

clumps were quite large almost reaching over a metre in circumference. The nearly cylindrical pseudobulbs 5-12 cm high, are very closely clustered with persisting remnants of their sheaths and the variously dried up inflorescences of the previous years. The mature leaves are dark green, one from each pseudobulb, lanceolate, 15-30 cm long and 10-15 cm wide. The inflorescence is slender, long, pendant from the top to the pseudobulb. (Plate I).

Since this sturdy orchid has a fairly wide distribution and can be easily grown under different and variable climatic conditions, it can be widely cultivated. This may prove a fairly cheap remedy for rheumatism and

other body pains after due experimentation, both pharmacoglogical and biochemical.

P. K. SARKAR AND V. S. AGARWAL

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

REFERENCES

- ANNONYMUS. Wealth of India. Council of Scientific & Industrial Research 8. New Delhi. 1969.
 CAIUS, J. F. Medicinal and poisonous orchids of India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 38(4). 791-799. 1936.
 CHOPRA, R. N., S. L. NAYAR AND I. C. CHOPRA. Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants. New Delhi. 1956.
 KIRTIKAR, K. R. AND B. D. BASU. Indian Medicinal Plants (2nd Ed) 4. Allahabad. 1935.
 WATT, G. Dictionary of Economic products of India. 6. Calcutta. 1891.

POLYPOGON HISSARICUS (ROSHEV.) BOR—FIRST RECORD FOR INDIA

Recently, while scrutinising the specimens of *Agrostis* L. in the herbarium of Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun (DD), the author located two specimens belonging to *Polypogon hissaricus* (Roshev.) Bor, collected from Srinagar area in Kashmir. Prior to this find, this species was known to occur in Asiatic USSR and neighbouring Iran and Pakistan.

The species was first described as *Agrostis hissarica* by Roshevitz (1923) from Samarkand in USSR. Bor (1956) established another species, namely, *Agrostis stewartii* Bor, based on 2 specimens (Swat, Stewart 24733 and Kagan, Inayat s. n.) from Pakistan. About ten years later, Bor and Melderis (1965) noted that both *Agrostis stewartii* Bor and *Agrostis hissarica* Roshev. represent one and the same species and hence reduced *Agrostis stewartii* Bor to the synonymy of *Agrostis hissarica* Roshev.

In the genus *Agrostis* L., the disarticulation of the spikelets takes place above the glumes, but in this species the rhachilla is articulated below the glumes, a feature

characteristic of the genus *Polypogon* Desf. Bor (1970), therefore, transferred this species to *Polypogon* Desf. For this very reason, earlier, *Agrostis semiverticillata* (Forsk.) Christ was also transferred to the genus *Polypogon* Desf. by Hylander (1945).

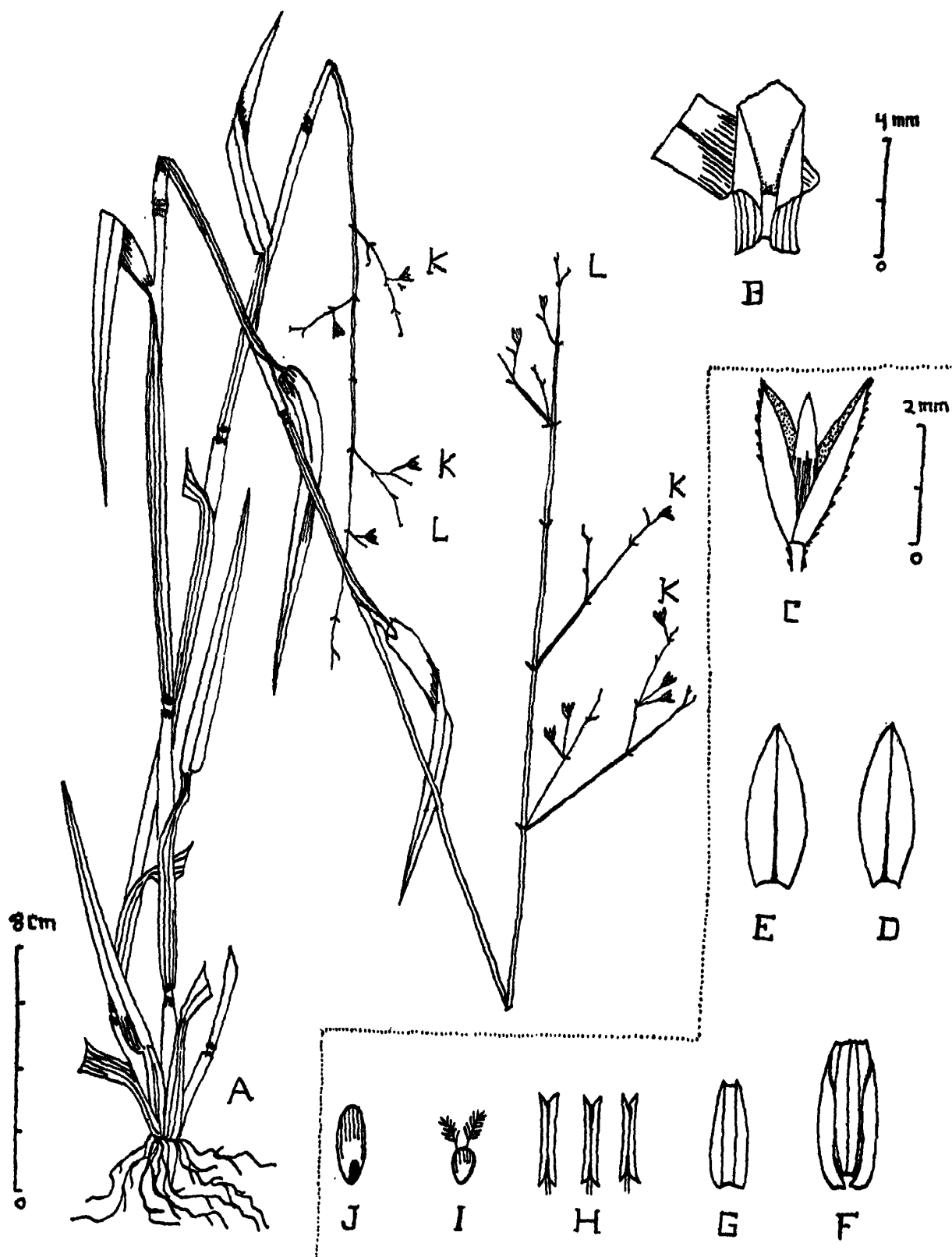
This new find from India has been described and illustrated here.

