BULL. BOT. SURV. INDIA
Vol. 27, Nos. 1-4 : pp. 225-227, 1985

ORYZA INDANDAMANICA ELLIS, A NEW RICE PLANT FROM ISLANDS OF ANDAMANS

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Oryza indandamanica Ellis, *sp. nov.*

O. granulatae Nees & Arn. ex Steudl affinis sed differt habitu diffusa, inflorescentiis sub-eramosis, laminis paulo latis, aristis nullis, ligulisque parvioribus, solitaria vel pauca, sparsa in locis apricis, inter clivos petrosos, prope rivulos.

Herbae diffusae, perennes, usque ad 45 cm altae, profuse ramosae ; culmi nitidi, debiles, erecti vel saepiuscule diffusi, rhizomatibus tectis squamis ovatis scariosis glumaceisque usque ad 0.7 × 0.3 cm ; radices dense fibrosae. Laminae usque ad 15 × 0.8 cm ; lineari-ellipticae, acuminatae, basi rotundatae, planae, glabrae, ad marginem integrae, costa et venae infra distinctae, 3-4 pilosae in margine prope juncturam ; vagina usque ad 5.5 cm longa, intus marronina prope juncturam laminae vaginaeque ; ligula 0.1 cm longa, ad apicem, irregulariter dissecta, scariosa, hyalina, pilis paucis brevibus ad basin. Inflorescentia *ca* 5 cm longa, terminalis, eramosa vel raro semel ramosa ad basin, spicata, spiculis *ca* 10-12 in rhachidi undulata dispositis, pedunculus usque ad 8 cm longus ; flosculi 2-3, 0.5 cm longi, infimus pedicello brevissimo, ceteri pedicellis usque ad 0.8 cm longis ; glumae extimae 2, ad basin flosculi positae, una longior (0.15-0.25 cm), altera posita parum inferior (0.1 cm longa), ovato-acuminata ; lemma 0.6 × 0.3 cm, elliptico-oblongum, involutum in marginibus lateralibus, leviter papillatum vel non papillatum plerumque ad apicem extus, muticum, manifeste 3-nervatum, crassum, aliquantum induratum ; palea 0.5 × 0.15 cm, lineari-elliptica, in costa carinata, 1-nervis, crassa-indurata ; lodiculae 2, 0.1 × 0.05 cm, ovato-oblongae suborbiculares, parum incrassatae ad basin ; stamina 6, antherae 0.25 cm longae, lineares, leviter divergentes ad basin, basifixae velparum sursum fixae, filamenta parva, ovarium 0.4 cm longum, styli 2, 0.1 cm longi, stigma 2 cm longum, plumosum. Caryopsis 0.5 × 0.2 cm, lineari-oblonga, apparenter decidua.

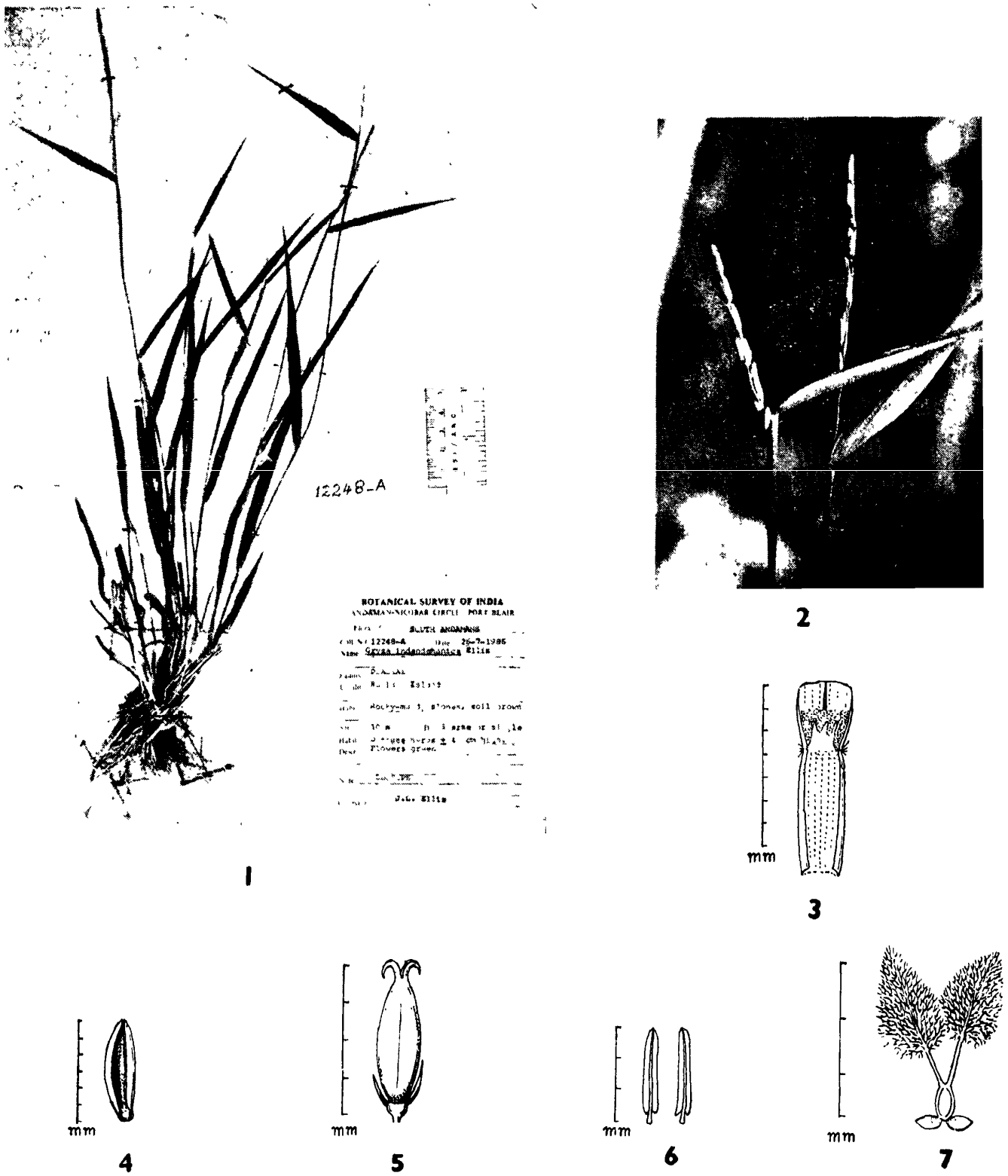
Holotypus Ellis PBL 12248 A (Rutland Island, Andamans, India, 26-7-1986) positus in CAL, et Isotypi (B-M) positi in PBL.

