

*UROCHLOA MOSAMBICENSIS* (HACK.) DANDY (POACEAE) IN INDIA

*Urochloa mosambicensis* (Hack.) Dandy is known in India as an introduced grass; it has been grown in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University on an experimental basis for fodder\*. A scrutiny of literature shows that so far this grass has not been reported from India in naturalized condition. Bor (1960), while treating this species, cited two specimens from Burma and stated that 'this grass has the extra-ordinary distribution of East Africa and Burma. The authors, while working on grasses at Central National Herbarium found one collection of *Urochloa mosambicensis* (Hack.) Dandy from Rajasthan, which was lying under *Echinochloa crus-galli* var. *brevisetata* (Doell.) Neill. This is the first report of *Urochloa mosambicensis* (Hack.) Dandy growing wild in India. This report connects the link of distribution from Burma to Africa. An illustrated account of the species is provided here.

***Urochloa mosambicensis*** (Hack.) Dandy in J. Bot. 69: 54. 1931; Bor, Grass. Bur. Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 372. 1960; Chippindall in Meredith Grasses & Pastures of S. Africa 382. 1955 (Repr. 1959). *Panicum mosambicense* Hack. in Bolet. Soc. Brot. 6: 140. 1888. *P. notabile* Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 7: 32. 1897. *Echinochloa notabile* (Hook. f.) Rhind, Grass. Burma, 50. 1945. (Figs. A-I). Perennial, ca 75(-120) cm tall, ascending.

*Culms* often creeping at base and rooting at lower nodes, slender, subterete, striate, glabrous or sparsely hirsute; nodes pubescent. *Leaf-sheaths* loose, subterete, striate, glabrous or hirsute with tubercle-based hairs, margins ciliate; *ligule* a fringe of hairs 1.0-1.5 mm long, *blades* 5-10 (-15) cm long, 0.7-1.0 (-1.5) cm broad, lanceolate, acute, rounded at base, glabrous or hirsute

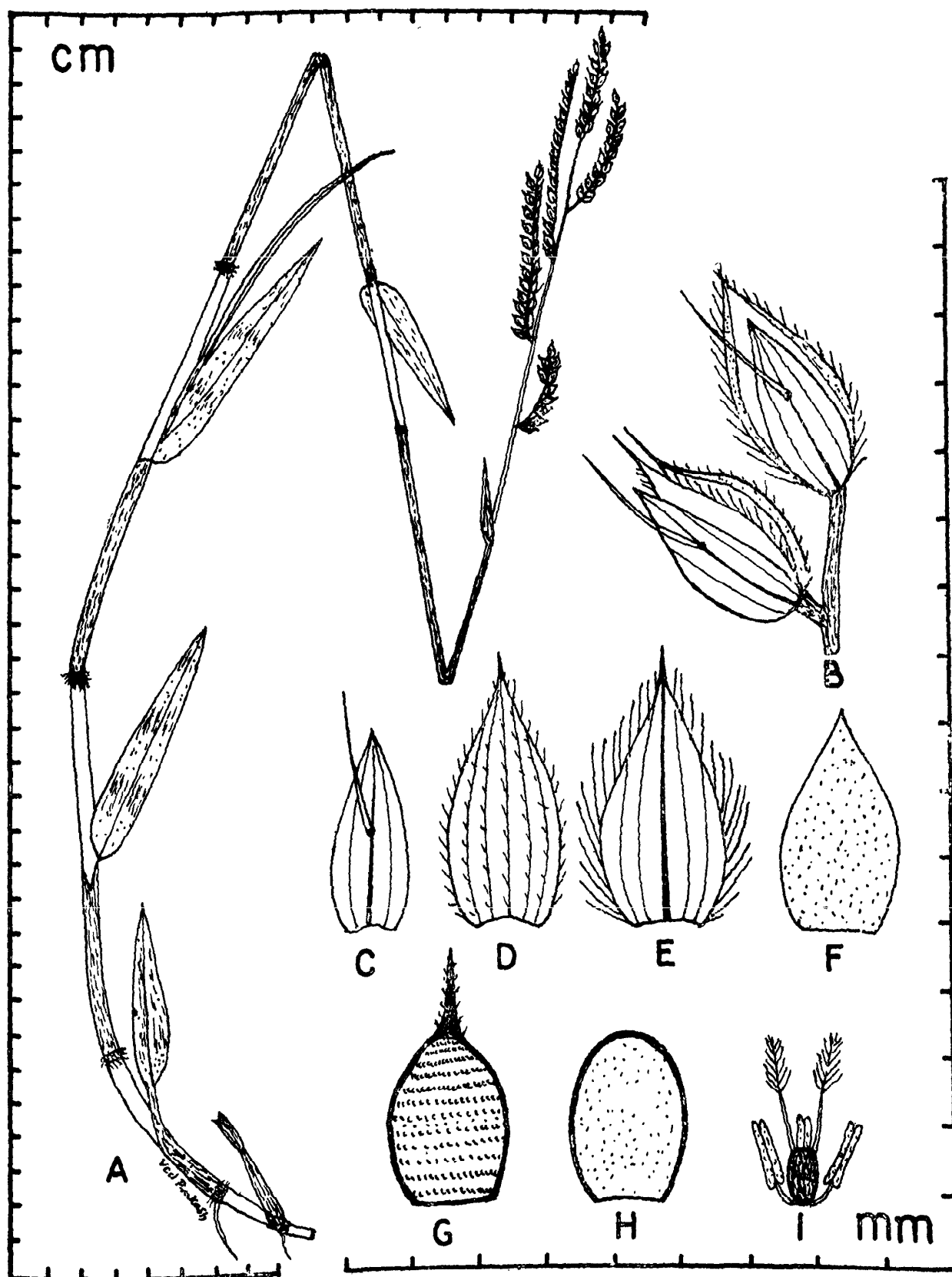
on one or both surfaces with tubercle-based hairs. *Inflorescence* up to 15 cm long of 6-12 racemes 2-6 cm long longer than the internodes; *rachis* 3-angled or flattened. *Spikelets* 3-5 mm long, ovate, acuminate or shortly awned, glabrous or hairy, solitary or in pairs of unequal pedicels; one pedicel of each pair frequently almost suppressed. *Glumes* 2, unequal; *lower glume* 2.5-4 mm long or sometimes as long as spikelet, ovate-lanceolate, obtuse, 3-nerved, usually with 1-3 stiff, tubercle-based hairs on the middle nerve in the upper half of the back, the hairs extending beyond the apex of the spikelet; *upper glume* as long as spikelet, ovate, acuminate, 5-nerved, with fringe of hairs near one or both margins. *Florets* 2; *lower floret* male; *lower lemma*, almost similar to upper glume, 5-nerved, with fringe of long, white hairs on both margins; *lower palea* almost similar to lower lemma in shape and texture, but slightly shorter and smooth; *stamens* 3; *anthers* 1.5-2.0 mm long; *upper floret* hermaphrodite; *upper lemma* 2.0-2.5 mm long, broadly elliptic, rounded at the apex, concave, indurate, conspicuously ridged on the back, tipped with short rigid awn,  $\pm 0.5$  mm long, that does not extend beyond the apex of the spikelet; *upper palea* almost similar to upper lemma in shape, size and texture, enclosing bisexual flower; *anthers*  $\pm 1$  mm long; *ovary* 0.5-0.8 mm long, ovoid; *styles* 2, 0.8-1.0 mm long; *stigmas* 1-2 mm long, plumose.

