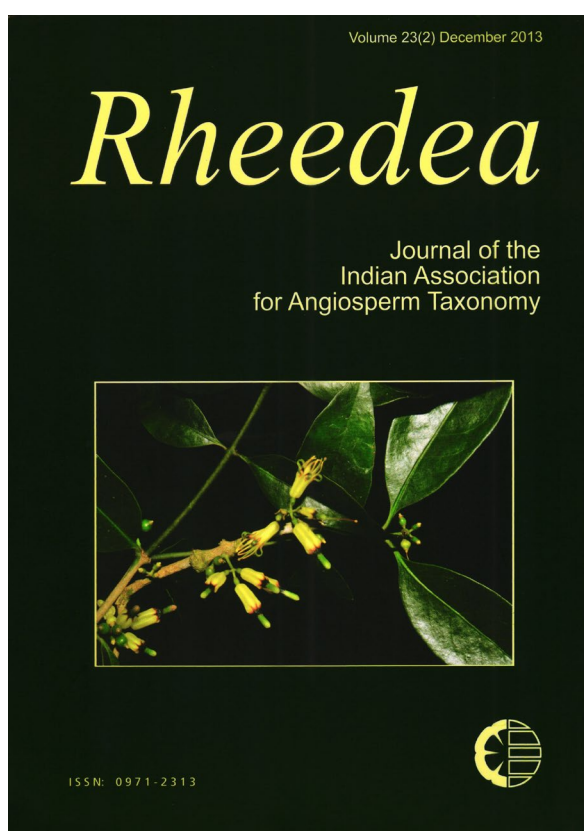




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## Notes on nomenclatural types of *Cyperus multispicatus* and *Cyperus kurzii* (Cyperaceae)

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### Abstract

*Cyperus multispicatus* Boeckeler and *Cyperus kurzii* C.B. Clarke are typified and detailed information on both the species, including their nomenclature citations, description and distribution are provided along with photographs of their nomenclature types.

**Keywords:** *Cyperus*, Flora of India, Lectotype

### Introduction

While revising the genus *Cyperus* L. for the Flora of India it was observed that *Cyperus multispicatus* Boeckeler and *Cyperus kurzii* C.B. Clarke are poorly represented in herbaria. The main reason for the small number of specimens is the narrow distribution range of these species. These are not common within their distribution range. *C. multispicatus* is represented by just two specimens in CAL and *C. kurzii* by three specimens only. All these specimens were collected by European collectors during the colonial period. It was found that these historically important collections contain the nomenclatural types of both the species. Details of these types and other specimens are discussed below along with brief information about these species, including their nomenclature citations, description and distribution. The image of the types are also provided

**Fig. 1, 2**

1. *Cyperus multispicatus* Boeckeler, Linnaea 38: 362. 1874; C.B. Clarke in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 618. 1893; Karthik. *et al.*, Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 46. 1989.

Perennial herbs with short rhizomes and triquetrous culms, up to 80 cm high. Leaves 5–8 mm wide, scabrous on the margins; sheaths membranous. Inflorescence large, compound to decompound, up to 30 cm across. Involucral bracts *c.* 6; lower ones much overtopping the inflorescence. Primary rays 7 to many, unequal, longest up to 18 cm long; secondary rays many, umbellate, up to 6 cm long. Spikelets numerous, often solitary and pedunculate, also 2–3 digitately

arranged, somewhat compressed, oblong, acute at apex, 6–8 x *c.* 1.5 mm, 14–30-flowered. Rachilla hardly winged, visible in mature spikelets. Glumes oblong-ovate to broadly ovate, obtuse to minutely mucronate at apex, 1.2–1.4 x *c.* 0.7 mm, keeled, hyaline towards the margin. Stamen 1; anther linear-oblong, with a bristly connective appendage at apex. Style *c.* 0.4 mm long; stigmas 3, *c.* 1 mm long. Nut trigonous, broadly ellipsoid, minutely apiculate at apex, 0.6–0.7 x *c.* 0.4 mm, granulate on surface, brownish.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** May (from Assam specimen).

**Illustration:** C.B. Clarke, Ill. Cyperaceae t. 13 f.1-3. 1909.

**Distribution:** Swampy areas in moist forests. Myanmar, Vietnam, Jawa. INDIA: Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Assam. Rare (there are only two specimens in CAL, one each from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Assam).

**Type & other specimens examined:** INDIA, **Andaman & Nicobar Islands:** *s.loc.*, *Helper* 6163 *s.d.* (Lectotype, CAL! & Isolectotype, K). **Assam:** Golaghat district, *Dr. King's collectors* 201, May 1891 (CAL!).

It is difficult to ascertain whether the specimens (*Helper* 6163) were collected from Tenasserim in Myanmar or from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Clarke (1884) has mentioned one more collection from Cachar in Assam, which according to him is in K. However, in the protologue (Boeckeler, 1874)

only one collection (*Helper* 6163) is mentioned and it is available in CAL as well as in K. One of these, the CAL specimen is selected here as the Lectotype (Fig. 1) and its duplicate in K (Barcode K000433564) as the Isolectotype.



**Fig. 1.** Lectotype of *Cyperus multispicatus* Boeckeler

2. *Cyperus kurzii* C.B. Clarke in J. Linn. Soc. 21: 129. 1884 et in Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 604. 1893; Karthik. et al., Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 45. 1989.

Perennial herbs with short rhizomes and triquetrous culms, 40–80 cm high. Leaves as in *C. multispicatus*. Inflorescence somewhat spreading, 10–19 cm wide. Primary rays up to 12 cm long; secondary rays 2–3 cm long. Spikelets digitately arranged, usually 2–3 on the secondary rays (at times solitary) or few crowded at the tip of primary rays, oblong, 5–12 × 2.5–3.5 mm, 8–30-flowered; rachilla winged. Glumes densely imbricated (hence the rachilla not visible), broadly ovate, acute and aristate at apex, 1.8–2 × c. 1.5 mm, keeled; arista c. 0.5 mm long. Nut not seen

**Flowering & Fruiting:** May (based on King's Collector).

**Distribution:** Andaman Islands (South Andaman).

**Type & other specimens examined:** INDIA, **Andaman & Nicobar Islands:** South Andaman, *Kurz*, s.n. (Lectotype, CAL! [Acc. No. 503254]); Car Nicobar, *Dr. King's collector*, s.n. 20.05.1895 (CAL!).



**Fig. 2.** Lectotype of *Cyperus kurzii* C.B. Clarke

In the original publication Clarke (1884) included the Kurz specimens housed in K and CAL. There are three specimens in CAL, two by S. Kurz from South Andaman and one by King's Collector from Car Nicobar. Also an image of the Kurz specimen in K is available online in the Herbarium Catalogue of RBG, Kew. Among these specimens, Kurz collection in CAL was found to be in better condition, complete in all respect. Therefore, one of these (Acc. No. 503254) is selected here as the Lectotype (Fig. 2.) and the other (Acc. No. 503253) of same collection and the one in K (Barcode K000433568) which appears to be duplicate of the CAL specimen are selected as Isolectotypes.

**Note:** It resembles *Cyperus multispicatus*, but can be distinguished by the rigidly divaricate secondary rays, broad persistent wings of the rachilla and the more closely imbricate, aristate glumes.



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