A NEW VARIETY OF *COELACHNE* R. BR. (POACEAE) FROM INDIA— *COELACHNE PERPUSILLA* (ARN. EX STEUD.) THW. VAR. *NILAGIRICA* VED PRAKASH ET JAIN VAR. NOV.

Varietati perpusillae affinis, sed differt culmis latioribus, vaginis hirsutis, laminis latioribus, spiculis et ramis paniculae majoribus, et lemma paleaque superiore enervi ecarinataque.

Holotypus lectus a *J. L. Ellis* 34627 ad locum Parthimund, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri, alt. 2300 m, die July 11, 1970 et Positus in CAL. Isotypus positus in MH.

Perennial, densely tufted *ca* 15-30 cm tall, ascending, with numerous slender fibrous roots. *Culms* slender, terete; internodes up to 3.5 cm long, faintly striate, glabrous; nodes hirsute. *Leaf-sheaths* mostly shorter than the internodes, terete, hirsute; *ligules* 0 (absent) or minute fringe of hairs; *blades* 1.0 - 3.5 cm long, 1.5 - 4.0 mm broad, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, acute, subrounded at base, flat, striate and glabrous or scaberulous above, hirsute beneath, nerves not or slightly distinct beneath.

Inflorescence a panicle 3.5 - 8.0 cm long, lax; *axis* subterete to channelled, slightly flexuous, glabrous; *branches* up to 3 cm long, distant, spreading, slender, sub-terete, glabrous; pedicels (0-) 0.5 - 7.0 mm long, similar to branches. *Spikelets ca* 3.5 - 4.0 mm long, oblong to obovoid-oblong or ovate-oblong, gaping, 2-flowered, somewhat laterally compressed. *Glumes* 2, ovate-elliptic, obtuse-apiculate, membranous (-hyaline), glabrous; *lower glume* shorter, 1.7 - 2.0 mm long, flatter, margins narrowly incurved, 1-3-nerved (lateral nerves only near the base; *upper glume* longer and broader, 2.3 - 2.5 mm long, rounded on back, margins widely incurved, 7-nerved. *Florets* 2, exserted. *Lower floret* ♂ subsessile, ± 3 mm long, lanceolate, obtuse, glabrous; *callus* densely bearded, hairs up to 1 mm long; *lemma* ovate-elliptic, obtuse, folded, coriaceous, nerveless (-1-nerved), glabrous; *palea* elliptic obtuse, margins widely incurved, grooved on back, nerveless, glabrous; *stamens* 3; *anthers* ± 1.5 - 1, 7 mm long, oblong; *filaments* ± 0.2 - 0.5 mm long; *ovary* ± 0.5 mm long, ovoid; *styles* 2, 0.2 - 0.4 mm long, distinct; *stigmas* ± 1 mm long, distinct, plumose. *Upper floret* ♀ stipitate, ± 2.5 mm long, lanceolate, obtuse, glabrous upwards; *rachilla* ± 1.4 mm long; *callus* densely bearded; *lemma* ovate-elliptic, obtuse, margins narrowly incurved, membranous, nerveless (-1-nerved), not keeled, glabrous or sparsely hairy in lower half; *palea* similar but widely incurved margins.

