their help and encouragement.

M. Y. Ansari Botanical Survey of India, Pune

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## 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 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. Scc. 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 garss, 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,

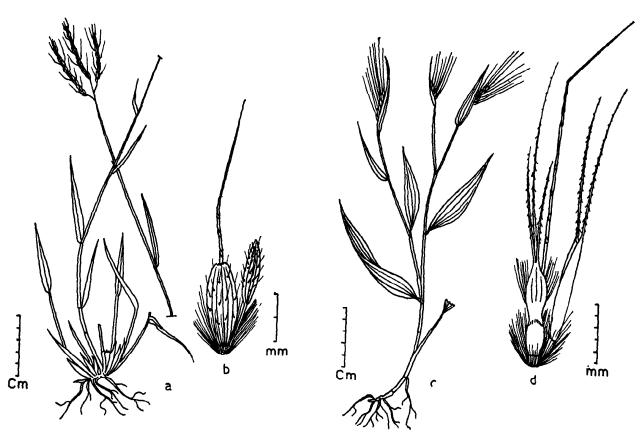
Fls. & frts.: October to February.

Aurangabad: Daulatabad, Naik, 179. Parвнамі: 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 Rijksherbarium, Leiden, who informed me that my specimens exactly matched with the above species. The description as well as illustration provided by Almeida, however, is inacurate in some respects. Redescription of the taxon is therefore provided here together with the illustration and relevant notes.

borii Almeida in Ischaemum 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.



Fiss. 1: 2 & b: Diciauthiun maccarrii Blatt. c & d: I charnun borii Almeida eme id 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.

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