

NOTES ON *OPHIOGLOSSUM* L.: DISTRIBUTION AND TERATOLOGY

The genus *Ophioglossum* comprises of 30 species (Clausen, 1938). Mahabale (1962) recognised occurrence of ten species in India. However, Panigrahi & Dixit (1969) added another three varieties and a form. Of these, seven species have recently been collected during the botanical explorations to Akola district, Maharashtra.

A consultation of the BSI herbarium and also the literature revealed that *Ophioglossum lucitanicum* L. and *O. petiolatum* HK. have been collected for the first time from Maharashtra and hence are new records for the State. Another *O. gramineum* Willd., though reported by Pai *et al.* (1964) from Melghat in Maharashtra, it is not represented in BSI so far. Besides one

of its specimen was very curious looking and on closer examination revealed some teratological observations.

Normally the spike of *O. gramineum* Willd. is solitary upto 1.6 cm long on a stalk 1.5-3.0 cm long. It bears maximum 12 pairs of sporangia. In the peculiar specimen, presence of two strobili on one stalk (Figs. 1 & 2) were noticed which is an unusual feature in this small grass-like species. The small secondary strobilus arises from the base of the long strobilus (primary strobilus), is upto 2.0 mm long and bears only 2-3 pairs of sporangia. Bifurcation of apical part of the strobilus in *Ophioglossum petiolatum* was observed by Mital (1968) but here two distinct strobili are formed on a single stalk.

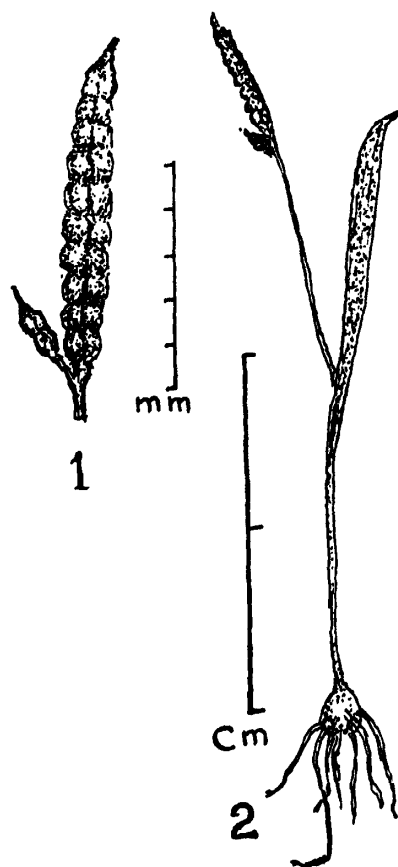


Fig. 1. Two strobili on one stalk in *O. gramineum* L.
Fig. 2. *O. gramineum* Willd.

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S. Y. KAMBLE AND S. G. PRADHAN
Botanical Survey of India, Pune

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