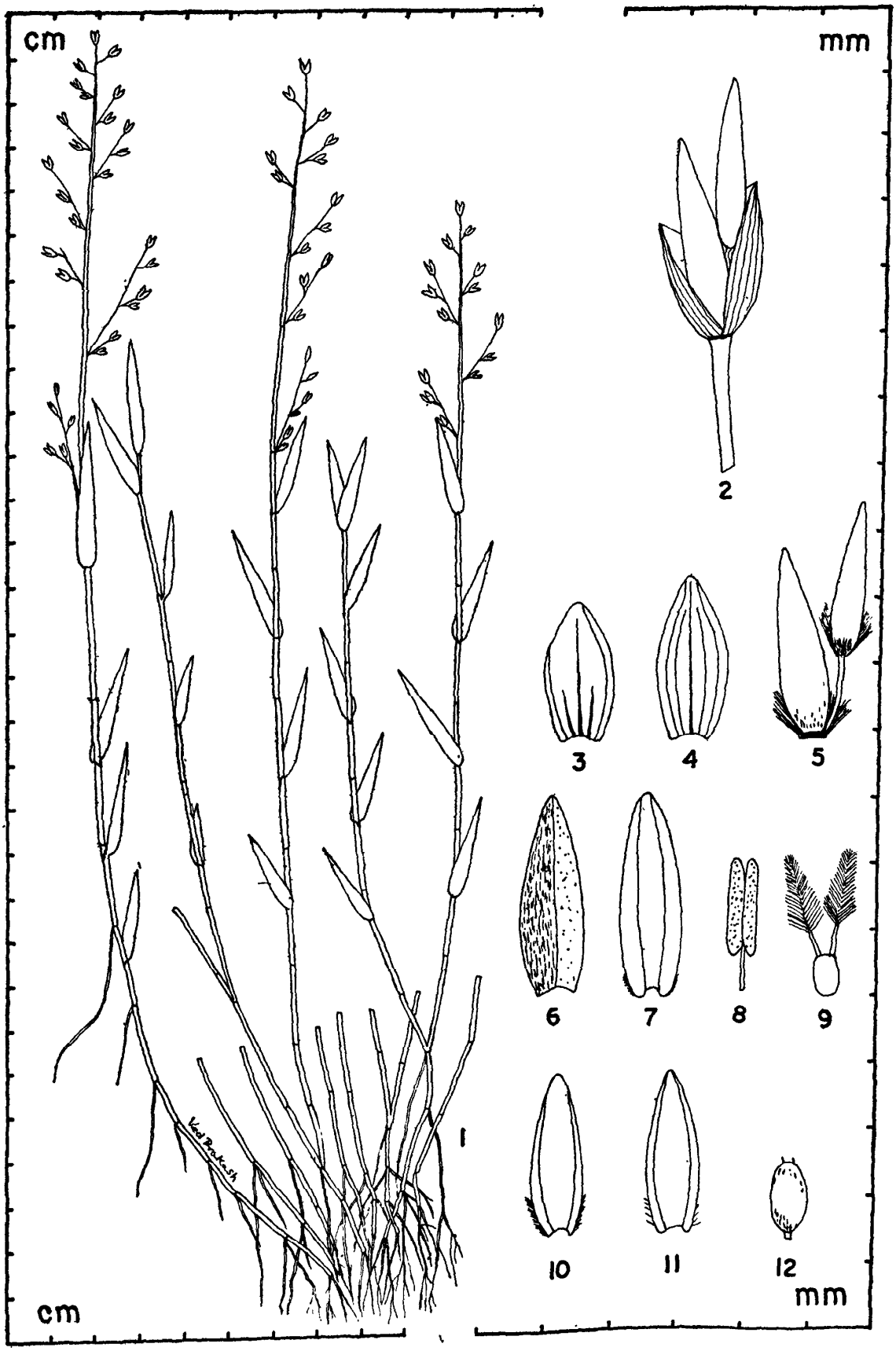
Type: INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri Dist., Parthimund, 2300 m, July 11, 1970, *J. L. Ellis* 34627 (Holotype, CAL; Isotype, MH).

This variety is allied to var. *perpusilla* but differs in having broader culms, hirsute sheaths, broader blades, larger spikelets and panicle branches and nerveless and unkeeled upper lemma and palea; whereas var. *perpusilla* has capillary culms, glabrous sheaths, mostly filiform blades, smaller spikelets and panicle branches, and 2-nerved, 2-keeled and hairy upper lemma and palea. In var. *perpusilla,* the lower glume is 3-7-nerved but in this new variety lower glume is 1 or 3 nerved and when 3-nerved, lateral nerves present only in lower half.

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Coelachne perpusilla var. *nilagirica* Ved Prakash et Jain

Figs. 1-12: 1. Habit. 2. Spikelet. 3. Lower glume. 4. Upper glume. 5. Florets. 6. Lower lemma. 7. Lower palea. 8. Stamen. 9. Pistil. 10. Upper lemma. 11. Upper palea. (3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 all in ventral view). 12. Caryopsis. (*J. L. Fllis* 34627)