

***Capillipedium parviflorum* (R. Br.) Stapf. (Poaceae) - A new distributional record for flora of Central Western Ghats of Karnataka, India**

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ABSTRACT

This communication report the occurrence of *Capillipedium parviflorum* (R. Br.) Stapf. grass species for the first time in Karnataka, India. The species is documented from Chitramoola (The place where the sacred river Sowparnika born) of Kodachadri hills. Earlier this grass was reported from Tamilnadu, Bihar, Maharashtra and Madyapradesh.

Keywords: Central Western Ghats, Karnataka, Kodachadri, *Capillipedium*.

The genus *Capillipedium* belongs to the Andropogonae tribe of the family Poaceae. They are normally distributed throughout the tropics, China, Japan (Bor 1960). World scenario they represents 14 Species among them 7 Species present in India (Kabeer 2009). This genus shows median translucent furrow on pedicels. Presence of narrow channel on the dorsal side of Lower glume of sessile spikelet separates this species from other Species of *Capillipedium* genus.

DESCRIPTION

Capillipedium parviflorum (R. Br.) Stapf in Prain, Fl. Trop. Afr. 9: 169.1917; C.E.C. Fisch. In Gamble, Fl. Madras 3:1893.1936; Bor, Grass. Burma Ceylon India Pakistan: 112. 1960; V. J. Nair in A. N. Henry & al., Fl. Tamil Nadu Anal. 3: 98. 1989. *Holcus parviflorus* R. Br., Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holland: 199. 1810. *Andropogon micranthus* Kunth, Revis. Gramin. 1: 165. 1829; Hook.f., Fl. British India 7: 178. 1896. *Dichanthium parviflorum* (R.Br.) de Wet & J. R. Harlan in Amer. J. Bot. 53:97. 1996; Deshp., Fasc.Fl. India 15: 21. 1984.

Perennial grass with tufted, terete, rhizomatous, glabrous culms grow about 50-160 cm long. Nodal region are also glabrous. Compressed leaf sheaths 10-20 cm long. Ligule hairy, 4 mm long. Leaf blade flat, linear, elliptic, 20-65 X 0.3-1 cm, Glabrous, acuminate apex. Panicle effuse. 10-25 cm long. Branched, capillary, purple, bearded in the axils, joints also capillary, ciliate at lower side, 2 mm long. Sessile spikelet narrowly ovate, 4.5 mm long (without awn), awned, awn- 1.3 cm long. Lower glume coriaceous, 4 X 0.7 mm, 5-nerved, 2-keeled, keels scabrid, channelled on back, acuminate or shortly two toothed apex. Upper glume coriaceous, boat shaped, narrowly ovate, 4.5 mm long, 3-nerved, 1-keel, glabrous, acuminate apex. Lower lemma hyaline, narrowly ovate, 2.4 mm long, nerveless, acute apex. Palea absent. Upper lemma hyaline 1.5 mm long, awned, awn

geniculate. Palea absent. Lodicules-2. Stamens-3. Anthers 1.5-2 mm long. Pedicelled spikelets narrowly ovate, 5-6 mm long (Figure 1).

Vernacular Name: Not known

Phenology: September to December.

Distribution: Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand; Africa, SW Asia and Australia. In South-India it was recorded in Maharashtra, Kerala, Madyapradesh, Tamilnadu (Kabeer 2009; Potdar 2012; Roy 1984)

Habitat: Tuft of grasses in water logged area on rock and also hanging along the sides of water falls.

Distributional status in Karnataka: Rare.

Exsiccatae: India, Karnataka, Shivamogga, Kodachadri hills, Chitramoola, 21.10.2018. *Abhijit H U*, KUABYLK476.

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Figure 1. *Capillipedium parviflorum* (R. Br.) Stapf.; .A. Habitat; B. Habit; C. Leaf with Ligule; D. Raceme; E. Spikelets; F. Sessile spikelet; G. Pedicelled spikelets; H. Lower and upper glume; I. Lower and upper Lemma; J. Pedicels.