***Polypogon hissaricus* (Roshev.) Bor, Fl. Iran 70: 307, 1970.**

Agrostis hissarica Roshev. Not. Syst. Herb. Hort. Petrop. 4: 93, 1923.

Agrostis stewartii Bor in Kew Bull. 255, 1956; Bor, Grasses Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan 390, 1960; Chase and Niles, Index Grass Spp. 1: 92, 1962.

A perennial caespitose grass with erect or decumbent shoots. Culms usually 60-85 cm long, slender, terete, glabrous and shining, 3-4-noded; nodes glabrous, green or purple; branches intravaginal, arising from the lower nodes. Leaf-sheaths split to near the base, loose, flattened, striate and glabrous, covering half to two-third the length of the inter-



Polypogon hissaricus (Roshev.) Bor

Figs. A-L: A. Habit. B. Ligule. C. Spikelet. D. Lower glume. E. Upper glume. F. Lemma. G. Palea. H. Stamens. I. Pistil. J. Caryopsis. K. Spikelets borne on pedicels. L. Pedicels where spikelets have fallen (along with glumes)

nodes. *Ligules* membranous, oblong, obtuse, 1.5-5 mm long. *Leaf-blades* linear, flat, up to 13 cm long, 2.8-6 mm broad, scaberulous, round at the base, margins slightly scabrous.

Inflorescence an effuse, oblong or pyramidal panicle, 15-20 cm long, 4-8 cm broad; main axis erect, terete, smooth, green or tinged with purple, many-noded; nodes occasionally purple; lowest internode longest, up to 4.5 mm long; branches 3-5-nate, fastigiate, scabrid, sometimes falling with the pedicels; pedicels flattened above, scabrid, up to 4 mm long. Callus glabrous. *Spikelets* disarticulating below the glumes, laterally compressed, 1-flowered, hermaphrodite, about 2.8 mm long. *Glumes* subequal, oblong-lanceolate, acute, 1-nerved, scabrid on keels; lower glume slightly longer than upper, 2.6-2.8 mm long; upper 2.5-2.7 mm long. Lemma oblong-lanceolate, 2-2.5 mm long, 1.2 mm broad, truncate, unawned, glabrous, prominently 5-nerved. *Palea* oblong-lanceolate, 1-1.7 mm long, 0.6 mm broad, tip lacerate, hyaline, prominently 2-nerved. *Stamens* 3, anthers linear, 1-1.5 mm long. *Ovary* obovoid, about 0.5 mm long; styles free, about 0.2 mm long; stigma 0.5 mm long, plumose. *Caryopsis* oblong, 1.25 mm long. *Lodicules* 2, elliptic, acute, 0.5 mm long (Figs. A-L).

Flowering and fruiting: July-October.

Holotype of *Agrostis stewartii* Bor: Swat State, Kalam, 2500 m, 23 Aug. 1952—R. R. Stewart 24733 (K).

Specimens examined: PAKISTAN: Hazara, Kagan, Nuri, 4 Aug. 1899—Inayat s.n. (DD; paratype for *A. stewartii* Bor). INDIA: Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, 1770 m, 8 July 1891—Gammie s.n. (DD); near Srinagar, 10 Oct. 1889—Gullen 9121 (DD).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Botanical Survey of India for award of a scholarship and to Dr. S. K. Jain, for guidance.

K.M. SUNANDA BHATTACHARYA

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

REFERENCES

- BOR, N. L. Notes on Asiatic Grasses, XXVI. *Kew Bull.* 255. 1956.
 —Grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. 390. 1960.
 —Fl. Iran. 70 : 307. 1970.
 —AND A. MELDERIS. Gramineae. 46. In *Biologiske Skrifter* 14 (4). 1965.
 HYLANDER, N. Nomenklatorische und systematische Studien über nordische Gefasspflanzen. *Uppsala Univ. Arsskr.* 7 : 74. 1945.
 ROSHEVITZ, R. I. Not. Syst. Herb. Hort. Petrop. 4 : 93. 1923.

BEGONIA PICTA SMITH (BEGONIACEAE)—A NEW RECORD FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

While going through the specimens of Begoniaceae from Maharashtra in the herbarium of the Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Pune (BSI), a specimen of *Begonia picta* Sm. was found, which was wrongly identified as *Begonia crenata* Dryand. and was as such published by Cherian & Pataskar (1969). The specimen was collected from Saptashringi hill, at an altitude

of 1553 m, which is approximately 64 kilometers north of Nasik on a spur running eastwards on Deccan plateau from the main range of Sahyadris. The species has not been recorded by Cooke (1903) in his 'Flora of the Presidency of Bombay' and therefore, it is an addition to it. A consultation of literature also revealed that this species has not so far been recorded by any of the sub-