

## *FIMBRISTYLIS NARAYANII* C. E. C. FISCHER—A NEW RECORD FROM NORTH WEST HIMALAYA

In a general study of the Cyperaceae material in this herbarium (BSD) a specimen (*Naithani* 41987), named *Fimbristylis tenera* R. & S. caught my attention. This species has filiform leaves, spirally disposed glumes with prominent and strongly incurved keels, ellipsoid or oblong-ellipsoid spikelets and the nut globose obovoid. None of these characters were present in the specimen in hand; on the other hand, a critical study showed its leaves ensiform; glumes distichous below and spirally disposed above; spikelets lanceolate, the nut obpyramidal, truncate and trigonus—all characters fitting *Fimbristylis narayanii* C. E. C. Fischer, a species described from the far south: Travancore and Madras (i.e. Kerala and Tamilnadu). The tentative new identification was confirmed by a comparison with a paratype specimen, *M. Rama Rao* 1515 (CAL) which incidentally had recently gone through the critical appraisal of the cyperologist J. H. Kern. This finding establishes the occurrence of this rare species in the North West Himalaya. Very likely it

occurs elsewhere too, and to facilitate identification a detailed description is here provided.

***Fimbristylis narayanii*** C. E. C. Fischer in Kew Bull. 1931: 46. 1931 & in Gamble Fl. Mad. 3: 1660. 1931.

Erect, annual, caespitose herb up to 17 cm; stem slender, obtusely quadrangular; leaves narrowly ensiform, 4-8 cm long, 1-1.5 mm broad; spikelets in simple terminal umbels, lanceolate, 5-9 mm long; bracts 1 to each ray; glumes distichous below, the upper ones spiral, broadly triangular, subacute, glabrous or slightly scabrid, 2-3.5 mm long, ca 2 mm broad, pale brown; keel obscure; stamens 3; style 3-fid; nut white, trigonus, obpyramidal, truncate, tubercled, 0.5-1 mm long.

Common near water courses; flowering and fruiting, October.

UTTAR PRADESH: Chamoli district, Mondal area, 1650 m, *B. D. Naithani* 41987 (BSD).

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## PRELIMINARY NOTES ON ETHNOBOTANY OF SINGHBHUM DISTRICT, BIHAR.

### INTRODUCTION

From pre-historic time human culture has been influenced directly or indirectly by the plant kingdom. It is an accepted fact that the modern civilisation is developed only due to this influence throughout the ages. So, it is high time to exploit the empiric knowledge about the plant wealth that the aboriginal people are retaining as

tradition by vocal means only. The study of the influence of the vegetation on their culture is the main aim of ethnobotany which can bring into light the new or additional information about the plant wealth.

### AREA OF WORK

There is a mythological belief that the name of the district Singbhum has been derived from "Sing Bonga" (Sun-God)—a principal deity of "Ho's" whom they regard as the Creator of Universe,

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