

Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Pune for their help and encouragement.

M. Y. ANSARI

Botanical Survey of India, Pune

REFERENCES

GRAHAM, J. Catalogue of Bombay Plants 118. 1839.

HOOKE, J. D. *et al.* Flora of British India 4 : 75. 1883.

HUBER, H. Revision der Gattung *Ceropegia*. *Mem. Soc. Broter.* 12 : 69. 1957.

MCCANN, C. New species of *Ceropegia* and the synonymy of the Indian species. *Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 45 : 210. 1945.

SABNIS, S. D. AND S. J. BEDI. *Ceropegia odorata* Hook. f. (Asclepiadaceae)—A little known plant of Western India. *Kew Bull.* 25 (1) : 57-59. 1971.

SANTAPAU, H. The genus *Ceropegia*—Further comments. *Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 47 : 775-777. 1948.

SESHAGIRI RAO, R. Genus *Ceropegia*—A comment. *Ibid.* 46(4) : 742-743. 1947.

NOTES ON TWO INDIAN GRASSES

Blatter, during his studies on the plants of erstwhile Bombay Presidency, described a grass, *Dichanthium maccannii* (1927) from Panchgani Plateau in the western ghats. Although it has been illustrated in Blatter and McCann's *Bombay Grasses* (1935), nothing more is known of this since then. Bor (1960) stated, "Distribution: Endemic on the Panchgani Plateau" and further added, "The type of this species is not in the Blatter Herbarium, St. Xavier's College, Bombay and there is no material of this species at Kew".

It is therefore, interesting to note its occurrence in the Marathwada region on the Deccan Plateau. The relevant information in respect of its distribution, ecology together with diagnostic description is provided here for ready reference.

Dichanthium maccannii Blatter in *Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 32 : 357. 1927 ; Blatter et McCann, *Bomb. Gr.* 92. t. 60. 1935 ; Bor, *Gr. Burma, Ceylon, Ind. et Pak.* 135. 1960 (Figs. 1, a and b).

Tufted, perennial grass, 40-90 cm tall. Racemes 2-4, 2-6 cm long. Spikelets paired ; lower glumes of both the spikelets covered with trichomes on the back.

Frequent on rocky soil of open grasslands and on bunds of fields,

Fls. & frts.: October to February.

AURANGABAD: Daulatabad, Naik, 179. PARBHANI: Agric. Univ. Campus, Shelke s.n. NANDED: Mahur, Zate 1426 ; Ambadi, Zate 1675 ; Fugadigutta, Zate 1688.

Ischaemum borii Almeida has been recently described by Almeida (1970) from Amboli, another hill station on the western ghats in southern Maharashtra. Additional material of this species was collected subsequently during the botanical excursion of this department in 1974. The specimens were referred to Dr. J. F. Veldkamp of Rijks-herbarium, Leiden, who informed me that my specimens exactly matched with the above species. The description as well as illustration provided by Almeida, however, is inaccurate in some respects. Redescription of the taxon is therefore provided here together with the illustration and relevant notes.

Ischaemum borii Almeida in *Journ. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 66(3): 513. 1969-70, *emend* Naik (Figs. 1, c and d).

Decumbent, annual grass, 30-40 cm tall. Leaves lanceolate, 6-10 × 0.8-1.2 cm, rather plicate, narrowed at base into a petiole up to 3 cm long. Racemes two, 2-2.5 cm long. Spikelets paired or in threes with one sessile and one or two pedicelled. Lower glume of the sessile spikelet lanceolate, 4.5 ×



FIGS. 1 : a & b : *Dichanthium macranthum* Blatt. c & d : *Ichmun borii* Alencid, Almeida Naik

5.5 × 1 mm, uniformly infolded along margin from base to apex, obscurely 5-nerved in the upper half and with a tuft of hairs on either side, unequally biaristate at apex. Upper glume 4.5-5 mm long, bifid at apex with 3-4 cm long awn in the sinus, with a hump on the back above the middle and a tuft of spreading hairs. Lemmas hyaline, the lower paleate, empty, the upper bifid and with 5-6 cm long geniculate awn from the sinus. Pedicelled spikelets empty; glumes aristate.

Frequent in crevices of rocks and locally ample.

Fls. & frts.: October-November.

WESTERN GHATS: Amboli, Naik 2553.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Author wishes to thank the authorities of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Rijksherbarium, Leiden, for confirmation/identification of his specimens.

V. N. NAIK

Marathwada University, Aurangabad