

ZENKERIA JAINII—A NEW SPECIES OF POACEAE FROM KERALA<sup>1</sup>N. C. NAIR, P. V. SREEKUMAR AND V. J. NAIR<sup>2</sup>

(With nine text-figures)

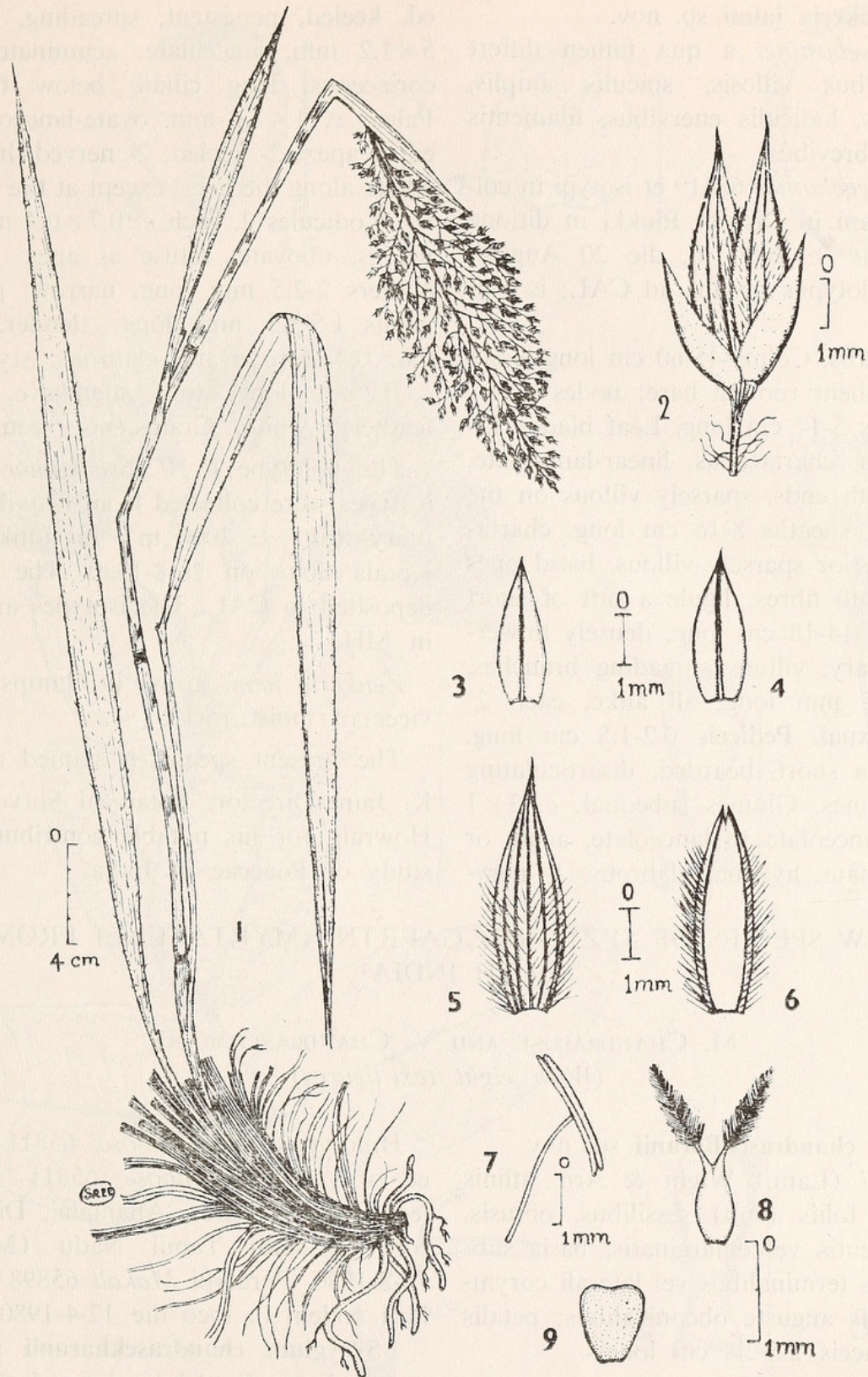
The genus *Zenkeria* Trin. is so far known to have four species restricted to South India and Sri Lanka. A recent collection of *Zenkeria* (P. V. Sreekumar 68419) from Eravikulam Sanctuary in Idukki District, Kerala, after examining the specimens at CAL and MH, turned out to be distinct from all other earlier known species. It differs from *Zenkeria elegans* Trin. in its longer glumes, larger spikelets and broader hairy leaves and from *Zenkeria stapfii* Henr. in the flat broader hairy leaves and larger spikelets. The Sri Lanka species *Zenkeria obtusiflora* Benth. is distinct

from the present specimens in having obtuse lemmas, smaller spikelets, broader and glabrous leaves. It has some similarity to the recently described South Indian species *Zenkeria sebastinei* Henry & Chandrab. in their larger spikelets, villous pedicels, flat rigid leaves and acuminate lemmas, but differs in the following characters.

