

A NOTE ON *JUNCUS MARITIMUS* LAM. FROM INDIA

Hooker (1894) described 26 species of the genus *Juncus* from India. Most of them are from alpine and sub-alpine Himalayas and Assam. Few are from drier parts of India. *Juncus maritimus* Lam. is reported only from 'Sandy shores of Sind, Afghanistan and westwards to the Atlantic, North and South America, Australia'.

There is no other report of its occurrence in any part of India. Cooke (1908), Blatter (1908 & 1909), Thakar (1926), Saxton and Sedgwick (1918), Santapau (1953) and Puri, Jain and Kotwal (1959) did not report it from the adjacent areas of Bombay, Kutch, North-Gujarat, Saurashtra and Rajasthan.

Discussing of discontinuous world distribution of some species, Good (1953) remarked—"Discontinuity of range is well illustrated and if the status of the plant is to be relied upon in all cases, there are some remarkable examples. *Juncus maritimus* ranges over Europe and part of Africa and occurs again in Australia and New-Zealand". Good obviously did not take note of the occurrence of this plant in Asia.

The plant was recently collected by the author from Kutch on two occasions. The present note gives the description and a figure of the plant to familiarize botanical collectors with its identity.

Juncus maritimus Lam., Encyc. Method. 3:264, 1789; Hook. f., Fl. Br. Ind. 6:393, 1894.

A perennial densely caespitose, erect herb, stem 0.6-1.5 m. high, terete, striate; pith solid; leaves solid, few; basal sheaths short, narrow, obtuse, pungent or produced into a solid terete pungent leaf. Flowers in decomposed cymes, inequally pedunculate, paniculate, 2.5-5 cm. long, with erect branches; floral bracts ovate, mucronate, the margins broadly membranous; sepals 3-4 mm. long, lanceolate, acute, pale green with membranous margins; petals slightly shorter, obtuse; stamens 6, filaments dilated and connate at the base, anthers linear, yellow, longer than filaments. Capsules longer than the sepals, ovoid or conic, trigonous, obtuse, mucronate, shining, 3-celled, seeds oblong or obovoid, caudate at each end (Fig. 1).

MUNDRA-MANDVI, Jain 11733 & 11734, 2nd Feb., 1957;

RUDRAMATA, Jain 46840, 19th Oct., 1958.

The Poona Herbarium has one earlier specimen of this plant collected by Bhide on 30th Dec., 1909 from a stream near hot spring at Laki-Sind.

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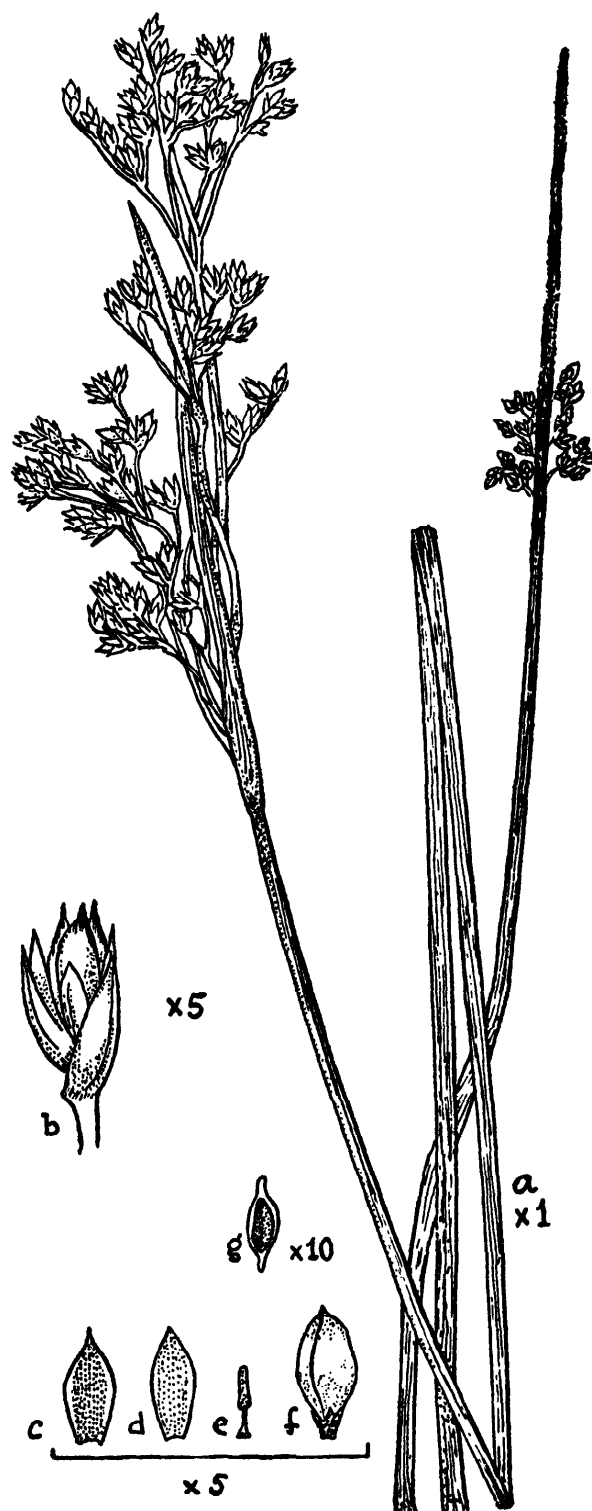


Fig. 1. *Juncus maritimus* Lam.
a. Plant with inflorescence, $\times 1$; b. Flower $\times 5$; c. Sepal $\times 5$; d. Petal $\times 5$; e. Stamen $\times 5$; f. Capsule $\times 5$; g. Seed $\times 10$.

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