

Lucknow for critically going through the manuscript and helpful suggestions.

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OPHIOGLOSSUM GRAMINEUM WILLD. VAR. GRAMINEUM IN KERALA

A few specimens of *Ophioglossum* sent from Kerala for determination proved to be *O. gramineum* Willd. after critical examination. It is an interesting, rare and tiny species, which is reported for the first time from Quilon District, Kerala (Almeida, 1922; Beddome 1873, 1883, 1892; Blatter and Almeida, 1922; Chakravarty, 1951; Clausen, 1938; Hooker and Baker, 1868). The specimens are deposited in the Cryptogamic Unit of the Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.

Beddome (1892) in his supplement (p. 108) mentioned that this plant occurs in South India but did not give any specific locality. There is only one specimen of this taxon in the Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, collected by Dalzell in 1878 from Bombay. Subramanyam collected it from Tamil Nadu (Balakrishnan, Thothathri and Henry, 1960). Panigrahi and Dixit (1969) reported that the former collected it from Uttar Pradesh, Joseph from Madhya Pradesh and Subba Rao from Andhra Pradesh. Panigrahi and Dixit (1969) do not include Kerala in the distribution of the taxon. But, Ninan (1958) obtained a few specimens from Palghat and reported an approximate chromosome number of 120 bivalents. In the herbarium of Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore there is only one collection of the species from Kerala (Thekkady, alt. 875 m). The plant because of its minute size and grass like leaves can easily be mistaken for a member of the Gramineae. It is very difficult to distinguish the plant

when growing along with grasses which it usually does. Mahabale (1962) thinks that this species is derived from species having double leaf traces and related to *O. lusitanicum*.

***Ophioglossum gramineum* Willd., Schrift. AK.**
 Erfurt. 18, t. 1, f. 1, 1802.

Delicate herbs 1.5-7.5 cm high; root stock tuberous, cylindric, with few roots running obliquely downwards, bearing one or two leaves; stipe upto 2.8 cm long; sterile lobe situated usually below or sometimes at the middle, linear or linear lanceolate, apex acute, slightly fleshy, 0.8-3 cm long, 1.2-3.0 mm broad; midrib absent; veins parallel, anastomosing frequently, without free vein-endings in the elongated areoles, epidermal cells elongated, dermal appendages scaly; fertile spike 1.5-5 cm long, spore-bearing region 0.4-2.00 cm long, 1.2-5 mm wide; sporangia 4-10 per spike.

Specimens examined: Sasthomkotah (Quilon Dist.), July, 1971, S. K. N. Unnithan s.n.

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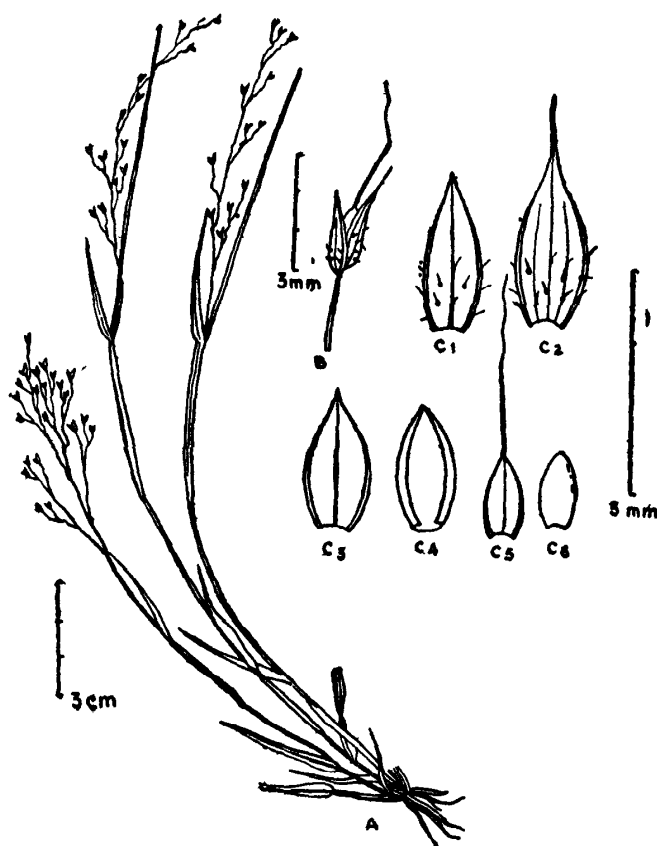
ARUNDINELLA CILIATA (ROXB.) NEES EX MIQ.—A NEW RECORD FOR ERSTWHILE BOMBAY STATE

During recent botanical tour to North Kanara forests, a few interesting plants were collected. This note deals with the distribution of one of the grasses together with its nomenclature, detailed description and field observations.

Arundinella ciliata (Roxb.) Nees ex Miq. in Verh. Konink. Nederl. Inst. 3, t. 4, 30. 1851; Bor: 421. 1960. *Holcus ciliatus* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 1: 321. 1820. *Arundinella agrostoides* sensu Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 7: 71. 1896, non Trin. 1836; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 3: 523. 1958 (reprint ed.) *A. holcoides* sensu Fischer in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras: 1247. 1934, non Trin. 1836.

A slender procumbent annual, 20-50 cm tall. Leaves 2-10 × 0.6-1.2 cm, lanceolate, acute, narrowed to the base, clothed with soft hairs; sheaths hairy; ligule a ring of hairs. Panicle 3-20 cm long, contracted. Spikelets on long slender pedicels, 2.5-3 mm long, ovate-lanceolate, the lower half hirsute with bulbous based hairs on the glumes. Lower glume 2 mm long, ovate, acute, 3-nerved; upper glume 2.5-3 mm long, lanceolate acuminate, 5-nerved. Lower lemma

shorter than the lower glume, ovate-acute, 3-nerved; its palea as much long. Upper



Arundinella ciliata (Roxb.) Nees ex Miq.

A. Portion of a plant. B. Spikelet. C. 1 & 2 Lower and upper glume. 3 & 4. Lower lemma and its palea. 5 & 6. Upper lemma & its palea.