As the present collection P. V. Sreekumar 68419 is quite distinct from all the other known species of the genus, it is described here as a new species.

|           | <i>Zenkeria sebastinei</i><br>Henry & Chandrab.<br>(Isotype in MH!)                                            | P. V. Sreekumar 68419                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leaves    | Narrowly elliptic, shorter than the panicle (5-18 × 1-2.2 cm)<br>Glabrous except towards tip on lower surface. | Linear lanceolate, exceeding the length of the panicle (15-50 × 0.8-1.6 cm)<br>Glabrous on lower surface, sparsely villous throughout on upper surface. |
| Ligule    | A rim of long hairs                                                                                            | A tuft of short hairs.                                                                                                                                  |
| Sheaths   | 5-7 cm long, glabrous                                                                                          | Sheaths 8-16 cm long, sparsely villous.                                                                                                                 |
| Nodes     | Hairy                                                                                                          | Glabrous.                                                                                                                                               |
| Spikelets | 4-4.5 mm long                                                                                                  | 5-5.5 mm long.                                                                                                                                          |
| Glumes    | Unequal, ovate, acute<br>(lower c. 2.5 × 1.5 mm;<br>upper c. 3.5 × 1.7 mm)                                     | Subequal, lanceolate, shortly acuminate (2.8-3 × 1 mm).                                                                                                 |
| Palea     | 3-3.2 mm long, acute at apex.                                                                                  | 4-4.5 mm long, notched at apex.                                                                                                                         |
| Filaments | Less than half the length of anthers, at the most 1 mm long.                                                   | More than half the length of anthers, equal to or even exceeding its length (1.5-3.5 mm).                                                               |
| Styles    | Slender, long (c. 0.5 mm).<br>Stigma smaller.                                                                  | Stout, short (c. 0.2 mm);<br>Stigma large.                                                                                                              |
| Lodicules | Oblique and denticulate at apex;<br>1-2 nerved, one nerve prominent,<br>the other faint.                       | Retuse at apex, nerveless.                                                                                                                              |

<sup>1</sup> Accepted December 1980.<sup>2</sup> Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.



Figs. 1-9. *Zenkeria jainii* sp. nov.: 1. Plant; 2. Spikelet; 3. Lower glume; 4. Upper glume; 5. Lemma; 6. Palea; 7. Stamen; 8. Pistil; 9. Lodicule.

**Zenkeria jainii** sp. nov.

Affinis *Z. sebastinei* a qua tamen differt foliis longioribus villosis, spiculis amplis, paleis incisuris, lodiculis enervibus, filamentis magnis, stilibus brevibus.

Holotypus *Sreekumar* 68419 et isotypi in colibus Eravikulam in District Idukki in ditione Kerala ad altit  $\pm$  2000 m, die 20 Augusti anni 1980. Holotypus positus ad CAL; isotypi ad MH.

Perennial herbs. Culms 45-60 cm long, erect from a decumbent rooting base; nodes glabrous; internodes 5-14 cm long. Leaf blades 15-50  $\times$  0.8-1.6 cm, chartaceous, linear-lanceolate, tapering at both ends, sparsely villous on the upper surface; sheaths 8-16 cm long, chartaceous, glabrous or sparsely villous, basal ones breaking up into fibres; ligule a tuft of short hairs. Panicles 14-18 cm long, densely flowered with capillary, villous spreading branches. Spikelets 5-5.5 mm long, all alike, each 2-flowered, bisexual. Pedicels 0.2-1.5 cm long, villous; rachilla short, bearded, disarticulating above the glumes. Glumes subequal, c. 3  $\times$  1 mm, ovate—lanceolate to lanceolate, acute or shortly acuminate, hyaline, glabrous, 1-nerv-

ed, keeled, persistent, spreading. Lemmas c. 5  $\times$  1.2 mm, lanceolate, acuminate, 5-nerved, coriaceous, long ciliate below the middle. Paleas c. 4  $\times$  1.1 mm, ovate-lanceolate, notched at apex, 2-keeled, 2-nerved, hyaline, long ciliate along the keels except at the upper quarter. Lodicules 2, each c. 0.7  $\times$  0.4 mm, without nerves, obovate, retuse at apex. Stamens 3; anthers 2-2.5 mm long, narrow, purple; filaments 1.5-3.5 mm long, slender. Ovary c. 0.8  $\times$  0.4 mm, ovate, glabrous; styles 2, each c. 0.2 mm long, stout; stigmas c. 1 cm long, feathery, white. Grains not seen.

The holotype *P. V. Sreekumar* 68419 and isotypes were collected from Eravikulam Sanctuary (alt.  $\pm$  2000 m) in Idukki District, Kerala State on 20-8-1980. The holotype is deposited in CAL. The isotypes are deposited in MH.

*Zenkeria jainii* grows in clumps in the crevices of moist rocks.

The present species is named after Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah, for his notable contributions to the study of Poaceae in India.

## A NEW SPECIES OF *SYZYGium* GAERTN. (MYRTACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With eight text-figures)

**Syzygium chandrasekharanii** sp. nov.

*S. lanceolati* (Lam.) Wight & Arn. affinis tamen differt foliis (sub) sessilibus, obtusis, apicibus subacutis vel emarginatis, basis subcordatis; cymis terminalibus vel laterali corymbosis; calycibus anguste obconicalibus; petalis calyptratis; baccis 2.5-2.8 cm longis.

Holotypus *Chandrabose* 65811 A (CAL) et isotypi *Chandrabose* 65811 B-G (MH) lecti apud Konalar, Anamalai, Dist. Coimbatore in statu Tamil Nadu (Madras) die 15-2-1980. Paratypi *Makali* 65898 A-G (MH) lecti eodem in loco die 12-4-1980.

**Syzygium chandrasekharanii** sp. nov.

Allied to *Syzygium lanceolatum* (Lam.) Wight & Arn., but differs in: leaves sessile or subsessile, obtuse, subacute or emarginate at

<sup>1</sup> Accepted January 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore-641 003.



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