*Ecology*: In open grassland, usually in sandy soil near water.

*Distribution*: INDIA: Rajasthan; BURMA, AFRICA.

*Notes*: *Urochloa mosambicensis* (Hack.) Dandy is the most distinctive species in the genus and can be readily distinguished from the other species by its characteristic lower

\*Specimens (K. Subramanyam 3518) are available in CAL and MH.



*Urochloa mosambicensis* (Hack.) Dandy

Figs. A-I : A. Habit. B. Pair of spikelets. C. Lower glume. D. Upper glume. E. Lower lemma. F. Lower palea. G. Upper lemma. H. Upper palea. I. Flower. (Sharma 717)

glume, which has 1 or 1-3, stiff, tubercle-based, hairs *ca* 1.5-2.0 mm long on the middle nerve in the centre of the back. Habit & Leaf blades are very variable in this species. (Chippindal, l.c.).

*Specimens examined*: INDIA: Rajasthan-Jaipur Dist., Ramgarh, Aug. 10, 1964, S. Sharma 717 (CAL). Duplicate specimen in Dept. of Botany, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

the guidance and to Dr. N. C. Nair, Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India for some information on the plants of this grass growing at Coimbatore.

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#### REFERENCE

BOR, N. L. The grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan. Pergamon Press, London. 1960. (Reprint 1973).

### ADDITIONS TO THE ORCHIDACEAE OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Two orchid genera *Appendicula* and *Diploprora* were identified from the collections of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Both these genera were not reported from these islands so far and hence this note. *Appendicula reflexa* Bl. is also a new record for the flora of India.

1. ***Appendicula reflexa*** Blume, Bijdr. 301. 1825; Holttum, Rev. Fl. Malaya 1: 507, f. 145. 1953; Backer & Bakh. f. Fl. Java 3: 316. 1968; Koyama in Fl. Taiwan 5: 880. pl. 1547. 1978. *A. cordata* Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 6: 83. 1890 et Ic. Pl. 2148. 1893.

Pendulous epiphytes. *Stems* several, crowded, simple, terete, covered by closely packed leaf sheaths, 10-30 cm long; internodes up to 1 cm long. *Leaves* jointed to sheath, present all along the stem in vegetative state and fall off from lower parts during flowering, distichous, elliptic-oblong, twisted and amplexicaul at base; midrib prominent; apex shallowly bilobed, minutely apiculate in sinus, 2.0-2.5 cm long, 0.8-1 cm wide;

sheaths tubular, striate, articulate to the lamina. *Racemes* axillary, solitary, much shorter than the leaves, up to 0.9 cm long; *scape* thick with a few tubular sheaths at base, bearing 6-8 flowers, *ca* 0.5 cm long. *Bracts* ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, *ca* 3 mm long, *ca* 1.5 mm broad at base. *Flowers* light green, *ca* 6 mm long, *ca* 2.5 mm wide. *Dorsal sepal* ovate, acute, 1-nerved, *ca* 2.5 mm long. *Lateral sepals* triangular-falcate; base adnate to the column foot and jointed to form a mentum of *ca* 1.5 mm long, 1-nerved, *ca* 2 mm long, *ca* 2 mm broad at base. *Petals* oblong, obtuse at apex, 1-nerved, *ca* 2.0 mm long, less than 1 mm broad. *Lip* erect, attached to the apex of column foot by claw, with an appendage inside on the claw, the upper half deflexed, obovate, subentire; apex rounded with a cusp, *ca* 2.5 mm long; basal appendage triangular-ovate, obtuse at free end, flat, fleshy, parallel to the claw. *Column* short, with a triangular *ca* 1.5 mm long column foot. *Anthers* ovate, acute. *Pollinia* 6, spathulate-clavate, in