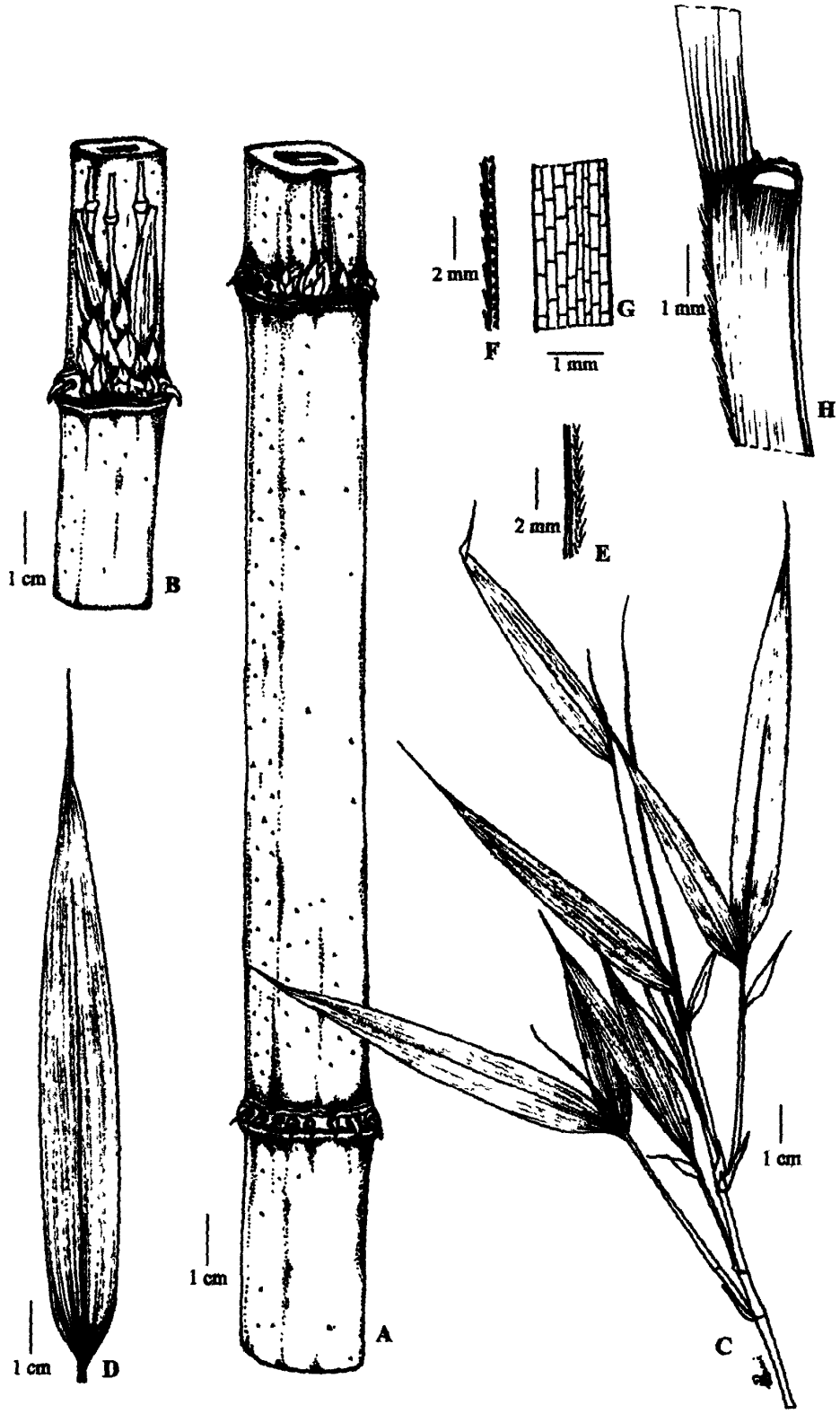
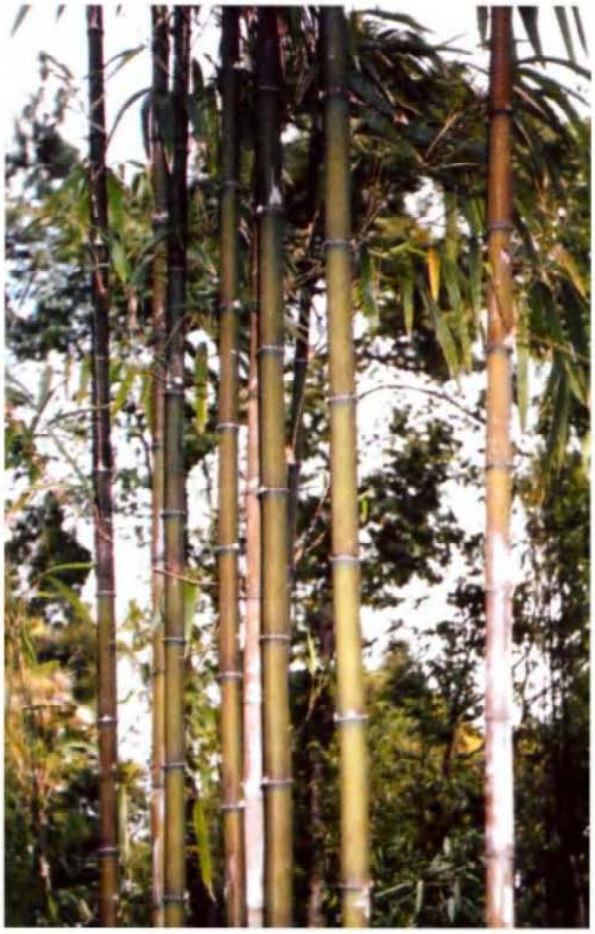


Fig. 1. *Chimonobambusa quadrangularis* (Franceschi) Makino: **A.** Culm portion; **B.** Branch complement; **C.** Leafy twig; **D.** Leaf; **E.** Midrib; **F.** Leaf margin; **G.** Leaf abaxial surface; **H.** Leaf sheath. [*P. Kumari* 34633 (CAL)].



Specimen examined: Meghalaya: Upper Shillong (Khasi Hills), 1900 m, 22.4.2004, *P. Kumari* 34633 (CAL); Mawklot (Khasi Hills), 1800 m, 24.4.2004, *P. Kumari* 34643 (CAL).

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