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APLUDA BLATTERI SP. NOV. (POACEAE) — A NEW SPECIES FROM MOUNT ABU (RAJASTHAN, INDIA)

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ABSTRACT

Apluda blatteri has been described as a new species of Poaceae from Mount Abu.

The genus *Apluda* L. (Poaceae) was still recently known to be represented in India by one species *A. mutica* L. During the revision of the genus I came across some specimens which needed re-examination of identification. One of such specimens collected by Father E. Blatter from Mount Abu (Rajasthan, India) in 1916 previously identified as *A. mutica* L. On careful examination it proves to be different from *A. mutica* L. Its characters indicate that it is an undescribed species; it is described and renamed here.

Apluda blatteri sp. nov.

Differt a *Apluda mutica* L. habitu brevioribus 13 cm longis folii brevioribus, paniculis brevioribus 3 cm longis, spicula sessili cum solitaris flosculo.

Apluda blatteri sp. nov. differs from *Apluda mutica* L. in the shorter habit with clums 13 cm long, shorter leaves, shorter panicles (3 cm long), sessile spikelet with one floret.

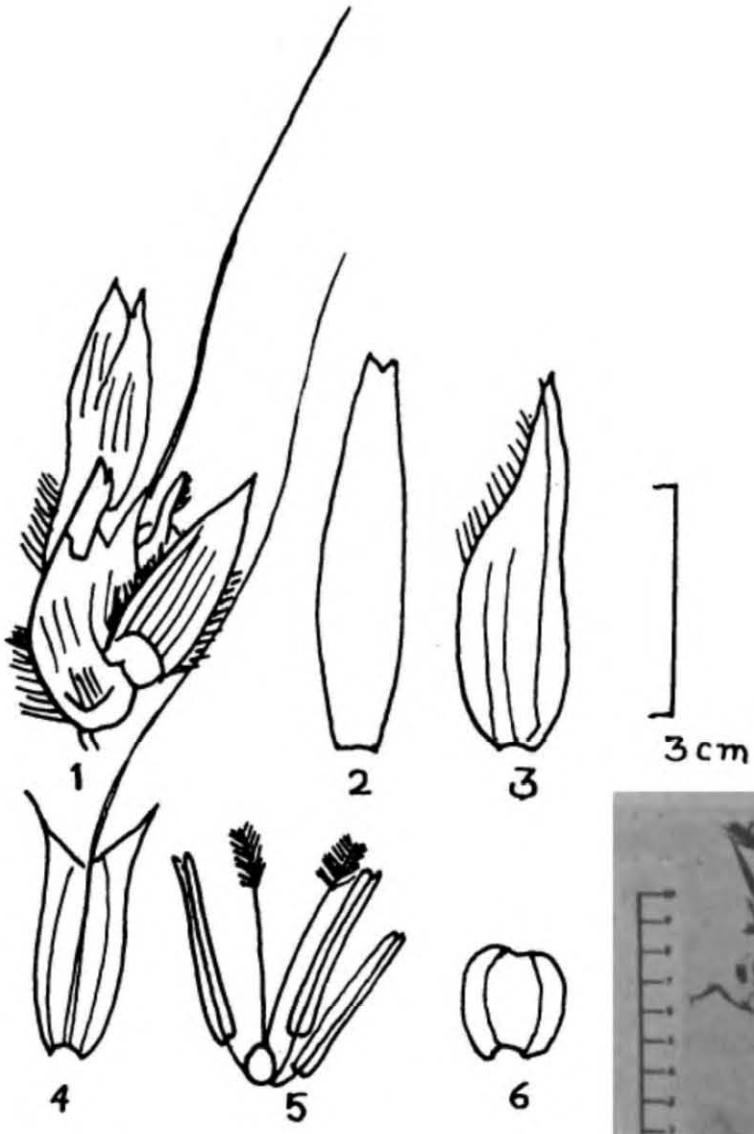
Herb annual, branched. *Culms* 13 cm long, glabrous. *Leaves* 1.5-3.1 cm long and 1.5-2.5 mm wide, linear lanceolate tapering upwards to a fine point, ligules short ciliate. Panicles upto 3 cm long, bearing clusters of trios of spikelets, spathe at the base of the trios, ovate to ovate-oblong. *Sessile spikelet* hermaphrodite, 6 mm long, one flowered. *Lower involucral glume* 6 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, chartaceous, many nerved, tip bidentate. *Upper involucral glume* 5.5 mm long and 3 mm wide, boat shaped, compressed, keeled 5-7 nerved. *Lemma* 4 mm long, 2 fid at the tip, middle portion hardy, awned, *awn* upto 1 cm long, with twisted column; *palea* 1.5 mm long, oblong to broad ovate, nerveless; *stamens* 3, *anthers* 3 mm long; stigmas 2. *Pedicelled spikelet* 4.2 mm long. *Lower involucral glume* 4.2 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, lanceolate, multinerved. *Upper involucral glume* 4.1 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, lanceolate, 5-6 nerved. *Lower floret* empty. *Lemma* 4 mm long, lanceolate, acute; *palea* 3 mm long hyaline, nerveless, lanceolate. *Upper floret* hermaphrodite, *palea* small, ovate, ovate-oblong, *stamens* 3, *style* 2, *stigmas* plumose.

Holotype: INDIA: Rajasthan, Mount Abu, 13.10.1916 Father E. Blatter 2594 (CAL).

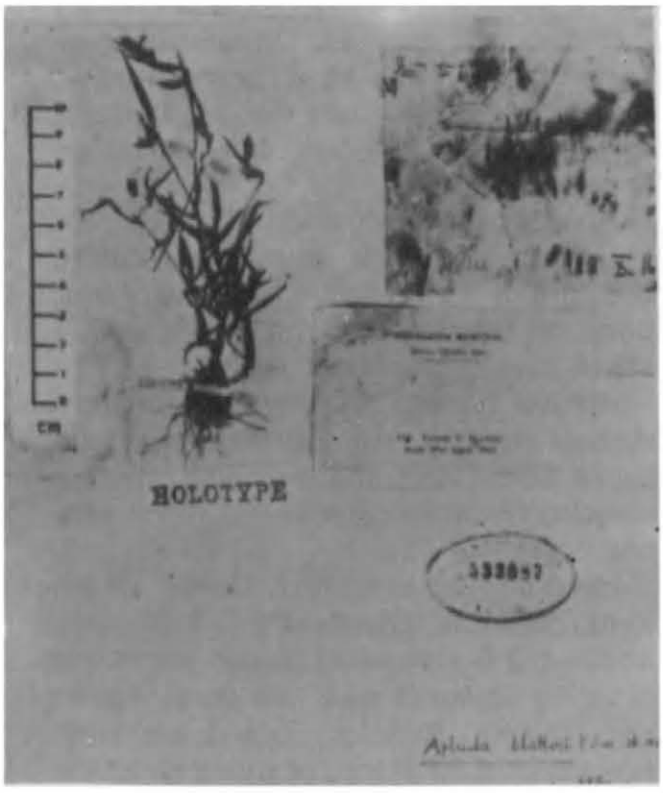
Etymology: This grass is being named in honour of the collector Father E. Blatter.

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Figs. 1—6 : 1. spikelet. 2. Lower glume. 3. Upper glume. 4. Lemma. 5. Pistil. 6. Palea.



Apluda blatteri sp. nov.