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Allied to *Oryza granulata* Nees et Arn. ex Steudl but differing in diffused habit, having almost unbranched inflorescences, rather broad leaf blades, absence of awns, and comparatively small ligule, occupying places amidst rocky slopes exposed to bright sunshine near about small streams, and present in sparse-population, or solitary.

Diffuse, perennial herbs up to 45 cm high, profusely branched ; culms polished, rather weak, erect or more often diffused from rhizomes which are covered by ovate, scarious, glumaceous scales up to 0.7 × 0.3 cm ; roots densely fibrous. Leaf blades up to 15 × 0.8 cm, linear-elliptic, acuminate, rounded at base, flat, glabrous, margins entire ; midrib and nerves distinct beneath, 3-4 haired on the margin near the joint ; sheath up to 5.5 cm long, maroon-coloured within near the joint of leaf-blade and sheath ; ligule 0.1 cm long, jagged at top,

Date of receipt : 9.3.87, Date of acceptance : 9.3.87



Oryza indandamanica Ellis

Figs. 1-7 : 1. Photograph of Holotype. 2. Inflorescences. 3. Ligule. 4. Glume. 5. Ovary with lemma at base. 6. Stamens. 7. Young ovary with lodicules at base.

scarious, hyaline, a few short-haired at the base of the ligule. Inflorescence about 5 cm long, terminal, unbranched or rarely once-branched at base ; spicate with about 10-12 spikelets arranged on an undulating rachis, peduncle up to 8 cm long ; florets 0.5 cm long, 2-3, the lowest very shortly pedicelled, others with pedicels up to 0.8 cm long ;



Oryza indandamanica Ellis

outermost glumes 2 placed at the base of the floret, dissimilar with one longer (0.15-0.25 cm) and the other placed slightly lower (0.1 cm long), ovate-acuminate ; lemma 0.6 × 0.3 cm, elliptic-oblong, involute on lateral margins, faintly papillate or not generally at top without, awnless, prominently 3-nerved, thick, rather hardened ; palea 0.5 × 0.15 cm, linear-elliptic, keeled on the midrib, 1-nerved, rather thick-hardened ; lodicules 2, 0.1 × 0.05 cm, ovate-oblong, almost orbicular, slightly thickened at base ; stamens 6, anthers 0.25 cm long, linear, base faintly divergent, basi-fixed or fixed slightly above, filaments small ; ovary 0.4 cm long, styles 2, 0.1 cm long, stigma 2 cm long, feathery. Caryopsis 0.5 × 0.2 cm, linear-oblong, apparently deciduous.

Holotype *Ellis PBL 12248 A* (Rutland Island, Andamans, India, 26-7-1986) is deposited in CAL, Central National Herbarium, Calcutta and Isotypes (B-M) are incorporated in PBL, Andaman & Nicobar Circle, Port Blair.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, for facilities, to Mr. B. V. Shetty, Regional Botanist at Kew, Surrey, England, for various acts of kindness in getting the plant specimen sent identified, and to Dr. Tom Cope, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey, England, for his expert opinion on the specimen sent. I am grateful to Dr. N. C. Majumdar, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, for Latin translation.